

## CHAPTER V

### WHY THEY DID IT

"WELL, you do surprise me!" ejaculated Marsden; and after a pause—"You certainly do surprise me, all right, all right," he muttered, and was engrossed upon some private consideration. Sam, who had been in mute mood ever since scrambling out of the bucket, said nothing, but anon Marsden gave further voice to his thoughts. "It is one more proof of how I have been tangling myself up," he said. "She didn't make you do it? You didn't do it for her? Well, it beats me!"

He was on the point of asking Sam why he had done it, if not at her instigation; but his own side abruptly and deeply occupied him.

"She's a storm-centre," he continued, "that's what she is. But I always thought you were after her, Haig. I admit it. Guess I was half crazy right along. I guess it was some kind of jealousy. I guess I was a specimen of jealous man all right. Too far back to tell how it was! I've got mixed and tangled up terrible. I don't like it. Candidly,