

The Little Glass Bottle

by **Howard Phillips Lovecraft, 1890-1937**

Written: 1897

Published: 1959

in »The Shuttered Room And Other Pieces«
Arkham House, Sauk City, WI



„Heave to, there’s something floating to the leeward.“ The speaker was a short stockily built man whose name was William Jones. He was the captain of a small cat boat in which he and a party of men were sailing at the time the story opens.

„Aye aye sir,“ answered John Towers and the boat was brought to a stand still. Captain Jones reached out his hand for the object which he now discerned to be a glass bottle. „Nothing but a rum flask that the men on a passing boat threw over,“ he said but from an impulse of curiosity he reached out for it. It was a rum flask and he was about to throw it away when he noticed a piece of paper in it. He pulled it out and on it read the following:

Jan 1, 1864

I am John Jones who writes this letter my ship is fast sinking with a treasure on board I am where it is marked * on the enclosed chart...

Captain Jones turned the sheet over, and the other side was a chart.

On the edge were written these words: „dotted lines represent course we took.“

„Towers,“ said Capt. Jones excitedly, „read this.“ Towers did as he was directed. „I think it would pay to go,“ said Capt. Jones, „do you?“ „Just as you say,“ replied Towers. „We’ll charter a schooner this very day,“ said the excited captain. „All right,“ said Towers. So they hired a boat and started off guided by the dotted lines of the chart. In four weeks they reached the place where directed and the divers went down and came up with an iron bottle. They found in it the following lines scribbled on a piece of brown paper:

Dec 3, 1880

Dear Searcher excuse me for the practical joke I have played on you but it serves you right to find nothing for your foolish act—

„Well it does,“ said Capt Jones, „go on...“

However I will defray your expenses to & from the place you found your bottle. I think it will be \$2,500.00, so that amount you will find in an iron box. I know where you found the bottle because I put this bottle here & the iron box & then found a good place to put the second bottle. Hoping the enclosed money will defray your expenses some, I close—Anonymus.“

„I’d like to kick his head off,“ said Capt Jones. „Here diver go and get the \$2,500.00“ In a minute the diver came up bearing an iron box. Inside it was found \$2,500.00. It defrayed their expenses but I hardly think that they will ever go to a mysterious place as directed by a mysterious bottle.
