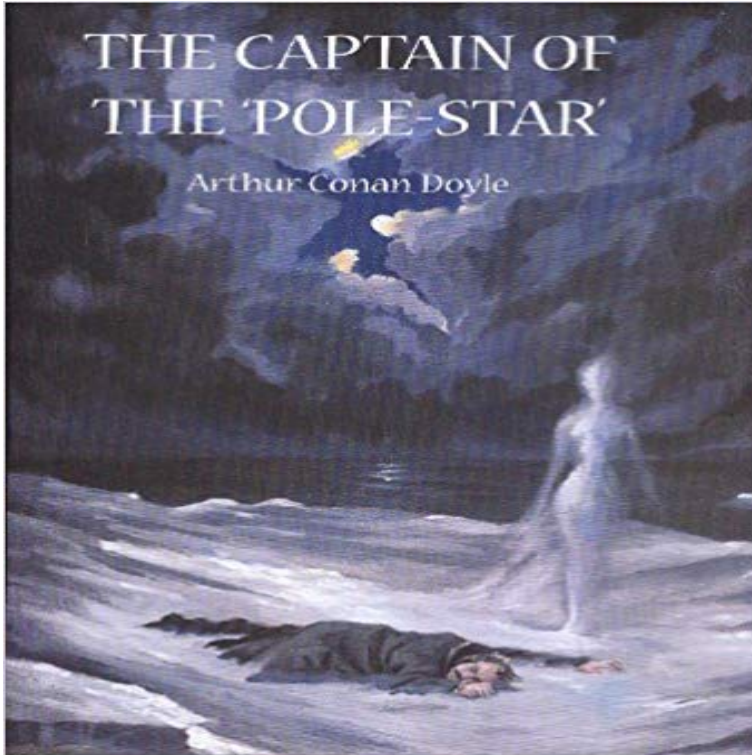


## THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLE-STAR: Weird and Imaginative Fiction



Few authors have seized the imagination of the public as strongly as did Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930). When the first Sherlock Holmes short stories began appearing in *THE STRAND MAGAZINE* in 1891 his fame was assured, and he quickly became one of the best-known writers in the world. He was able to turn his hand to almost any type of fiction: tales of mystery, detection, science fiction, comedy, romance, Napoleonic and mediaeval life, and rousing adventure. He created such memorable characters as Brigadier Gerard and Professor Challenger, wrote scores of short stories and more than two dozen novels, was active in various causes for much of his life, and was knighted by King Edward. Yet everything he did was carried out in the shadow of Sherlock Holmes. This shadow has had the effect of obscuring much of his other work; work that, had it come from another hand, would probably be better known and more widely praised today. While Conan Doyle is rightly acknowledged as a fine writer of detective stories, he was also an accomplished teller of tales featuring the weird, the supernatural, and the horrific. It was an area in which, as a writer, he showed an early interest: the first story he is known to have sent for publication, *The Haunted Grange of Gresthorpe*, was written when the author was only eighteen. *THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLE-STAR*, the most complete volume of ACD's weird fiction ever published, showcases this aspect of Conan Doyle's writing through thirty-seven stories of the mysterious and the macabre. Among the tales collected here are stories of ghosts and mummies, psychic vampires and psychological terror, and horrors of the earth and sky all told in the inimitable style of one of the world's greatest storytellers.

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**Summary Bibliography: Michael Dirda - ISFDb** THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR WEIRD AND IMAGINATIVE FICTION by Arthur Conan Doyle. Edited, with an Introduction, by Christopher

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