

THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS

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The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan

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JOHN BUCHAN

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THE
THIRTY-NINE
STEPS

BY
JOHN BUCHAN

AUTHOR OF
GREENMANTLE, Etc.



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CHAPTER I

THE MAN WHO DIED

I RETURNED from the city about three o'clock on that May afternoon pretty well disgusted with life. I had been three months in the old country and was fed up with it. If any one had told me a year ago that I would have been feeling like that, I should have laughed at him, but there was the fact. The weather made me liverish, the talk of the ordinary Englishman made me sick, I couldn't get enough exercise, and the amusements of London seemed as flat as soda-water that has been standing in the sun. "Richard Hannay," I kept telling myself, "you have got into the wrong ditch, my friend, and you had better climb out."