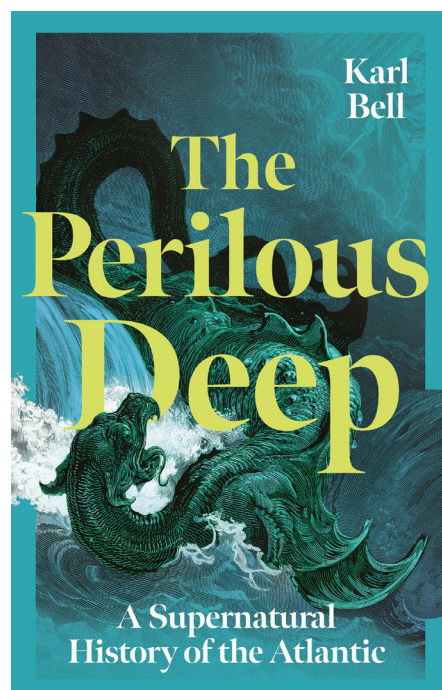


# THE PERILOUS DEEP

## *A Supernatural History of the Atlantic*

KARL BELL

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‘What a wonderful book this is, chock-full of mystery and magic. Promising to take the reader “on a seafaring voyage”, it delivers on all fronts. Beautifully written, engaging throughout and wonderfully illustrated, we encounter the “merfolk, ghosts, phantom ships and sea monsters” that have populated folklore tales, myths, legends and dreams for centuries. Take a dive into *The Perilous Deep* with Karl Bell, who brings exemplary scholarship as well as storytelling flair to the lightless depths of the “supernatural and monstrous Atlantic”.’

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The vast expanse, unknown depths, dangers and mysteries of the sea have led mariners to create fantastical stories of ghosts and monsters for centuries; it is a world strange and ‘other’ to the experience of land dwellers. This body of lore has served to bond nautical communities together around the world and throughout history, with international stories fusing with local tales. *The Perilous Deep* explores why these stories were told, how they were repeated and mutated and what fears, anxieties and desires they helped to express. This is a fascinating exploration of the supernatural history of the Atlantic Ocean and some of its neighbouring seas, showing how seafaring peoples have developed knowledge and a sense of control over nature through myths and legends.

**Karl Bell** is Associate Professor in Cultural and Social History and Co-Director of the Centre for Port Cities and Maritime Cultures at the University of Portsmouth. His books include *The Legend of Spring-Heeled Jack*, winner of the 2013 Katharine Briggs Award.



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