20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

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The Mysterious “Thing”
Chapter 1
The Mysterious Monster

The year 1866 was marked by several strange and mysterious events at sea. Ships from many countries had met an “enormous black thing” hundreds of feet long. It was larger than any creature known to scientists. The “thing” gave off an eerie glow underwater and spat out columns of water hundreds of feet into the air.

The “thing” was sighted in July off the coast of Australia, then, three days later, in the waters of the Pacific Ocean more than 2,100 miles away. The next sighting, two
weeks later, was in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, 6,000 miles away. What an extraor-
dinary creature this must be to move from one place to another in such a short time!

Reports of this “thing” caused great excite-
ment in every country of the world. Wild
stories about all kinds of sea monsters ap-
peared in newspapers in every language of
the globe. Scientists argued among them-
selves as to whether such a huge, speedy sea
monster could exist.

Then, early in 1867, this sea monster
stopped being a scientific problem and be-
came a real danger. Merchant steamers and
passengers ships were being struck by some-
thing! Was it a rock? A reef? Or this sea
monster?

One ship, the Scotia, was examined in dry-
dock after a collision at sea. Her engineers
couldn’t believe their eyes! A hole in the
shape of a perfect triangle had opened up her
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