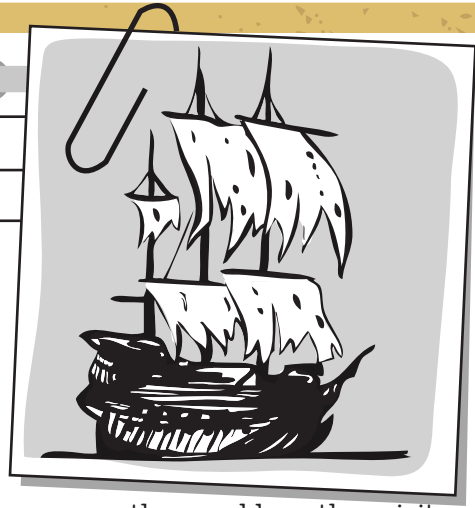


CASE: The Flying Dutchman

LOCATION: Worldwide



For centuries, sailors have told tales of a ghost ship called The Flying Dutchman, which appears to seafarers to warn them of danger. Though it is eternal, the Flying Dutchman can never make it to land; doomed to roam the seas for eternity.

The story goes that many years ago, a Dutch ship encountered a serious storm, leaving no survivors on board. Her sister ship made it to the Cape of Good Hope, and once repaired, set out again only to encounter another violent storm. Ships in the distance swore they could see the spirit of the ruined ship, the Flying Dutchman, standing in front of her sister, protecting her from the howling gales. Some say the Flying Dutchman's crew committed a terrible crime, and were cursed to be stranded at sea forever.

Since then, seasoned sailors across the world have reported sightings of a spectral ship floating on the seas. In some sailor's myths, ghost ships are the harbingers of hurricanes.

They can be explained by science: there's something known as a *fata morgana*, which is like a mirage on the ocean. Sometimes, when the conditions are right, light bends when it hits warm air over the ocean and creates reflections of other objects, making them appear as if they are floating.

A ghost ship isn't always the ghost of a ship—sometimes it's a ship filled with ghosts. Throughout history, mysteriously empty ships have turned up adrift in the ocean. The most famous is *Mary Celeste*, which was found floating in the Atlantic Ocean in 1872 with every single one of her crew gone.

WITNESS: Benjamin Doggett, fishing boat captain:

We were out on a long assignment, and we were almost done. One night, we thought we saw another ship off in the distance. It looked old, with sails and everything, and it almost looked bright, like it was glowing. In the back of my head, I remembered those old stories about the Flying Dutchman, but I quickly dismissed them. Sure enough, later that night, a freak storm almost threw us off course. Now I'm not so sure if they're just stories...

WITNESS: Dave Bertrand, fishing boat captain:

I've heard so many stories of ships like that, and I gotta say, I just don't know. I've been a captain for 20 years, and being alone for so long can really mess with your head.

Which of these qualities do you think you would find in Benjamin?

- a. He likes fantasy movies.
- b. He has a pet cat.
- c. He likes jazz music.

Which of these qualities do you think you would find in Dave?

- a. He is level-headed.
- b. He is spontaneous.
- c. He had soup for dinner.