

CATA. NO
251

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE.



CRUSOE ESCAPING TO THE ROCK.

[I was born of a respectable family in the city of York, where my father, who was a native of Bremen, settled, after having gained a handsome estate by merchandise; my head was very early filled with rambling thoughts; but my father often persuaded me to settle in some business, and my mother used the tenderest entreaties, yet nothing could prevail upon me to lay aside my desire of going to sea, notwithstanding

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the extreme uneasiness which my father and mother always shewed at the thoughts of my leaving them. I hardened myself against the prudent and kind advice of my most indulgent parents, and being one day at Hull, I met with one of my companions, who was going to sea in his father's ship, and he easily persuaded me to go with him.

On the 1st of Sept. 1651, I went on board a ship bound for London, and set sail without letting my father or mother know the route I had taken. But no sooner was the ship out of the Humber, than the wind began to blow, and the sea to rise in a most terrible manner. I was extremely sick, and I firmly resolved, if it pleased God to set me on dry land, that I would return to my parents, implore their forgiveness, and bid a final adieu to my wandering inclinations. The storm, however, beginning to abate, the master fired guns for help, and a light ship which had ridden it out just a-head of us, ventured a boat to help us. It was with the utmost hazard that it came near us: and our men casting a rope over the stern with a buoy, they, after much labour and hazard, got hold of it, and we hauled them close under the stern and got all into the boat. But we had hardly left the ship a quarter of an hour, when we saw her founder. We at last, with great difficulty got to land. Having some money about me, I travelled to London, on my arrival at which city the master of a ship who had been on the coast of Guinea, fancying my appearance, told me, that if I would go the voyage with him I should be at no expense.

I was now set up for a Guinea trader; and my friend, to my great misfortune, dying soon after his arrival, I resolved to go the same voyage again; and I embarked in the same vessel with one who was his mate in the former voyage, and had now got command of the ship. This was one of the most unhappy voyages ever made; for we were surprised one morning, by a rover of Sallee, which gave chase to us. A very smart engagement ensued, but we were obliged to submit, and were all carried prisoners into Sallee, a port belonging to the Moors.

My master having the long boat of our English ship, had a little cabin built in the middle of it, like a barge; and as I was dexterous at fishing, he frequently sent me out with a Moor whom he called Muley. One day we sailed out of the

port to fish, when, giving the boy the helm, I stepped forward, and stooping behind the Moor, took him by surprise, and tossed him overboard. He rose immediately, and called to me to take him in; but fetching one of the fowling pieces, I presented it at him, and told him that I would shoot him if he came near for I resolved to have my liberty. So he turned about and as the sea was calm, he easily reached the land.

I turned to the boy, whom they called Xury, and said to him, "Xury, if you will be faithful to me, I will make you a great man; but, if you will not, I must throw you into the Sea too." The boy smiled, and spoke so innocently, that I could not mistrust him. It no sooner got dark, than I steered to the south, and in about ten days afterwards, we discovered a Portuguese vessel, and on our coming near I offered all that I possessed to the captain of the ship, but he told me that he would take nothing from me. We had very good weather for twelve days: but after we had crossed the Line, a violent hurricane drove us quite out of our course. In this distress one of our men called out 'Land!' and the ship struck against a sand-bank. We took to the boat, and after we had rowed a league and a half, a wave came rolling a-stern of us, and upset the boat at once, so that out of sixteen, none escaped but myself. I got upon my feet, and making towards the shore, I clambered up the cliffs, and got to land. Being much fatigued, I climbed up a tree, and slept comfortably till the morning. When I awoke, it was broad day, and the storm had abated.

I swam to the ship, and to my great joy, saw that all the provisions were dry; and being well disposed to eat, I filled my pockets, and ate as I went about other things. I found several spare yards and planks with which I made a raft. I emptied three of the seamen's chests, and also let down the carpenters' chests, all of which I placed on my raft, and after much labour got it safely landed. I then went in search of a place where to fix my dwelling, and before I set up my tent, I drew a half circle before a hollow place, which extended about twenty yards, and drove large piles into the ground sharpened at the end; and the entrance I made by a short ladder to go over the top, and when I was in, I lifted it over after me, so that I was quite secure. Having finished my new habitation I next built a boat with which I intended to survey the island

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Some time after, in the midst of a very stormy night, I was startled at the firing of a gun: I hastened up to the top of my hill, and heard another. I imagined that these were signals of a ship in distress; and such it proved, as I discovered the next day. I cannot explain the emotion I felt at the sight of this wreck; "O that there had been but one saved!" cried I, "that I might have had one companion, one fellow-creature to have comforted in his affliction." Under the power of this impression, nothing would serve me, but I must go in my boat to the wreck, which lay at a little distance. I furnished myself with provisions, for fear of being driven out to sea; and having begun my voyage, I in two hours time reached the ship, which was Spanish built. She was fast jammed in between two rocks, and the stern and the quarter were beaten to pieces by the sea. On coming near it, a dog yelped and cried; but there was no other living creature on board! and all the goods were spoiled by the water. I managed however, to get one of the seamen's chests into my boat.

After I had got my treasure home, and began to unload, I found several bottles filled with cordial waters, and some shirts, which were very useful to me; about 1,100 pieces of eight of solid gold,—but of what use was that to me? I would have given it all for three or four pairs of shoes and stockings. After this acquisition, I lived in my old manner, though terrified with fears of the savages.

One morning very early I saw five canoes on shore, and no fewer than thirty savages dancing round a fire. I soon after saw two miserable wretches dragged out of the canoes, one of them was immediately knocked down, but the other starting from them, ran with incredible swiftness along the sands towards me. Of the three that followed, but two entered the water, the other returning back, I hastily fetched my guns from the foot of the ladder, and taking a short cut down the hill, I clapped myself in the way between the pursued and the pursuers; then rushing at once on the foremost, knocked him down with the stock of my piece; the other was fitting his bow to shoot me, upon which I shot him dead directly. The poor savage who had fled, was so terrified at the noise of my piece, though he saw his enemies fallen, that he stood stock still, but seemed rather inclined to fly than come forward. However, when I gave him a sign



CRUSOE SAVING FRIDAY'S LIFE.

of encouragement, he came near, kneeling down every ten or twelve steps; on coming close, he laid his head upon the ground, and placed my foot upon it. But there was more to do yet: the man I had felled came to himself, and my savage began to be afraid. I then presented the piece at the man, when the poor fellow, whose life I had saved, made a motion for my sword, which I gave him; and he cut off his enemy's head at one blow, and in a quarter of an hour, buried both bodies in the sand. I then conducted him to my cave at the further part of the island. Here I gave him bread, a bunch of raisins to eat, and a draught of water, which he wanted much; and having refreshed him I began to speak to him, and to teach him to speak to me; and first made him know that his name should be Friday, which was the day wherein I saved his life. I taught him to say Master, and let him know that was to be my name. The next day I gave him clothes, at which he seemed pleased.

I was now entered into the 27th year of my captivity

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one morning, Friday came running, and before I had time to speak cried, "O Massa! Massa! O sorrow! yonder there be one, two, three canoe! one, two, three!—Having hung my great sword naked by my side, and made Friday assist in loading what fire-arms we had, which consisted of four guns and two pistols, I took my glass, and went up to the side of the hill, when I saw twenty-one savages, three prisoners, and three canoes. Having thus learned their force, I entered the wood, with Friday beside me, till we came near them. They were about the fire, eating the flesh of one of their prisoners.

This filled me with horror; and going behind a tree, we both fired and killed four, and wounded three at the first volley while the Indians were panic-struck at receiving so unexpected a salute. Improving on their fright, we poured in a second volley with such effect, that we killed two more, and wounded several, while the air re-echoed with the yells of these affrighted savages, who fled in great terror.

We pursued them to the beach, and did such execution among them that out of twenty-one only four escaped; even those I should have destroyed, but on jumping into one of their canoes, which I made Friday also do, in order to pursue them, our attention was arrested by discovering a man bound in the canoe. He was an Indian, and I ordered Friday to speak to him; but when the poor fellow looked him in the face and heard him speak, he uttered a wild discordant scream; he embraced him, then cried and put his head into his bosom, then danced, sung and cried again. It was sometime before I could learn the cause of his emotion; but at length becoming more calm, he informed me that it was his own dear father; Some days after, Friday came running into the hut, almost breathless, exclaiming, "O massa! massa! a ship! a ship!" Overjoyed at this news, I snatched up my glass, and ascended the hill when to my no small surprise, I beheld an English ship lying at anchor some distance from the shore.

The joy that I felt on this occasion can be more easily imagined than described. Soon after, they sent one of their boats on shore, and eleven men landed three of whom seemed to be prisoners. Resolving to preserve the ill-fated captives, I and my man concealed ourselves among some bushes so that we could secretly observe all that passed. At length the sailors left their captives, and strolled into an adjacent

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wood. Emboldened by their absence, I ventured to the captives, and asked, in Spanish, who they were? They started at the noise, and prepared to fly. I then said to them in English, "Gentlemen, perhaps you have a friend whom you little expect. Let me know all the circumstances of your case." "I am captain of the ship you now see at anchor;" replied one of the prisoners, "my men have mutinied against me, and if they do not put me and those few who have remained faithful to me, to a violent death, they have resolved upon leaving me and these two gentlemen to perish on this desolate island; they are but in that thicket, and I tremble for fear they may see or overhear you." "Do not needlessly alarm yourself, my good friend," I replied. "I am better prepared for an emergency like this, than you may imagine: I have good store of ammunition, able and trusty friends, which, with your assistance, will enable us speedily to regain possession of your vessel, in which I hope to accompany you to my native land." Having then concerted measures with the captain, we followed the mutineers into the wood, and forced them to surrender. At midnight we rowed silently to the ship, and having got quietly on board, the crew surprised, yet pleased, at the unexpected appearance of their old commander, received him with hearty cheers, and the chief mate, who had been the ringleader in the mutiny, seeing the turn affairs had taken, drew a pistol from his belt, and applying it to his ear, blew out his brains. Tranquillity being thus happily restored, I returned once more to my hut to make the final preparations for my departure.

Next day I went on board taking with me my man Friday, my dog, and my parrot. Thus I left this solitary island, after living upon it for twenty-eight years. We had not left the island three days, when we saw a great number of canoes filled with negroes, who came very near, on which we made signs for them to put back, which they did. I ordered Friday to speak to them, when instantly they discharged a great flight of arrows and killed poor Friday, no other man being in their sight. The poor fellow was shot with no less than three arrows, and about three more fell very near him; such unlucky marksmen they were!

I was so enraged at the loss of my old trusty servant and companion, that I immediately ordered five guns to be loaded



THE DEATH OF MAN-FRIDAY.

with small shot, and four with great, and gave them such a broadside as they had never heard in their life before, to be sure. They were not above half a cable length off when we fired; and our gunners took their aim so well that three or four of their canoes were overset, as we had reason to believe by one shot only.

After a prosperous voyage, we landed in Old England after I had been absent from my native country thirty-seven years.

On my arrival at York, I was very much grieved to hear that both my parents were dead; but I was somewhat consoled when I found that they had forgiven me and left me all their property, if ever I should return to enjoy it. Having for so many years had a life of hardship and misfortune, I learnt to know the blessing of ending my days in peace, and the necessity of being prepared to depart from this, to another, and a better world.

THE END.