

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE SWISS
FAMILY ROBINSON**

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A Violent Storm

CHAPTER 1

Shipwrecked!

Many years ago my family left Switzerland and boarded a ship bound for the sparkling blue waters of the Pacific Ocean. Our destination was an island near New Guinea, where we were to establish a colony. Along the way we ran into a violent storm.

For six days, the wind howled and tore at the sails, while the waves pounded against our little wooden ship, tossing it high in the air.

On the seventh day, the masts ripped apart and fell into the sea. Several leaks appeared, and the ship began to fill with water. Realizing that the storm had driven us far off course, the

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frightened sailors fell to their knees in prayer.

“You musn’t be afraid,” I said to my four sons, Fritz, 15, Jack, 13, Ernest, 11, and Francis, 8, who clung to me trembling. “God will save us, for nothing is impossible to him.” My wife, Elizabeth, wiped away her tears and reassured our sons that we would survive this crisis. I admired her courage, but my heart was heavy as I led my family in prayer.

“Land ahoy! Land ahoy!” cried a sailor.

At that same moment, the ship crashed into a large rock, sending everyone on board reeling in all directions. Then we heard a loud crack as if the whole ship was falling apart. Suddenly, the sea came rushing in.

“All is lost!” shouted the captain in his booming voice. “Into the boats, men!”

As the terrified sailors rushed by us, Elizabeth and the children looked at me in wide-eyed amazement.

“Stay calm,” I said. “There is no reason to panic. First of all, the water hasn’t reached us



The Sea Comes Rushing In.