GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

Daniel Defoe

adapted by
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A Warning

Chapter 1
Robinson's Early Adventures

"Robinson, if you go to sea, your life will be one of misery," said Mr. Crusoe, "and you will live to regret it!"

But eighteen-year-old Robinson Crusoe was not moved by his father's words or by the old man's tears. The only thing he wanted in life was to go to sea to make his fortune. He didn't want to study law as his father had hoped. He didn't want to share in his family's successful business as his mother had hoped.

"Just one voyage," argued Robinson, "and if I do not like it, I shall return and stay here

with the family in Yorkshire."

But Mr. and Mrs. Crusoe would not give their consent. A sailor's life was a dangerous one. Storms were regular occurrences at sea. Their winds often blew ships off course and, even worse, dashed them to pieces against rocks or sand bars. Many lives were lost this way. Then, too, there was the danger of pirates who attacked merchant ships, stole their cargo, and killed their crew. No, Mr. and Mrs. Crusoe decided, they could not give their consent and be part of the destruction of their son.

So, for another year, Robinson could only dream of going to sea. One day, he was visiting a friend in the seaport town of Hull. Robinson learned that the boy's father, a sea captain, was setting sail on a short voyage down the English coast to London. An invitation to come on board and sail as the captain's guest was too much for Robinson to resist.

Danger at Sea