

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

KIDNAPPED

Robert Louis Stevenson

**adapted by
Deborah Kestel**



**BARONET
BOOKS**

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David Begins His Adventures.

Chapter 1

I Set Off Upon My Journey

My adventures began early one June morning in the year 1751. I was a lad of seventeen. I locked the door of my father's house for the last time. The sun shone on the hill-tops as I went down the road.

Mr. Campbell, the minister, was waiting for me by his garden gate.

"Well, Davie lad," said he, "I will go with you to the river, to start you on your way."

We began to walk in silence.

"Are ye sorry to leave Essendean?" he asked.

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“Essendean is a good place,” said I, “but I have never been anywhere else.”

“Well, Davie,” said Mr. Campbell, “when your mother was gone and your father was dying, he gave me this letter and told me to give you the letter and send you to the house of Shaws, where he came from.”

“The house of Shaws!” I cried. “What had my poor father to do with the house of Shaws?”

“Who can tell?” said Mr. Campbell. “The name of that family, Davie boy, is your name—Balfour of Shaws.”

The letter was addressed: “To the hands of Ebenezer Balfour, of Shaws, these will be delivered by my son, David Balfour.” My heart was beating hard.

“Mr. Campbell,” I stammered, “if you were in my shoes, would you go?”

“Ay, I would,” said the minister.

He gave me a little packet, then embraced



“The House of Shaws!”