

and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe CHAPTER I. I WAS BORN IN THE YEAR 1632, IN THE
estate by merchandise, and leaving off his trade, lived afterwards at York, from whence he had married my
Kreutznaer; but by the usual corruption of words in England, we are now called—nay we call ourselves and wri
one, of whom was lieutenant-colonel to an English regiment of foot in Flanders, formerly commanded
the Spaniards. What became of my second brother I never knew, any more than my father or mothe
d to any trade, my head began to be filled very early with rambling thoughts. My father, who was very
education and a country free school generally go, and designed me for the law; but I would be satisfied
strongly against the will, nay, the commands of my father, and against all the entreaties and persuasions
g fatal in that propensity of nature, tending directly to the life of misery which was to befall me. My father
ed against what he foresaw was my design. He called me one morning into his chamber, where he was
with me upon this subject. He asked me what reasons, more than a mere wandering inclin
ion, I had for
where I might be well introduced, and had a prospect of raising my fortune by applicatio
n, a
it was men of desperate fortunes on one hand, or of aspiring, superior fortunes on the
ot
enterprise, and make themselves famous in undertakings of a nature out of the common
r
me or too far below me; that mine was the middle state, or what might be called the uppe
upping
experience, was the best state in the world, the most suited to human happ
ness, no
s, the labour and sufferings of the mechanic part of mankind, and no
t emba
on, and envy of the upper part of mankind. He told me I might judge of the
happin
viz. that this was the state of life which all other people envied; that kings
e consequence of being born to great things, and wished they had been
between the mean and the great; that the wise man gave his testimony to th
i
er poverty nor riches. He bade me observe it, and I should always find that th
f mankind, but that the middle station had the fewest disasters, and was not
they were not subjected to so many distempers and uneasinesses, either
nd extravagances on the one hand, or by hard labour, want of necessari
upon themselves by the natural consequences of their way of living; t
diversions, and all desirable pleasures, were the handmaids of a middle
he mid
the world, and comfortably out of it, not embarrassed with the labours
of the h
ed with perplexed circumstances, which rob the soul of peace and the body
of ambition for great things; but, in easy circumstances, sliding gently
feeling that they are happy, and learning by every day's experience
ne
r, not to play the young man, nor to precipitate myself i
t; th
c
at I had just been recommending to me; and th
that must hinder it; and that he should have n
ich he knew would be to my hurt; in a word
ould not have so much hand in my misfort
mple, to whom he had used the sam
mpting him to run into the arm
me, that if I did take this foo
s counsel when there m
igh t be
h I suppose my father d
id not know
it to be s
o himself—I say,
y brother who was killed: and that wh
en he sp
oke
e, and told me his heart was so full he could s
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no more to
resolved not to think of going abroad any
mo
re, but to
hort, to prevent any of my father
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did not act quite so hastily
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at her a little more plea
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world that I should
n conse
better give me his
a trade
as too late to
go apprentice to
me, but I should certainly run away from my m
aster before my tim
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v
oyage abroad, if I came home again, and did not like it, I would go no more; and I
put my mother into a great passion; she told me she knew it would be to no purpose to
his consent to anything so much for my hurt; and that she wondered how I could think
pressions as she knew my father had used to me; and that, in short, if I would ruin myse
he would not have so much hand in my destruction; and I should never have it to s
wards that she reported all the discourse to him, and that my father, after sh
be the most miserable wretch that ever was born: I can give no consent to
quently expostulated with my father and mother about their being so positive
opement at that time; but, I say, being there, and one of my companions be
e nothing for my passage, I consulted neither father nor mother any more, n
or s
o
circumstances or consequences, and in an ill hour, God knows, on the 1st of Sept
ember 165
1, I went on boar
d a ship bound for London. Never any be
fore
frightful ma
nner; and, as I had never been at sea be
fore
which it has
my father's house, and abandoning my
since, reproached me with the contemp
t of advice, and the b
reach of my duty
then, who was but a young sailor, and
this agony of mind, I made many vows a
hile I lived; that I would take his advice,
nd never had been expos
ed to tempests
ime after; but the next da
y the wind was
a charming fine evening
follow
ell in the night, a
nd was now no mor
e
utions sh
uld contin
ue,
a ca
k nothin
?" To mak
g of
e sh
ort this sad
part of my story, we went the way of all sailors; the
refle
ctions u
pon my past conduct, all my resolutions for the futu
abatement of that storm, so the hurry of my tho
ns of being swallowed up by the sea b
ely forgot the vows and pro
I
s thoughts did,
as
it were, endeavour to return aga
in
sometimes; but I shook them off, an
d roused myself from them as it were from a di
stemper, and applying myself to drinking and compa
ered the return of those fits—for so I called them; and I had i
victory over conscience as any young fellow that resolved not to
idence, as in such cases generally it does, resolved to leave me entirely wit
etch among us would confess both the danger and the mercy of it. The sixth day of ou
ere obliged to come to an anchor, and here we lay, the wind continuing contrary—viz. at south-we
blew too fresh, and after we had lain four or five days, blew very hard. However, the Roads being reckoned as good as a harbour, the anchorage good, and our ground-tackle very strong, our men were unconcerned, and not in the least apprehensive of danger, but spent the time in r
est and mirth, after the manner of the sea; but the eighth day, in the morning, the wind increased, and we had all hands at work to strike our topmasts, and make everything snug and close, that the ship might ride as easy as possible. By noon the sea went very high indeed, and our
ship rode fore-castle in, shipped several seas, and we thought once or twice our anchor had come home; upon which our master ordered out the sheet-anchor, so that we rode with two anchors ahead, and the cables veered out to the bitter end. By this time it blew a terrible storm in
depth; and now I began to see terror and ama
zement in the faces even of the seame
n themselves. The master, though vigilant in the business of preserving the ship, yet as he went in and out of his cabin by me, I could hear him softly to himself a saying, several
times, "Lord be merciful to us! we shall be all lost! we shall
be all undone!" and the like. During these first hurries I was stupid, lying still in my cabin, which was in the steerage, and cannot describe my
temper: I could ill resume the first penitence which I had so apparently t
ampled upon and hardened myself against: I thought the bitterness of death had been past, and that this would be nothing like the first; but when the master himself came by me, as I sai
d just now, and said we should be all lost, I was dreadfully frightened. I got up out of my cabin and looked out; but such a dismal sight I never saw: the sea ran mountains high, and broke upon us every three or four minutes; when I could look about, I could see nothing but distress ro
und us; two ships that rode near us, we found, had cut their masts by the board, being deep laden; and our men cried out that a ship which rode about a mile ahead of us was foundered. Two more ships, being driven from their anchors, were run out of the Roads to sea, at all advent
ures, and that with not a mast standing. The light ships fared the best, as not so much labouring in the sea; but two or three of them drove, and came close by us, running away with only their spritsails out before the wind. Towards evening the mate and boatswain begged the master
of our ship to let them cut away the fore-mast, which he was very unwilling to do; but the boatswain protesting to him that if he did not the ship would founder, he consented; and when they had cut away the fore-mast, the main-mast stood so loose, and shook the ship so much, the
y were obliged to cut that away also, and make a clear deck. Any one may judge what a condition I must be in at all this, who was but a young sailor, and who had been in such a fright before at a little. But if I can express at this distance the thoughts I had about me at that time, I
y was in tenfold more horror of mind upon account of my former convictions, and the having returned from them to the resolutions I had wickedly taken at first, than I was at death itself; and these, added to the terror of the storm, put me into such a condition that I can by no words d
escribe it. But the worst was not come yet; the storm continued with such fury that the seamen themselves acknowledged they had never seen a worse. We had a good ship, but she was deep laden, and wallowed in the sea, so that the seamen every now and then cried out she wou
d founder. It was my advantage in one respect, that I did not know what they meant by founder till I inquired. However, the storm was so violent that I saw, what is not often seen, the master, the boatswain, and some others more sensible than the rest, at their prayers, and expecting
every moment when the ship would go to the bottom. In the middle of the night, and under all the rest of our distresses, one of the men that had been down to see cried out we had sprung a leak; another said there was four feet water in the hold. Then all hands were called to the pu
mp. At that word, my heart, as I thought, died within me: and I fell backwards upon the side of my bed where I sat, into the cabin. However, the men roused me, and told me that I, that was able to do nothing before, was as well able to pump as another; at which I stirred up and went t
o the pump, and worked very heartily. While this was doing the master, seeing some light colliers, who, not able to ride out the storm were obliged to slip and run away to sea, and would come near us, ordered to fire a gun as a signal of distress. I, who knew nothing what they mean
t, thought the ship had broken, or some dreadful thing happened. In a word, I was so surprised that I fell down in a swoon. As this was a time when everybody had his own life to think of, nobody minded me, or what was become of me; but another man stepped up to the pump, and t
hrusting me aside with his foot, let me lie, thinking I had been dead; and it was a great while before I came to myself. We worked on; but the water increasing in the hold, it was apparent that the ship would founder; and though the storm began to abate a little, yet it was not possible
e boat to lie near the ship's side, till at last the men rowing very heartily, and venturing their lives to
a great length, which they, after much labour and hazard, took hold of, and we hauled them close under our stern,
to think of reaching their own ship; so all agreed to let her drive, and only to pull her in towards shore a
s much as we could; and our master promised them, that if the boat was staved upon shore, he would make it good to their master: so partly rowing and partly driving, our
boat went away to the northward, sloping towards the shore almost as far as Winterton Ness. We were not much
e first time what was meant by a ship foundering in the sea. I must acknowledge I had hardly eyes to look up when the seam
s it were, dead within me, partly
with fright, partly with horror
d see (when, our boat mo
unting the waves, we were able to see the shore) a great many people running along the strand to assist us when we should come near; but we made but slow way towards th
e shore; nor were we able to reach the shore till, being past the lighthouse at Winterton, the shore falls off to the westward towards Cromer, and so the land broke off a little the violence of the wind. Here we got in, and though not without much difficulty, got all safe on shore, and wa
on back to Hull as we thought fit. Had I now had the sense to have gone back to Hull, and have gone home, I had been happy, and my father, as in our blessed Saviour's parable, had even killed the fattened calf for me; for hearing the ship I went away in was cast away in Yarmouth
Roads, it was a great while before he had any assurances that I was not drowned. But my ill fate pushed me on now with an obstinacy that nothing could resist; and though I had several times loud calls from my reason, and my more composed judgment to go home, yet I had no po
wer to do it. I know not what to call this, nor will I urge that it is a secret overruling decree, that hurries us on to be the instruments of our own destruction, even though it be before us, and that we rush upon it with our eyes open. Certainly, nothing but some such decreed unavoidable
le misery, which it was impossible for me to escape, could have pushed me forward against the calm reasonings and persuasions of my most retired thoughts, and against two such visible instructions as I had met with in my first attempt. My comrade, who had helped to harden me
and, and who was the master's son, was now less forward than I. The first time he spoke to me after we were at Yarmouth, which was not till two or three days, for we were separated in the town to several quarters; I say, the first time he saw me, it appeared his tone was altered; he
and, looking very melancholy, and shaking his head, he asked me how I did, and telling his father who I was, and how I had come this voyage only for a trial, in order to go further abroad, his father, turning to me with a very grave and concerned tone "Young man," says he, "you o
ught never to go to sea any more; you ought to take this for a plain and visible token that you are not to be a seafaring man." "Why, sir," said I, "will you go to sea no more?" "That is another case," said he; "it is my calling, and therefore my duty; but as you made this voyage on trial,
you see what a taste Heaven has given you of what you are to expect if you persist. Perhaps this has all befallen us on your account, like Job in the ship of Tarshish. Pray," continues he, "what are you; and on what account did you go to sea?" Upon that I told him some of my st
ory; at the end of which he burst out into a strange kind of passion: "What had I done," says he, "that such an unhappy wretch should come into my ship? I would not set my foot in the same ship with thee again for a thousand pounds." This indeed was, as I said, an excursion of hi
s spirits, which were yet agitated by the sense of his loss, and was farther than he could have authority to go. However, he afterwards talked very gravely to me, exhorting me to go back to my father, and not tempt Providence to my ruin, telling me I might see a visible hand of Heave
n against me. "And, young man," said he, "d
epend upon it, if yo
u do not go back, w
herever you go, you will meet with nothing but d
isast
ers and disappointments, till
your fathe
r's words are fulfil
led upon you." We parted soon after; for I made him little answer, and I saw him no more; which way he went I knew not. As for me, having some money in my pocket, I travelled to London by land; and there, as well as on the road, had many struggles with myself what course of life
I should take, and whether I should go home or to sea. As to going home, shame opposed the best motions that offered to my thoughts, and it immediately occurred to me how I should be laughed at among the neighbours, and should be ashamed to see, not my father and mother
only, but even everybody else; from whence I have since often observed, how incongruous and irrational the common temper of mankind is, especially of youth, to that reason which ought to guide them in such cases—viz. that they are not ashamed to sin, and yet are ashamed to r
epent; not ashamed of the action for which they ought justly to be esteemed fools, but
are ashamed of the return
some time, uncertain what measures to take e, a n
d what course of life to lead. An irresistible reluctance continued to going home; and as I stayed away a while, the re
embrance of the distress I had been in wore off, and as that abated, the little motion I had in my desires to return wore off with it, till at last I quite laid aside the thoughts of it, and looked out for a voyage. CHAPTER II.—SLAVERY AND ESCAPE That evil influence which carried me fi
rst away from my father's house—which hurried me into the wild and indigested notion of raising my fortune, and that impressed those conceits so forcibly upon me as to make me deaf to all good advice, and to the entreaties and even the commands of my father—I say, the same i
nfluence, whatever it was, presented the most unfortunate of all enterprises to my view; and I went on board a vessel bound to the coast of Africa; or, as our sailors vulgarly called it, a voyage to Guinea. It was my great misfortune that in all these adventures I did not ship myself as
a sailor; when, though I might indeed have worked a little harder than ordinary, yet at the same time I should have learnt the duty and office of a fore-mast man, and in time might have qualified myself for a mate or lieutenant, if not for a master. But as it was always my fate to choose
for the worse, so I did here; for having money in my pocket and good clothes upon my back, I would always go on board in the habit of a gentleman; and so I neither had any business in the ship, nor learned to do any. It was my lot first of all to fall into pretty good company in Lond
on, which does not always happen to such loose and misguided young fellows as I then was; the devil generally not omitting to lay some snare for them very early; but it was not so with me. I first got acquainted with the master of a ship who had been on the coast of Guinea; and w
ho, having had very good success there, was resolved to go again. This captain taking a fancy to my conversation, which was not at all disagreeable at that time, hearing me say I had a mind to see the world, told me if I would go the voyage with him I should be at no expense; and sh
ould be his messmate and his companion; and if I could carry anything with me, I should have all the advantage of it that the trade would admit; and perhaps I might meet with some encouragement. I embraced the offer; and entering into a strict friendship with this captain, who was
an honest, plain-dealing man, I went the voyage with him, and carried a small adventure with me, which, by the disinterested honesty of my friend the captain, I increased very considerably; for I carried about £40 in such toys and trifles as the captain directed me to buy. These £40 I
had mustered together by the assistance of some of my relations whom I corresponded with; and who, I believe, got my father, or at least my mother, to contribute so much as that to my first adventure. This was the only voyage which I may say was successful in all my adventures,
which I owe to the integrity and honesty of my friend the captain; under whom also I got a competent knowledge of the mathematics and the rules of navigation, learned how to keep an account of the ship's course, take an observation, and, in short, to understand some things that
were needful to be understood by a sailor; for, as he took delight to instruct me, I took delight to learn; and, in a word, this voyage made me both a sailor and a merchant; for I brought home five pounds nine ounces of gold-dust for my adventure, which yielded me in London, at my r
eturn, almost £300; and this filled me with those aspiring thoughts which have since so completely m
y ruin. Yet even in this voy
age I had my misfortunes too; particularly, that I was continually sick, be
ing thrown into a violent calenture by the excessive heat of the c
limate; our principal trading being upon the coast, from latitude of 15 degrees north even to the line its
elf. 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, a
nd I embarked in the same vessel with his mate in the former voyage, and had now got the command of the shi
p. This was the unhappy voyage that ever man made; for though I did not carry quite £100 of my new-gained wealth, so that I had £200 left, I had lodged with my friend's widow, who was very just to me, yet I fell into terrible misfortunes. The first was this: our ship making h
er course towards the Canary Islands, or rather between those islands and the African shore, was surprised in the grey of the morning by a Turkish rover of Sallee, who gave chase to us with all the sail she could make. We crowded also as much canvas as our yards would spread, o
ur masts carry, to get clear; but finding the pirate gained upon us, and would certainly come up with us in a few hours, we prepared to fight; our ship having twelve guns, and the rogue eighteen. About three in the afternoon he came up with us, and bringing to, by mistake, just a
thwart our quarter, instead of thwart our stern, as he intended, we brought eight of our guns to bear on that side, and poured in a broadside upon him, which made him sheer off again, after returning our fire, and pouring in also his small shot from near two hundred men which he
had on board. However, we had not a man touched, all our men keeping close. He prepared to attack us again, and we to defend ourselves. But laying us on board the next time upon our other quarter, he entered sixty men upon our decks, who immediately fell to cutting and hackin
g the sails and rigging. We plied them with small shot, half-pikes, powder-chests, and such like, and cleared our deck of them twice. However, to cut short this melancholy part of our story, our ship being disabled, and three of our men killed, and eight wounded, we were obliged to
yield, and were carried all prisoners into Sallee, a port belonging to the Moors. The usage I had there was not so dreadful as at first I apprehended; nor was I carried up the country to the emperor's court, as the rest of our men were, but was kept by the captain of the rover as his pro
prietor prize, and made his slave, being young and nimble, and fit for his business. At this surprising change of my circumstances, from a merchant to a miserable slave, I was perfectly overwhelmed; and now I looked back upon my father's prophetic discourse to me, that I should be
miserable and have none to relieve me, which I thought was now so effectually brought to pass that I could not be worse; for now the hand of Heaven had overtaken me, and I was undone without redemption; but, alas! this was but a taste of the misery I was to go through, as will ap
pear in the sequel of this story. As my new patron, or master, had taken me home to his house, so I was in hopes that he would take me with him when he went to sea again, believing that it would some time or other be his fate to be taken by a Spanish or Portugal man-of-war; and t
hat then I should be set at liberty. But this hope of mine was soon taken away; for when he went to sea, he left me on shore to look after his little garden, and do the common drudgery of slaves about his house; and when he came home again from his cruise, he ordered me to lie in t
he cabin to look after the ship. Here I meditated nothing but my escape, and what method I might take to effect it, but found no way that had the least probability in it; nothing presented to make the supposition of it rational; for I had nobody to communicate it to that would embark w
ith me—no fellow-slave, no Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman there but myself; so that for two years, though I often pleased myself with the imagination, yet I never had the least encouraging prospect of putting it in practice. After about two years, an odd circumstance presented
itself, which put
the old thought of making some attempt for my liberty again in my head. My patron lying at home longer than usual without fitting out his ship, which, as I heard, was for want of
money, he used constantly, once or twice a week, sometimes oftener if the weather was fair, to take the ship's pinnace and go out into the road a-fishing; and as he always took me and young Maresco with hi
m to row the boat, we made him very merry, and I proved very dexterous in catching fish; insomuch that sometimes he would send me with a Moor, one of his kinsmen, and the youth—the Maresco, as they called him—to catch a dish of fish for him. It happened one time, that going
a-fishing in a calm morning, a fog rose so thick that, though we were not half a league from the shore, we lost sight of it; and rowing we knew not whither or which way, we laboured all day, and all the next night; and when the morning came we found we had pulled off to sea instead