



## *Kidnapped*

by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

David Balfour, a lad of seventeen and newly orphaned, is directed to go and live with his rich uncle in the lowlands of Scotland near Edinburgh. His uncle is shocked to suddenly have his young relative descend on him and tries to rid himself of David by paying the captain of a brig to kidnap David and sell him into slavery.

A collision in the fog brings onboard the brig a survivor, Alan Breck Stewart, who is carrying a dangerous amount of gold. David warns him of a plan by the brig's crew to seize the money, and then finds himself fighting alongside Alan in a battle royale. The pair so completely defeat the crew that barely enough hands remain to sail her. Limping to port, she is holed by rocks, and David finds himself a castaway.

Being in Alan's presence continues to be risky. David is present when the King's Factor, who has been oppressing Alan's people, is shot to death, and David is chased as an accomplice. The two "take to the heather" and barely survive near brushes with redcoats as they thread through the Scottish Highlands. Only after an arduous weeks-long trek through territory where they are actively hunted do they emerge in the more settled districts around the river Forth. They must somehow find his uncle's lawyer, lay claim to David's inheritance and send Alan safely on to France.

Total running time: 8:16:42  
Read by Mark F. Smith

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney  
Illustration by N.C. Wyeth from the 1912 edition



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