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瑞士人鲁滨孙

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

Johann Wyss



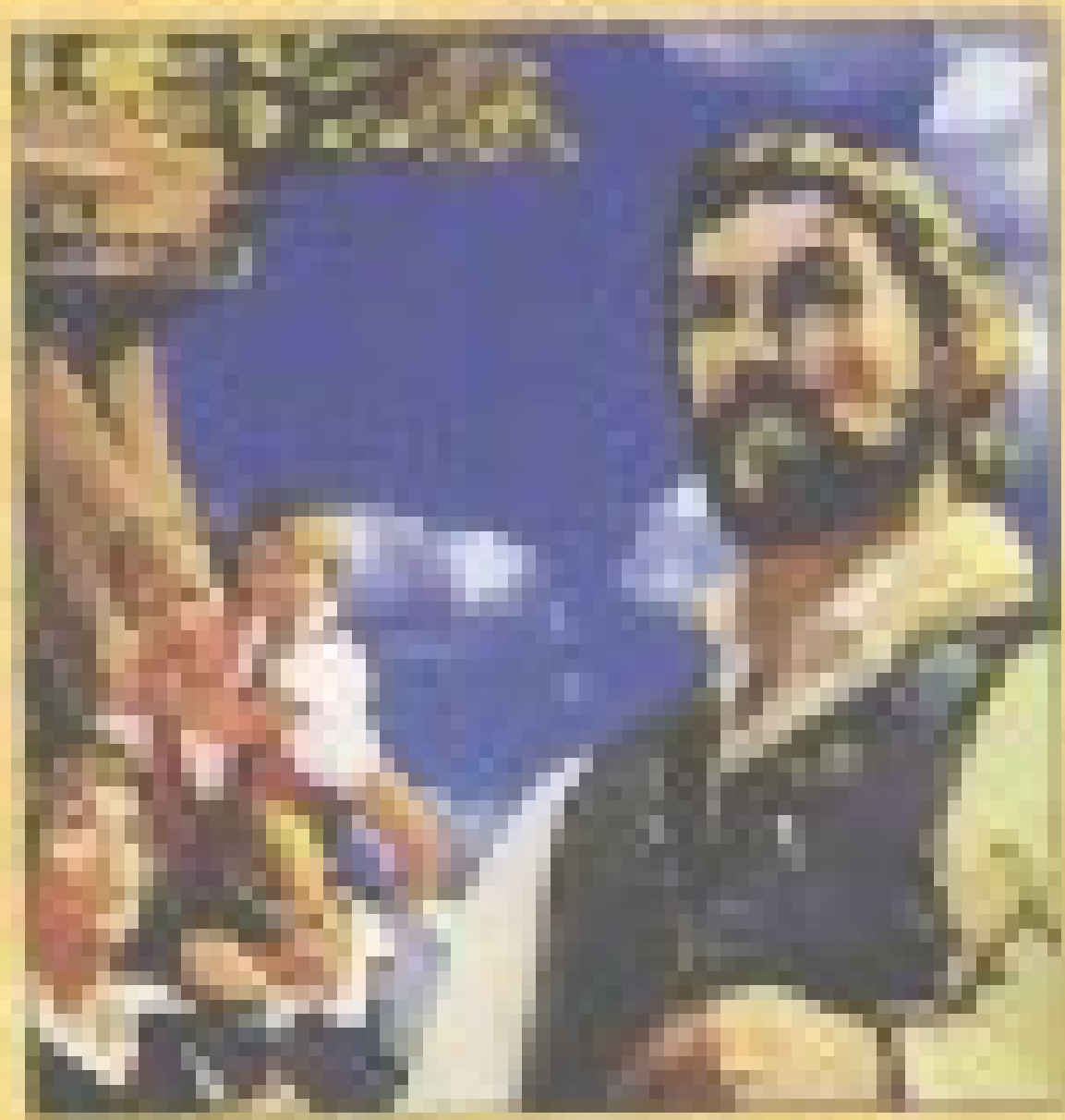
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瑞士人魯賓孫

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

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Swiss Family Robinson

Johann Wyss

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Johann Wyss

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王秋海 译

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致 读 者

在你看过并欣赏一部由名著改编的电影或电视剧后,你或许想读一读这本名著。

那么会是一种什么情景呢?你找到这本书,并且极有可能为之一振。你翻了一二十页,却好像什么也没“发生”。那些可爱的人物和动人的故事都哪儿去了?哎呀,作者什么时候才真正开始讲故事呢?最后你很可能把书丢在一边,不读了。这到底是怎么回事?

其实,可能作者是针对成年人而不是青少年写的这本书。也许这本书是好多年前写的,当时人们有充裕的时间读书,并且没有任何一种别的东西能像书那样让他们享受好几周。

但是,今天我们的想法不同了。这就是要为你们改编这些好书的原因。如果你喜欢这个简明读本所写的作品的话,你在年龄大些时会再找来原著去欣赏和品评她的原汁原味。

这儿的每本书分英文、中译文两部分,分别独立成篇,但又相互对应,便于读者在阅读时对照查看。

作者简介

约翰·大卫·维斯 1743 年生于瑞士，后成为一名牧师。他的儿子约翰·鲁道夫·维斯 1781 年生于伯尔尼，长大后成为哲学家和作家。他搜集瑞士民间故事，而且创作了瑞士国歌。

《瑞士人鲁滨孙》是约翰·大卫·维斯受丹尼尔·笛福的《鲁滨孙漂流记》的启发而开始创作的，由他儿子续写并编辑完成。

约翰·大卫·维斯死于 1818 年，约翰·鲁道夫·维斯死于 1830 年。

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CHAPTER ONE

Shipwreck

The storm had been raging for six terrible days, and far from subsiding on the seventh, its fury seemed to increase. The ship had been blown off course, and the captain did not know where we were. The crew and passengers were all very upset. Everyone believed that we would all be killed.

I held my wife and four sons close to me. My dear wife was crying with fear and the four boys were shaking. I said, "God will save us," and this seemed to calm my excellent wife's tears and she was able to soothe the children.

Then a cry of "Land! Land!" was heard through the roaring of the waves, and instantly the ship struck against huge rocks. There was a terrible sound of cracking, as if the ship was going to pieces. The sea rushed in, and it became clear that the ship would not stay intact for long. The captain ordered the crew not to lose a moment in putting out the boats. I began to lose hope and said, "We are lost!"

This had a most distressing effect on my family, all of

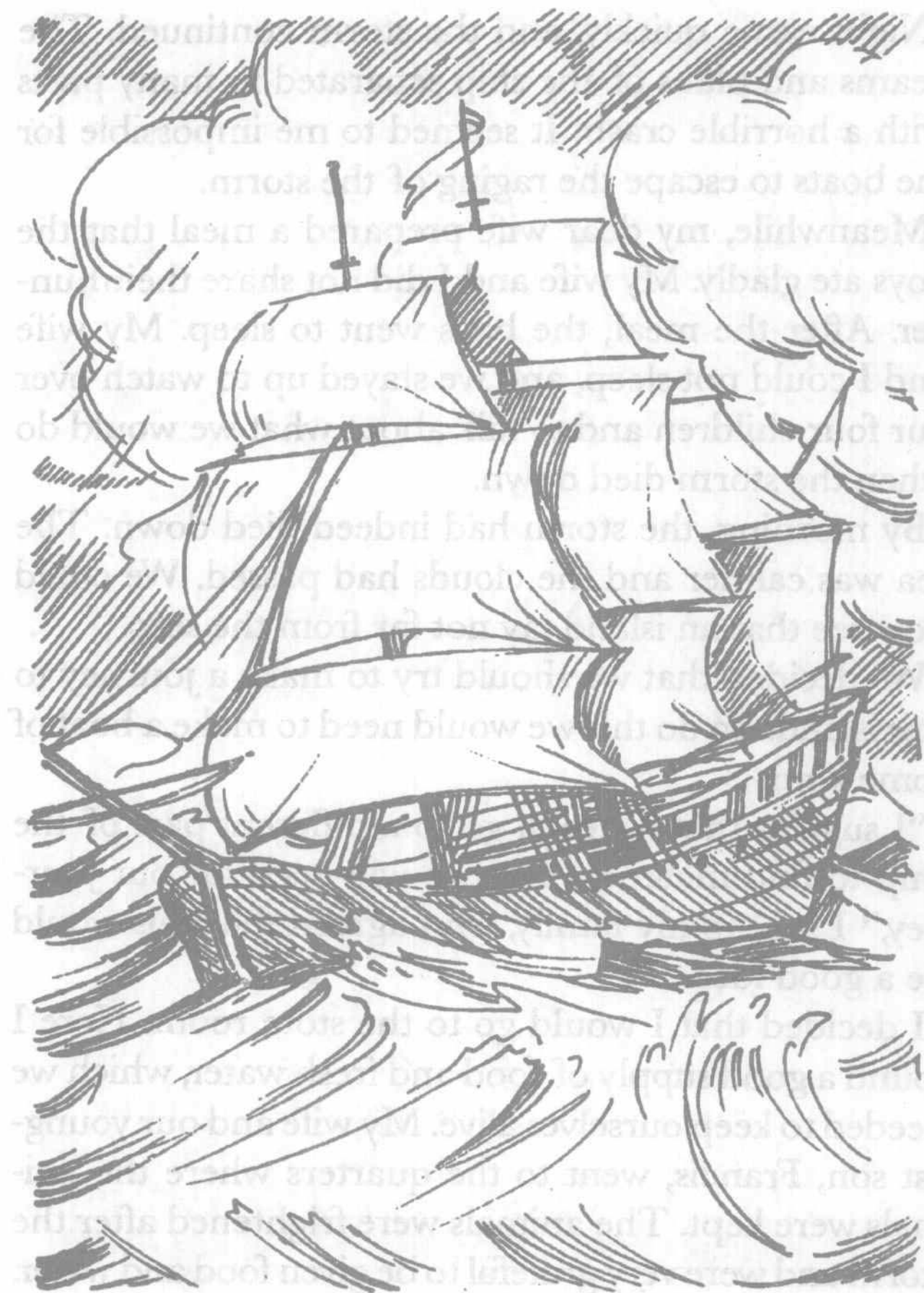
whom began to cry in panic. I soon calmed myself and said to my family, "I am going to see what is happening. Stay here, I will return soon."

I left my family to go out on deck. As soon as I was outside, I was hit by a mighty wave that knocked me off my feet. The waves were high and wild, and it took me some time to be able to find my feet. Once I was balanced I looked round and saw that the crew and passengers were leaving the ship in the boats. I cried out to them, but they could not hear me in the roaring of the sea. I saw that the boats were full and that there would be no room for my family. I watched as the others sailed off in their boats. In the far distance to the south I could see, through the clouds and the rain, several nooks of land.

I then looked around to see how bad the situation was. I saw that the stern of the ship, below which was our cabin, had become stuck between two rocks and was well above the water. This made me feel better. If the ship was above water, we would not be drowned.

I returned to my family. "Courage, dear ones," I said on entering the cabin. "All is not yet lost! The ship is aground, but we are safer than if she were beating against the rocks. Our cabin is above water, and we may yet find a way to reach land in safety."

I explained that we were now alone on the ship.



Night came quickly, and the storm continued. The beams and plans of the ship separated in many parts with a horrible crash. It seemed to me impossible for the boats to escape the raging of the storm.

Meanwhile, my dear wife prepared a meal that the boys ate gladly. My wife and I did not share their hunger. After the meal, the boys went to sleep. My wife and I could not sleep, and we stayed up to watch over our four children and to talk about what we would do when the storm died down.

By morning, the storm had indeed died down. The sea was calmer and the clouds had passed. We could now see that an island lay not far from the ship.

We decided that we should try to make a journey to this island. To do this we would need to make a boat of some kind.

"I suggest that we each go to a different part of the ship to find materials that we will need for our journey," I said to my family, who agreed that this would be a good idea.

I decided that I would go to the store room. Here I found a good supply of food and fresh water, which we needed to keep ourselves alive. My wife and our youngest son, Francis, went to the quarters where the animals were kept. The animals were frightened after the storm and were very grateful to be given food and water.



My wife returned and told us that we had a cow, a donkey, a pig, two sheep, two goats and some hens and ducks. Fritz, our eldest son, went to the weapon store and brought back guns, gunpowder and shot. Ernest, the second eldest, brought back tools in a heavy box. The box contained a hammer, nails, saws, knives and many other useful items.

Jack, our third son, had decided that he would go to the captain's cabin. As soon as he opened the door, he was knocked down by two excited dogs. The dogs had been left alone in the cabin and were very glad to have human company once more. Jack was pleased to have found the dogs and soon became their friend. He brought the dogs back to his family with pride.

Once we were all together and we had our new possessions in front of us, I said, "Well done, everyone. You have gathered together many useful things. We will take everything but the dogs with us to the island. The dogs cannot come because they will eat all our food."

Jack was not happy to hear this and said, "Father, I think that we should take the dogs. They will be very useful to us on the island. They can help us to hunt. They will be able to find their own food."

"Indeed, but first we must find a way to get to the land," said I. "How shall we get there?"