

CHAPTER 1

Start in Life

I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York. That was my mother's hometown, because she had also been born there, in the Robinson family. They were a very old and gentle family of York's **faubourg**¹, from whom I was called Robinson. My father, who bore the name Kreutznaer, was German from Bremen. He earned his **bread**² by trade, and when **he run into money**³, he moved to England, York. There he met my mother and later they got married. Eventually, the surname Kreutznaer grew into the Crusoe, by the usual corruption of words in England. Therefore, everyone called me Robinson Crusoe.

¹ **faubourg** — предместье

² **to earn bread** — зарабатывать на жизнь

³ **to run into money** — заработать большие деньги

I had two elder brothers. One of them went to the army, despite my father's prohibitions, and was killed at the battle near Dunkirk. What became of the second brother we never knew, he was missing.

From my childhood I dreamed about the adventures and pirates. I would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea.

Being the third son of my family, I wasn't high-educated person. My father gave me house-education and sent me to a country free school that was enough to be a **lawyer**¹.

When I grew up, my childish dreams of the sea turned into the real wish of becoming a captain, or a sailor at least. Oh, how the sea haunted my dreams those days!

My father, a wise and grave man, guessed my **intentions**². One morning he called me into his chamber. He asked me very warmly not to leave father's home and not to repeat my elder brothers fate in search of adventure. "You don't have to earn your bread", he said, "I'll give you enough money to stay at

¹ **lawyer** — адвокат, юрист

² **intention** — намерение

your native country, become a lawyer, and get married. You are only eighteen, and I don't want to lose my third son, when he is so young". But I didn't listen to him. He promised me a life of ease and pleasure, but I was going to a life of risky adventures and trying the fortune.

However, I was **sincerely**¹ affected by my father's discourse, and decided to wait with the final decision of my future life. I resolved not to think of going abroad one year more, but to settle at home, according to my father's desire. That was time when I tried myself in different fields of learning, trying to find a profession that would be close to me. But my searches were unsuccessful. It turned out, that I no abilities to any **crafts**². After that, I finally decided **to link my future life with**³ sea. However, I could not leave my parent's home without their **approval**⁴.

¹ **sincerely** — искренне

² **craft** — ремесло

³ **to link my future life with...** — связать мою будущую жизнь с...

⁴ **approval** — зд. благословение

One day, when my mother was in a good mood, I asked her for the help.

“Oh, mom, I’ll soon be nineteen years old, and it is too late to become a lawyer or clerk, I have no abilities to any crafts. I see no ways to make living, but go to sea. Please, speak to my father to let me go abroad and become a mariner!”

This put my mother into a great **passion**¹. She wondered how I could think in this way after the discourse I had had with my father, and such a kind and tender expression as she knew my father had used to me.

“Neither I, nor your father will bless you. If you don’t follow our advice, we will not take part in your future” — she said.

But for that moment, my decision was strong enough, and adrift, my wishes turned into real life.

Being one day at Hull, where I went casually, I met one of my companions. He was about to sail to London in his father’s ship. He prompted me to go with him, promising that it should

¹ **passion** — ГНЕВ

cost me nothing for my **passage**¹. I consulted neither father nor mother about this voyage, even not so much, as sent them a letter of it.

In an ill hour², God knows, on 1st September 1651, I went on board of a ship bound for London.

The ship was no sooner out of the Humber than the wind began to blow and the sea to rise. I had never been at sea before, so it seemed to me, that the ship was caught in a heavy storm and would drown in a minute. The **pitching**³ was so strong, that I could barely stand on my feet, **the nausea stepped up to the throat**⁴. I thought, those were the last minutes of my life. And only then I realized what I had done: all the good counsels of my parents, my father's tears and my mother's **entreaties**⁵, came fresh into my mind.

I swore to myself that if I could stay alive, I'd come back to my parents in **repentance**⁶

¹ **passage** — проезд

² **in an ill hour** — не в добрый час

³ **pitching** — качка

⁴ **the nausea stepped up to the throat** — тошнота подступала к горлу

⁵ **entreaty** — мольба

⁶ **repentance** — покаяние

and spend all the entire life near parents in my family home. At that moment in my mind had already appeared the picture from the biblical story “**Return of the prodigal son**”¹.

These wise and **sober**² thoughts continued while the storm lasted, and indeed some time after; but the next day the wind was abated, and the sea calmer. However, I was very grave for all that day, being also a little sea-sick still; but towards night the weather cleared up, the wind was quite over, and a charming fine evening followed. The sun went down perfectly clear, and rose so next morning; and having little or no wind, and a smooth sea, the sun shining upon it, the sight was, as I thought, the most delightful that I had ever seen.

I had slept well in the night, and was now no more sea-sick, but very cheerful, looking with wonder upon the sea that had been so rough and terrible the day before, and could be so calm and so pleasant in so little a time after. And now, lest my good resolutions

¹ “**Return of the prodigal son**” — Возвращение блудного сына

² **sober** — здравый, рассудительный

should continue, my companion came to me: “Well, Rob,” said he, **clapping me upon the shoulder**¹, “how do you do after it? Were you frightened, last night, when it blew a capful of wind?” “A capful do you call it?” I said, “That was a terrible storm!” “A storm?!” he replied, “do you call that a storm? Why? It was nothing at all; give us a good ship and **sea-room**², and we think nothing of such a squall of wind as that; but you are a fresh-water sailor, Rob. Come, let us make a bowl of punch, and we’ll forget all that! Do you see what charming weather it is now?”

To make short this sad part of my story, we went the way of all sailors; the punch was made and I was made half drunk with it: and in that one night’s wickedness I drowned all my repentance, all my reflections upon my past conduct, all my resolutions for the future.

The sixth day of our being at sea we came into Yarmouth Roads. These Roads are the common harbor, where the ships might wait

¹ **clapping me upon the shoulder** — хлопя меня по плечу

² **sea-room** — морской простор

the **tailwind**¹. Here we **came to an anchor**² for seven or eight days. During this time many ships from Newcastle came into the same Roads.

But the wind blew too fresh, and after we had lain four or five days, blew very hard. However, the crew of our ship was absolutely calm: the Yarmouth Roads are known as the safest place; there is less danger there, than in any other harbor. Moreover, our ship had the good anchor, and our **ground-tackle**³ was very strong. So, our men spent all the time in rest and mirth, after the manner of the sea.

But the eight day, in the morning, the wind increased, and **we had all hands at work to strike our topmasts**⁴, and make everything close, that the ship might ride as easy as possible.

¹ **tailwind** — попутный ветер

² **came to an anchor** — встать на якорь

³ **ground-tackle** — якорное устройство, канат, на который крепится якорь

⁴ **we had all hands at work to strike our topmasts** — понадобились все рабочие руки, чтобы убрать стеньги (**стенъга** — мор. удлинение нижних мачт)

By noon the sea went very high. Once or twice we thought, that our anchor had come home; upon which our master ordered out the **sheet-anchor**¹, so that we rode with two anchors ahead.

By this time it blew a terrible storm indeed. Anyone may judge, what a condition I must have been in at all this, who was such a young sailor, and had got so frightened in a first little storm. But not the fear of death scared me. It seemed like a **Providence punishment**². I had broken my oath, which I gave during the first storm. Now it seemed clear, what fate awaited me, if I didn't return home. And these, added to the terror of the storm, put me into such a condition, that I have no words to describe it.

During the first hurries I was stupid, lying still in my cabin, but in the next time I heard the master go in and out of his cabin by me, saying softly several times a minute "**Lord, be merciful to us!**"³ We shall be all

¹ **sheet-anchor** — запасной становой якорь

² **Providence punishment** — наказание Провидения

³ **Lord, be merciful to us!** — Господи, смилуйся над нами!

lost! We shall be all undone!” and the like. I got out of my cabin and looked out; but I had never seen such a dismal sight. I saw terror and amazement in the faces even of the seamen themselves. The sea ran mountains high, and broke upon us every three or four minutes.

Towards evening the **mate and boatswain**¹ asked the master of our ship to let them cut away the **fore-mast**.² When they had cut it away, the **main mast**³ shook the ship so much, that they were obliged to cut that away also, and make a clear deck.

Two more ships, that were standing near us, **drived from their anchors**⁴ and were run out of the Roads to sea, at all adventures, without any masts. The similar fate awaited for us. The boatswain, the master, and some others more sensible than the rest were pray-

¹ **mate and boatswain** — штурман и боцман

² **fore-mast** — фок-мачта (*фок-мачта* — мор. первая, считая от носа к корме, мачта на судне с двумя или более мачтами).

³ **main mast** — грот-мачта (*грот-мачта* — мор. обычно вторая мачта, считая от носа судна).

⁴ **drived from their anchors** — сорвались с якоря

ing, expecting every moment when the ship would go to the bottom.

In the middle of the night we found out **the leak in a hold**¹. One of the men that had been down to see cried out, that there was four feet water in the hold. Then all hands were called to the pump. We worked all night long, but the water kept coming. It was clear, that the ship would founder; and though the storm began to fall off a little, but it was impossible to keep afloat till we might run into any port. So the **master began firing guns for help**².

The light ship, who had rid it out just ahead of us, sent a boat to help us. But it was impossible for us to get on board, or for the boat to lie near the ship's side. All the men in the boat were rowing very heartily, and **venturing their lives**³ to save ours. Finally, **we extended them a rope**⁴ so they managed to swim very close to the board of

¹ **the leak in a hold** — течь в трюме

² **master began firing guns for help** — капитан начал палить из пушек, призывая о помощи

³ **venturing their lives** — рисковали жизнью

⁴ **we extended them a rope** — мы протянули им канат