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## APPENDIXES

### 1. Synopsis of Novel *Kidnapped*

David Balfour, now an orphan of 16, leaves his home at Essendean in the Border in early June 1751 with a letter for his Uncle Ebenezer, his father's brother. His uncle lives in the house where Alexander Balfour grew up the House of Shaws by Cramond near Endinburgh. The letter is part of a will. David is sent on his way by the kindly Minister, Mr Campbell, who gives him some present.

Once David is in Cramond he asks the way to the House of Shaws but receives many strange looks. He finds himself at nightfall at a derelict house and is greeted by a blunderbuss at an upstairs window. The man is David's uncle and lives as a miser. David had heard nothing of his uncle as he grew up. He locks David in his room that night and orders him to say nothing of his whereabouts to anyone. Ebenezer tries to kill David during a thunderstorm by sending him up five story of the house by an outside stair to a fictitious "chest" to fetch papers. David survives and his uncle almost dies of shock.

Ransome, cabin boy on the Covenant Brig, brings a message to Ebenezer

again Hoseason inviting him to order goods from overseas before they sail

David agrees to accompany his uncle to the Hawes Inn at Queensferry



because he will be safe amongst other people and his uncle promises to take him his lawyer Mr Rankeillor, an elderly man who knew David's father.

David foolishly leaves Hoseason and his uncle alone. He discovers from the landlord that Ebenezer is said to have killed his older brother, Alexander, to gain the House of Shaws, now David's rightful inheritance. Trusting Hoseason, David is kidnapped and is bound for the Carolinas as a slave. David regains consciousness but finds himself far away in the Covenant. He learns that Mr Shuan can be violent when drunk, especially towards Ransome, and Mr Riach can be unkind when sober.

To David's horror, Mr Shuan kills Ransome in a drunken fury and David takes Ransome's place, serving the Captain in the Round House, an area some six feet above deck. All the weapons and gunpowder are stored in this room. The Captain orders that no-one is ever to know the truth of Ransome's death. David is quite well treated but cannot forget what happened.

After 10 stormy days, the Covenant runs down a boat in heavy fog and the only survivor is an extraordinary passenger, Alan Breck Stewart, a loyal Jacobite follower of Bonny Prince Charlie. He is a rebel returning to France to his Appin chief in exile and is on the run from King George and his red coated soldiers. Alan will pay 60 guineas if he is taken to the Linnhe Loch in his own Appin country, and the Captain agrees. David overhears a plot to overthrow Alan Breck, warns the Jacobite and stands by him. David's job is to keep the firearms loaded. After a fierce battle Alan Breck and David successfully hold the Round-House against all the other 15 members. Mr Shuan and five more are either killed or badly injured.

Alan proudly gives David one of the silver buttons off his jacket as a reward and David is told he can always show it if he needs help as it will be



recognized. The Captain and Mr Riach call a truce. Alan tells David he returns often Scotland because he misses his friends and to collect income for his exiled chief of the Appin clan, Ardshiel forced to flee with his family after their defeat at Culloden in 1746. The loyal tenants pay two rents, one to King George whom they hate and one to their beloved Ardshiel forced to forfeit his estate. James of the Glens otherwise known as James Stewart is Ardshiel's half brother and he, as agent, collects the rent. Alan Breck hates the King's factor, Campbell of Glenure, otherwise known as the Red Fox. His job is to prevent rent being carried to Ardshiel and he is doing all in his power to strip the Stewart and other sympathisers of their land rights. Alan is set on revenge. He would love to see Colin Campbell, his enemy, dead.

In terrible weather, the Covenant hits a reef by the isle of Erraid off Mull and David swims ashore. After four days, David lonely, cold, scared and ill, finds he can just walk off the island of Erraid over to Mull at low tide. He discovers he has lost almost all the golden guineas he started with. David meets an old gentleman who recognizes him as the boy with the silver button and tells him Alan Breck has instructed him to go over by boat from Torosay to Morven on the mainland. The journey 100 miles across Mull takes him four days and meets various unscrupulous people.

David crosses the Linnhe Loch into Appin under the wood of Lettermore.

Colin Campbell and his party cross below him. While David is asking how to reach

the Glens, a shot rings out and the Red Fox is killed. David rushes off to murderer but the soldiers pursue him believing him to be an accomplice.

Alan gives David cover and together they run off, than double back. Alan



assures David that he played no part in the murder of the Red Fox and recognizes his death will lead the people of Appin into both trouble and danger. Though innocent, neither he nor David would get a fair trial from a Campbell jury. David agrees to flee with him to the Lowlands. Alan tells of how everyone survived the sinking of the Covenant and Mr Riach saved him from Hoseason's anger.

At night, the man make their escape through difficult terrain. During the day in very hot weather and without water, they lie on top of a hill hidden from view in a hollowed out stone. Meanwhile the Redcoast search the land immediately around them. They go undetected and set off at nightfall again. For five days they stay in a cave in Corrynakiegh. Alan making a little cross a sign he is nearby. John Breck Maccoll interprets the sign and collects money for them from James of the Glens' family.

David falls asleep while on watch, they are forced to run for hours crouching in the heather to avoid the searching soldiers. Ben Alder offers their only hope. They are captured by Cluny Macpherson's men, but this great chief is a loyal Jacobite so they are safe. David is very angry with Alan and they walk in silence. He will accept Alan's apologies. Alan Eventually gives up trying and they resort to insults. Meanwhile David is feeling very weak and ill. After challenging Alan to a duel which he refuses, David is sorry for his behavior and they make up.

Alan gets David to a safe house in Balquidder where he stays for a month.

Even though the "wanted" notices are everywhere, no-one betrays them. A visit quarrelsome Robin Oig, son of Rob Roy, almost begins a fight between Robin, but food, drink and music bring them together.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, Alan and David reach Stirling and the River Forth. Alan manages to convince a local girl that their need of a boat is great and she rows them across at night at great risk to herself. Alan lies in hiding while David sets out to Queensferry to seek Mr Rankeillor the lawyer and tell him he is the rightful inheritor of the House of Shaws. Mr Rankeillor had heard of David since Mr Campbell had arrived soon after David disappeared, worried about him. Ebenezer Balfour had claimed to have given David money to have continued his education in Leyden, Holland, pretending David wanted no link with his past life.

When Alan goes to the door, he pretends David has been imprisoned by Alan's family after the shipwreck and demands from them a ransom for David. It is clear that Ebenezer has no intention of paying for David to be "free". He admits to paying Captain Hoseason £20 to kidnap David and take him to the Carolinas, and at this Mr Rankeillor and David step forward and the lawyer secures a deal with Ebenezer that David will receive 2/3 income a year from the estate, for the rest of his uncle's life.

The lawyer advises David how to give money to Alan Breck to secure his safe passage back to France and puts him in touch with a lawyer loyal to the Appin Stewarts. They have become such good friends they find it very difficult to part but the author tells us, "all went well with both."



## 2. Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson in full *Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson* was born in Edinburgh, on November 13, 1894. Stevenson was the only son of Thomas Stevenson, a prosperous civil engineer, and his wife, Margaret Isabella Balfour. His poor health made regular schooling difficult, but he attended Edinburgh Academy and other schools before, at age 17, entering Edinburgh University, where he was expected to prepare himself for the family profession of lighthouse engineering. But Stevenson had no desire to be an engineer, and he eventually agreed with his father, as a compromise, to prepare instead for the Scottish bar.

He had shown a desire to write early in life, and once in his teens he had deliberately set out to learn the writer's craft by imitating a great variety of models in prose and verse. His youthful enthusiasm for the Covenanters (i.e., those Scotsmen who had banded together to defend their version of Presbyterianism in the 17th century) led to his writing *The Pentland Rising*, his first printed work. During his years at the university he rebelled against his parents' religion and set himself up

as a literary bohemian who abhorred the alleged cruelties and hypocrisies of Victorian respectability.





In 1873, in the midst of painful differences with his father, he visited a married cousin in Suffolk, England, where he met Sidney Colvin, the English scholar, who became a lifelong friend, and Fanny Sitwell (who later married Colvin). Sitwell, an older woman of charm and talent, drew the young man out and won his confidence. Soon Stevenson was deeply in love, and on his return to Edinburgh he wrote her a series of letters in which he played the part first of lover, then of worshipper, then of son. One of the several names by which Stevenson addressed her in these letters was “Claire,” a fact that many years after his death was to give rise to the erroneous notion that Stevenson had had an affair with a humbly born Edinburgh girl of that name. Eventually the passion turned into a lasting friendship.

Later in 1873 Stevenson suffered severe respiratory illness and was sent to the French Riviera, where Colvin later joined him. He returned home the following spring. In July 1875 he was called to the Scottish bar, but he never practiced. Stevenson was frequently abroad, most often in France. Two of his journeys produced *An Inland Voyage* (1878) and *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes* (1879). His career as a writer developed slowly. His essay “Roads” appeared in the *Portfolio* in 1873, and in 1874 “Ordered South” appeared in *Macmillan’s Magazine*, a review of Lord Lytton’s *Fables in Song* appeared in the *Fortnightly*, and his first contribution (on Victor Hugo) appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine*, then edited by Leslie Stephen, a critic and biographer. It was these early essays, carefully wrought,

very meditative in tone, and unusual in sensibility, that first drew attention to him as a writer.



In 1876 Stevenson met Fanny Vandegrift Osbourne, an American lady separated from her husband, and the two fell in love. Stevenson's parents' horror at their son's involvement with a married woman subsided somewhat when she returned to California in 1878, but it revived with greater force when Stevenson decided to join her in August 1879. Stevenson reached California ill and penniless (the record of his arduous journey appeared later in *The Amateur Emigrant*, 1895, and *Across the Plains*, 1892). His adventures, which included coming very near death and eking out a precarious living in Monterey and San Francisco, culminated in marriage to Fanny Osbourne (who was by then divorced from her first husband) early in 1880. About the same time a telegram from his relenting father offered much-needed financial support, and, after a honeymoon by an abandoned silver mine (recorded in *The Silverado Squatters*, 1883), the couple sailed for Scotland to achieve reconciliation with the Thomas Stevensons.

Soon after his return, Stevenson, accompanied by his wife and his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, went, on medical advice (he had tuberculosis), to Davos, Switzerland. The family left there in April 1881 and spent the summer in Pitlochry and then in Braemar, Scotland. There, in spite of bouts of illness, Stevenson embarked on *Treasure Island* (begun as a game with Lloyd), which started as a serial in *Young Folks*, under the title *The Sea-Cook*, in October 1881. Stevenson finished the story in Davos, to which he had returned in the autumn, and then started on *Prince Otto* (1885), a more complex but less successful work. *Treasure Island* is

ure presented with consummate skill, with atmosphere, character, and  
erfly geared to one another. The book is at once a gripping adventure tale  
comment on the ambiguity of human motives.



In 1881 Stevenson published *Virginibus Puerisque*, his first collection of essays, most of which had appeared in *The Cornhill*. The winter of 1881 he spent at a chalet in Davos. In April 1882 he left Davos; but a stay in the Scottish Highlands, while it resulted in two of his finest short stories, “Thrawn Janet” and “The Merry Men,” produced lung hemorrhages, and in September he went to the south of France. There the Stevensons finally settled at a house in Hyères, where, in spite of intermittent illness, Stevenson was happy and worked well. He revised *Prince Otto*, worked on *A Child’s Garden of Verses* (first called *Penny Whistles*), and began *The Black Arrow: A Tale of the Two Roses* (1888), a historical adventure tale deliberately written in anachronistic language.

The threat of a cholera epidemic drove the Stevensons from Hyères back to Britain. They lived at Bournemouth from September 1884 until July 1887, but his frequent bouts of dangerous illness proved conclusively that the British climate, even in the south of England, was not for him. The Bournemouth years were fruitful, however. There he got to know and love the American novelist Henry James. There he revised *A Child’s Garden* (first published in 1885) and wrote “Markheim,” *Kidnapped*, and *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The poems in *A Child’s Garden* represent with extraordinary fidelity an adult’s recapturing of the emotions and sensations of childhood; there is nothing else quite like them in English literature. In *Kidnapped* the fruit of his researches into 18th-century Scottish history and of his feeling for Scottish landscape, history, character, and local atmosphere mutually illuminate one another. But it was *Dr. Jekyll*—both moral allegory and thriller—that established his reputation with the ordinary reader.

June 1888 Stevenson, accompanied by his family, sailed from San Francisco in the schooner yacht *Casco*, which he had chartered, on what was



intended to be an excursion for health and pleasure. In fact, he was to spend the rest of his life in the South Seas. They went first to the Marquesas Islands, then to Fakarava Atoll, then to Tahiti, then to Honolulu, where they stayed nearly six months, leaving in June 1889 for the Gilbert Islands, and then to Samoa, where he spent six weeks.

In October 1890 he returned to Samoa from a voyage to Sydney and established himself and his family in patriarchal status at Vailima, his house in Samoa. The climate suited him; he led an industrious and active life; and, when he died suddenly, it was of a cerebral hemorrhage, not of the long-feared tuberculosis. His work during those years was moving toward a new maturity. While *Catriona* (U.S. title, *David Balfour*, 1893) marked no advance in technique or imaginative scope on *Kidnapped*, to which it is a sequel, *The Ebb-Tide* (1894), a grim and powerful tale written in a dispassionate style (it was a complete reworking of a first draft by Lloyd Osbourne), showed that Stevenson had reached an important transition in his literary career. The next phase was demonstrated triumphantly in *Weir of Hermiston* (1896), the unfinished masterpiece on which he was working on the day of his death. “The Beach of Falesá” (first published 1892; included in *Island Night’s Entertainments*, 1893), a story with a finely wrought tragic texture, as well as the first part of *The Master of Ballantrae*, pointed in this direction, but neither approaches *Weir*. Stevenson achieved in this work a remarkable richness of tragic texture in a style stripped of all superfluities. The dialogue contains some of the best in modern literature. Fragment though it is, *Weir of Hermiston* stands as Mark and Stevenson’s masterpiece.



Toward the end of his life, Stevenson's South Seas writing included more of the everyday world, and both his nonfiction and fiction became more powerful than his earlier works. These more mature works not only brought Stevenson lasting fame, but they also helped to enhance his status with the literary establishment when his work was re-evaluated in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and his abilities were embraced by new readers. Stevenson died of a stroke on December 3, 1894, at his home in Vailima, Samoa. He was buried at the top of Mount Vaea, overlooking the sea.

