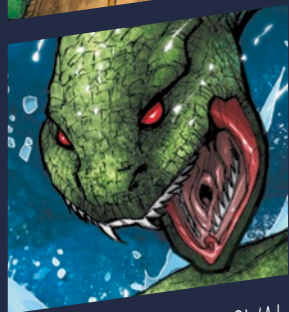


JOHANN DAVID WYSS'S

THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

A GRAPHIC NOVEL



BY POWELL & SANDOVAL

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ABOUT CASTAWAYS AND DESERTED ISLANDS

Many movies, television shows, and books tell stories about people stranded on deserted islands. But could someone really get lost at sea and survive like they the family in *The Swiss Family Robinson*?

Even with more than 6 billion people in the world, finding a place to get stranded isn't that difficult. Thousands of islands have no people living on them at all. In fact, the country of Indonesia has more than 6,000 uninhabited islands.

The largest uninhabited island in the world isn't small at all. Devon Island in Canada is an impressive 21,231 square miles. That's nearly as big as West Virginia!

So, finding a place to get lost is easy . . . but how long could a human survive without food or water? Surprisingly, humans can last nearly a month without any food. In fact, magician David Blaine lasted an incredible 44 days without eating in 2003. Finding water is much more important, though. Experts say that more than three days without water can be lethal.

If you are stranded on a deserted island, look for coconuts. These nuts are an excellent source of both food and hydration. The husks can be used to make rope, and coconut oil can help repel pesky insects such as mosquitoes.

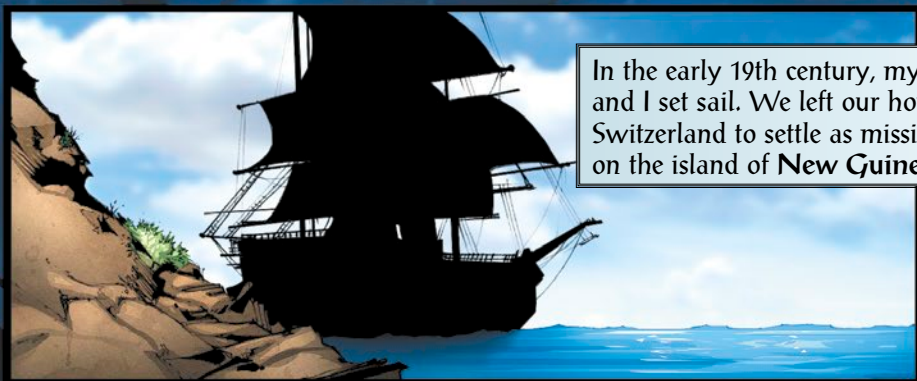
So, surviving on a deserted island is possible (at least for a while), but has anyone ever done it? Many people have lasted a few days after a shipwreck or a plane crash, but only a few can be called real-life castaways. Perhaps the most famous castaway was a Scottish sailor named Alexander Selkirk. In September 1704, Selkirk was left stranded on a small island off the coast of Chile. With only a few tools and a musket, Selkirk survived alone for four years and four months. After he was rescued in February 1709, Selkirk wrote a book about his experience. A few years later, author Daniel Defoe turned Selkirk's story into a novel called *Robinson Crusoe*. This book has inspired many other adventure stories, including *The Swiss Family Robinson*.

Another famous castaway, Tom Neale, wasn't exactly stranded on a deserted island, but he did choose to live there! In 1952, Neale settled on a small island in the Pacific Ocean called Suvarrow. With only a few supplies, he lived by himself on the island for 15 of the next 25 years. He grew small gardens, raised chickens, caught fish, and ate coconuts. Shortly after his death in 1977, the island was declared a National Heritage Park. A small memorial on the island bears an inscription that reads, "Tom Neale lived his dream on this island."

CAST OF CHARACTERS







In the early 19th century, my family and I set sail. We left our home in Switzerland to settle as missionaries on the island of **New Guinea**.

CHAPTER 1

SHIPWRECKED!

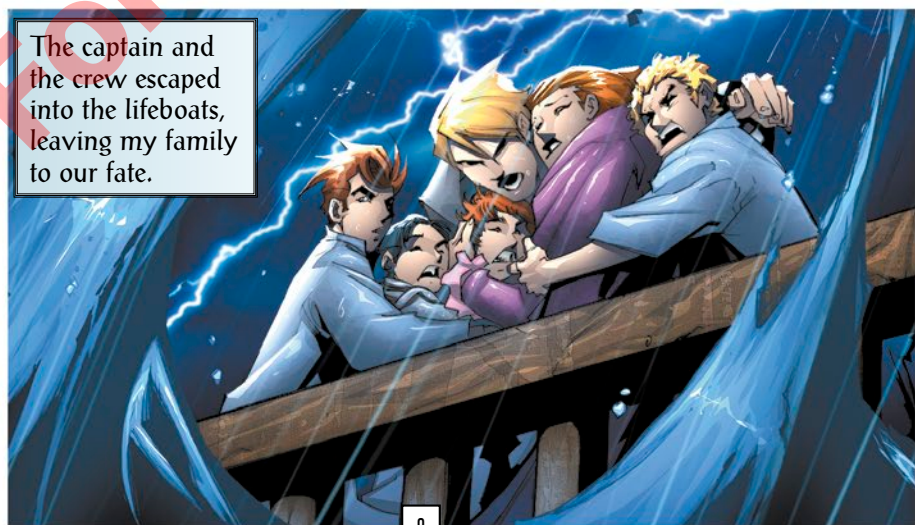
But shortly into our voyage . . .





For six days and nights we were helplessly tossed in the sea. All hope was lost.

The captain and the crew escaped into the lifeboats, leaving my family to our fate.



We barely escaped the doomed ship by clinging to a raft of planks and hollow barrels.

We're ashore!

Is everyone all right?

I'm thirsty, Father.

Here, sip it slowly.

Are we on an island, Father?

Good question. It might be a peninsula.

Father! Help!!



It was the largest lobster that I had ever seen.



Got him!



Father!
I thought I saw a
man at the edge of
the jungle!



There might
be natives
here.

Jack, you stay
with Franz and your
mother. We won't be
gone long.



The woods
are so wild!

Keep your
voice low, Fritz. We
need to be aware
of every shadow
from now on.

