The Swiss Family Robinson

by Johann David Wyss (1743-1818)

The Swiss Family Robinson has delighted generations of readers with its exciting tale of a family which, though shipwrecked, displays “the right stuff” and builds a charming colony that later they do not want to leave. Cut off from the comforts and companionship of other humans, they use a familiarity with natural history and biology to find the resources and build the tools to construct a canoe, weave cloth, irrigate a garden, and turn an immense hollow tree into a lofty house with a spiral staircase. They domesticate buffaloes, wild asses and monkeys. They establish farms and plantations. And, finally, they have a terrifying encounter with natives from a nearby island.

Total running time: 12:45:14

Read by Mark F. Smith

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
Illustration by from a pre-1874 edition, Gall & Inglis, London