

Kidnapped

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

His parents having passed on, young David Balfour returns to his ancestral home near Edinburgh to claim his fortune. His uncle, currently in control of the family fortune has other ideas, and has David abducted and sold into servitude in the Americas. The vessel in which he is imprisoned and transported wrecks on Scotland's rugged northern shore.

David is assisted on his journey through the Scottish Highlands by Alan Breck Stuart, rescued at sea prior to the shipwreck. He is a Jacobite, an outlaw in English ruled Scotland. It is his contacts and alliances with the Highlanders that allow the two to proceed on their trek.

This is a typical adventure story as written in the nineteenth century. Despite the obstacles faced, there is an underlying feeling that all will work out in the end. This reviewer has been aware of the story since an early age, possibly via the movie from Walt Disney. Various images and scenes from the film came to mind while reading, including visualizing David Balfour as portrayed by James MacArthur. (He might be better remembered as Danno on the original *Hawaii Five-O*.) Despite some of the old-fashioned writing practices, the story becomes compelling and hard to put down. Upon reaching the end, the satisfaction of reading another all-time classic becomes apparent. It should be on everyone's reading list.