



Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850- 1894)

Read by:	Adrian Praetzelis	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 33 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1047
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Genre:	Action & Adventure Fiction		

Treasure Island is the original and ultimate adventure story about pirates and buried treasure. It was originally serialized in *Young Folks* children's magazine under the pseudonym Captain George North between 1881 and 1882 before publication in book form in May 1883. The story, which is structured in six sections, is set in the mid-18th century and narrated almost entirely by young Jim Hawkins, the young son of the owners of the Admiral Benbow Inn in the seaside village of Black Hill Cove in southwest England. It opens with the arrival of a drunken seaman by the name of Bones, the former first mate of a notorious pirate Captain Flint who is sought by fellow pirates for information about buried treasure. The pirates arrive and confront Bones, who drops dead, but are thwarted and then routed by customs men. Jim, however, has

come by priceless information in the process and enlists comrades to hire a ship and crew and set out to discover the treasure themselves. The story proceeds to unfold with unsavory characters and lively plot twists, with no small amount of treachery and betrayal along the way, before culminating with the return of Jim and company to England. *(Summary by Michael Hogan)*

Robert Louis Stevenson (November 13, 1850 – December 3, 1894) was a Scottish author best known for *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Born an only child in Edinburgh into a family of lighthouse engineers on his father's side and landed gentry on his mother's, he was a sickly child who attended school intermittently, and was taught by private tutors. He started telling stories before he could read, and during childhood was a compulsive story writer, publishing his first piece age 16. During vacations he traveled with his father to inspect the family's lighthouse engineering projects, which gave him much seafaring material for his later stories. He studied engineering and then law at University of Edinburgh before embarking on his literary career, which began in 1873 with the publication of an essay. He visited France frequently for his health and there he met an American woman, Fanny de Griff Osbourne, married with three children but separated from her husband. He travelled to and then across America to visit her in San Francisco; they were married in 1880 after her divorce. Always battling infirmity, Stevenson lived in various English locations, in France, and in the U.S. in his thirties, seeking a compatible climate. During these years he produced his best known work. After his father's death in 1887 he journeyed to America and then set sail with his family in 1888 to wander the South Pacific for three years, ultimately settling on a tract of four hundred acres in the Samoan island of Upolu, where he died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1894. He had become involved in local affairs and was much loved by the Samoans, who translated his epitaph into a Samoan song of grief that is sung to this day. He continues to rank among the most translated authors in the world, and was admired by many of his peers and literary successors.