



2005

Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe

Gillian Streeter
gstreeter@fortbend.lib.tx.us

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Streeter, Gillian (2005) "Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 26 : Iss. 3 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss3/10>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Kraske, Robert. *Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the Real Robinson Crusoe*. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Clarion, 2005. ISBN 0618568433. \$15.00. 120 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Selkirk, Alexander, 1676-1721--Juvenile literature; Defoe, Daniel, 1661?-1731--Juvenile literature. Robinson Crusoe--Sources--Juvenile literature; Survival after airplane accidents, shipwrecks, etc.--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Left on a strange island by his obstinate captain, a young sailor must learn to survive aching loneliness and keep himself alive--all without knowing if his ship will ever return, or if the island that he now calls home is inhabited by savage creatures more fierce than the goats he encounters. This is not an account of Robinson Crusoe, but of Defoe's inspiration for his classic character--a Scotsman named Alexander Selkirk.

Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* is famous, but would not exist were it not for the real-life marooning of Alexander Selkirk. *Marooned* takes Selkirk's experience from first-hand interviews and texts, condenses it, and puts it into a story-like format that young readers can enjoy. It accounts his experience from the time he is first marooned, to his survival and eventual enjoyment of his island home, to his return to civilization and meeting with Defoe. Kraske portrays Selkirk as an honest and level-headed man who, later in life, pined for the peace and solitude he found on his island. The wavering watercolor illustrations are simple and have a wistful feeling to them, as though readers take a trip through time to join Selkirk himself.