

When Allnutt finally returned, the pair ate breakfast and drank several cups of tea. The African Queen set sail a few hours later, with Rose at the tiller and Allnutt at the engine.

In the days that followed, Rose became an expert at steering the boat, which was fortunate because the pair encountered many obstacles on their journey down the Ulanga River. Most of the channels of the river were filled with lilies and thick weeds which caused the propeller to get stuck; Allnutt had to dive down several times to cut the weeds away. There were occasional thunderstorms which almost flooded the African Queen, and Rose and Allnutt spent hours pumping water out of the boat. The heat was unbearable and there were always a lot of mosquitoes and insects.

Despite the difficulties, Rose soon realised that she was happier than she'd ever been in her life. Sailing down the river, on an important mission to torpedo the Queen Louisa, was much more exciting than doing housework at the village. And she was thoroughly enjoying the company of her new friend, Charlie Allnutt.

Unfortunately, Rose was unaware of Allnutt's true feelings about their plan to attack the German steamer and there came an evening when the mechanic could no longer hide his thoughts. Rose noticed that Allnutt's mood had changed when they dropped anchor in a backwater.

"Please tell me what's wrong," Rose pleaded over and over again, but Allnutt said nothing.

Finally, after a dinner eaten in silence, Allnutt told Rose how he really felt about the plan. "We're not going any further down the river," he said. "We've gone far enough. I'm not going to go to the lake."

"What?" exclaimed Rose. "But we have to go!"

"No, we don't!" shouted Allnutt. "You don't understand how dangerous this plan of yours is, Rose. If we carry on, we'll pass Shona village next. The German troops there will open fire on us right away. If, by some miracle, we manage to pass Shona, we'll hit the rapids. There's no way this boat will get through the rapids in one piece. We just can't go on, Rose, we can't."

"But Charlie, we have to do something for England!" Rose begged.

