CHAPTER 2

the sweat from his brow. "Safe and sound. The question now is, what do we do next? I mean, we have enough tinned food and water for a few months... How long do you think this war will go on, miss?"

Rose, who was lost in her thoughts, said nothing. It was clear that Allnutt wanted to remain hidden in the backwater until the war was over. But Rose had other ideas. She wanted revenge. She wanted the Germans to pay for what they had done.

"I suppose it all depends on how soon the British soldiers find us," Allnutt continued. "There are British troops based in the Congo, but they can't cross the lake into German Central Africa. Not with the Queen Louisa there."

"The Queen Louisa?" Rose repeated.

"Yes," said Allnutt. "The Queen Louisa is the hundred-ton German steamship that patrols the lake. The Germans keep a huge gun on board called a six-pounder. It looks a bit like a small cannon. If it wasn't for the Queen Louisa, von Hanneken, the leader of the German army, wouldn't last a month here."

"We have to help the British defeat the Germans!" said Rose suddenly.

Allnutt looked surprised. "What do you mean, miss?"

Rose thought for a moment. "Allnutt, this river, the Ulanga, runs into the lake, doesn't it?"

"Well, yes, miss, it does," replied Allnutt. "But there's no way we can get to the lake in this boat, if that's what you're thinking."

"Why not?" wondered Rose.

"Rapids, miss. Rapids, rocks and cataracts. There are 160 kilometres of rapids separating us from the lake. Even if we managed to get past the rapids, we'd have to cross the Bora Delta to enter the lake. We'd never make it in this boat."

"But we have to do something!" said Rose. She looked around the boat and her gaze fell on a stack of red boxes. "What's in those boxes?"



"Blasting gelatine, miss," answered Allnutt. "It's a kind of explosive. We used it at the mine all the time."

"Is it dangerous?" asked Rose.

"No," replied the mechanic. "You can wet it or set fire to it and nothing will happen. The only thing that can set it off is a detonator. I can throw it overboard if you want."

"No, don't do that," said Rose, "we might need it later. And what are those?"

"They're cylinders," replied Allnutt. "One is filled with oxygen and the other is filled with hydrogen. I doubt we'll be needing those."

"We might," said Rose. "You know, those cylinders remind me of torpedoes... Allnutt, would you be able to make a torpedo?"

Allnutt laughed. "A torpedo, miss? Are you joking? That would be impossible."

"But I'm sure it can be done!" Rose insisted. "I remember reading something about torpedoes in a book once... Perhaps we could take those cylinders, fill them with explosives and position them so that they stick out over the edge of the boat. Then we could attach detonators to them, and drive the boat into the Queen Louisa. The cylinders would explode, just like torpedoes."

Allnutt looked at Rose. "Yes, miss, I suppose they would. But what would happen to us? We'd get killed, too."

"Obviously we'd jump off before the explosion," said Rose.

Allnutt sighed. He knew that the African Queen moved too slowly to take any ship by surprise. It was pointless trying to explain all this to Rose, but the mechanic felt that there would be no harm in agreeing with her.

"It's not a bad idea..." said Allnutt.

"So you agree that these cylinders would make good torpedoes?" asked Rose.

"Yes, they probably would," said Allnutt.

"All right," said Rose, "then we'll go to the lake and torpedo the Queen Louisa!"

Allnutt gasped. "Don't be silly, miss!" he said. "You can't do that. I told you already, we can't get down the river."

"We can try!" said Rose. "Let's get moving!"

"What, now?" exclaimed Allnutt. "There are just two hours of



daylight left."

"We can go a long way in two hours," said Rose.

Allnutt sighed. There was no point in trying to argue with Rose, so he decided to do what she wanted. The mechanic pulled up the anchor, gave Rose a brief lesson on how to turn the tiller, then turned his attention to the engine.

Learning to steer the boat was challenging for Rose, but soon she began to enjoy her task.

As she took the boat around the many small islands in the river, Rose thought about her brother and the life she had left behind. All she had now was her plan to sink the Queen Louisa.

A few hours later, Allnutt found a suitable spot to drop anchor for the night, and the pair decided to have supper. Allnutt boiled some water and offered Rose a cup of tea, which she gratefully accepted. They dined on bread and tinned meat, swatting flies and mosquitoes as they ate. When it was time to go to sleep, Allnutt made a bed for himself on top of the boxes of blasting gelatine, while Rose lay down on some rugs on the deck.

"You cover up well," said Allnutt. "It gets cold on the river at night."

"I will," said Rose. And with that, she fell asleep.





CHAPTER 3

Sawakened by loud thunder. A sudden, fierce wind caused the African Queen to rock from side to side, and soon Rose felt warm raindrops on her face. "What can we do?" she called out to Allnutt, who had also woken up. "We have nowhere to take shelter!"

"I know," Allnutt shouted back. "We can't do anything. We just have to wait for it to pass. It probably won't last long."

Allnutt was right. The storm was over almost as quickly as it had begun. Unfortunately, the boat was full of water and now the pair had to pump the water out manually, otherwise they were in danger of sinking. Allnutt showed Rose how to use the hand pump, then went ashore to collect more wood for the furnace.

Allnutt's instructions seemed easy, but Rose soon discovered that it was very hard work. She had to move the handle of the pump up and down forcefully to return the water into the river. But the pump was old and rusty, and it pinched Rose's fingers; she very quickly grew to hate it.

CHAPTER 2

Comprehension

Read the sente Write T or F in	ences and decide the boxes.	if they are True or False.		
1. Allnutt was worri	ed about their sup	oplies.		
		o fight the Germans.		
3. Allnutt explained	that blasting gela	tine was an explosive.		
4. There were some				
5. Allnutt taught Ro	se how to control	the boat.	ī	
6. Rose was too cold	to sleep during h	er first night on the boat.		
2 Complete the f	ollowing sentenc	es with the names in the box.		
		eken the Queen Louisa		
1	was a German	n leader, who controlled Centra	ıl	
Africa.		r		
2	wanted revens	ge for her brother's death.		
3	was a ship on	was a ship on patrol on the lake.		
1	didn't believe	that the African Queen could		
get to the lake.				
i. <u> </u>	and	decided they		
should use the blas	sting gelatine to a	tack the Germans.		
ocabulary				
3 Choose a, b or c	to answer the fo	llowing questions.		
. The on t	his river make it di	fficult to navigate.		
a. rapids	b. flies	c. edges		
. She with her flight to Paris.	disappointment w	then she realised she would miss		
a. wiped	b. sighed	c. attached		
	in the deep blue waters of the lake.			
	b. cylinder	c. anchor		
		er direction		

. Cats like to sleep o	n	
a. detonators	b. tasks	c. rugs
4 Complete the words in capit	following sentences with th als.	e correct form of the
. Learning three lang	guages at the same time is	
very		CHALLENGE
. The truck was carr	ying several boxes	
of	<u>A mi</u> ubahi ara armafisa La	EXPLODE
. The bomb is useless without a		
. John is very stubborn. It isto		
try and change his		
Children need a lot of love and		ATTEND
to be happy.		ensoum a
	matoes in the winter, so I	
	ones for my cooking.	TIN
	n Rose's decision to want rev	
people who have Rose's life has bec	lose's plan was crazy and imp dreams be supported or stop come very different. Do you p or have lots of changes? Why	oped? Why? orefer your life to be
what dangers do	to take the African Queen to you think that Rose and Alln	
thoughts and f	re Rose. Write your story ex feelings, beginning with the ind was revenge!' (100 - 120	words: 'The only