

"Not if it costs us our lives," said Allnutt. "You have to get this crazy idea out of your head, Rose, it's just too dangerous."

Rose was disappointed. She tried to talk to Allnutt, but he refused to listen to anything she had to say. Allnutt went to sleep soon after, but Rose stayed awake all night, thinking. She was absolutely furious with Allnutt for standing in the way of her plan to get revenge on the Germans. She had to convince him to go on, but how?

The only solution was to make Allnutt's life as difficult as possible.

And so, the next morning the Great Silence started. Rose decided not to say a single word to Allnutt until he changed his mind about going down the river. Allnutt didn't say much to Rose the next day either, and only seemed to notice that Rose was angry with him at around midday. He tried to make conversation with her, but she simply ignored him.

"We could do with some rain," said Allnutt at one point.

Rose said nothing.

"Aren't you speaking to me, Rose?" asked the mechanic.

Rose took a needle and thread out of her sewing kit and began to sew one of her dresses. She didn't even look in Allnutt's direction.

"Look, if you're upset about what I said last night, I'm sorry," said Allnutt. "But I'm making this decision for our safety, can't you see that?"

Rose continued to sew in silence.

Allnutt shook his head. He turned his attention to the engine, then decided to shave. The day passed slowly, as did the day after that.

The silence almost drove Allnutt mad. Finally, he asked Rose what it was she wanted from him.

"I want to go down the river," said Rose simply.

Allnutt thought of the dangerous rapids and the Germans with their rifles. He was afraid, but he couldn't stand the silence any more, and felt he had no choice but to obey Rose's wishes. "All right, Rose," he said. "Let's go."

Sometime later, the African Queen moved out of the backwater and into the main river.

