

running down their cheeks.

"Well done, Rosie," said Allnutt. "You did a fine job."

Later, Allnutt went ashore to collect wood, while Rose pumped water out of the boat. The gorge was cool and pleasant; there were no insects to bother them, and no danger of being discovered by the Germans. When Allnutt returned, the pair ate their dinner and drank several cups of tea. They talked and laughed for hours – the difficulties they had faced had clearly made their friendship stronger and it seemed that they both enjoyed each other's company very much. After dinner, Rose and Allnutt fell asleep under the starry African sky.



CHAPTER 5

THE JOURNEY DOWN THE ULANGA RIVER CONTINUED THE following morning. Rose had learnt a great deal in the short time she had spent on the river, and was now able to navigate the boat through the rapids with surprising ease. In fact, Rose was beginning to enjoy the challenge of steering the little steamboat through some of the most dangerous waters in Africa.

When the river started to widen, Rose and Allnutt tied the boat in a calm stretch of water. Once again, Allnutt went ashore to collect wood, leaving Rose to admire the scenery for the first time since their journey had begun. The water was a clear, green colour; the riverbank was covered in blue and yellow flowers, and a rainbow danced in a distant waterfall. Rose smiled. She was truly content and extremely proud of how far she and Allnutt had come.

An hour or so later, Rose saw Allnutt coming towards the boat. He was limping.

"Would you mind looking at my foot, please Rose?" he asked as he climbed into the boat. "I think there's a splinter in it."

"Of course I wouldn't mind," said Rose.

Allnutt sat down and Rose examined his foot. She then removed the splinter carefully with her fingernails.

"It's out now," said Rose.

"Thank you," said Allnutt.

