

CHAPTER 8

"DO YOU THINK THEY'RE LOOKING FOR US?" ASKED ALLNUTT AS he watched the boat coming closer.

"No," said Rose. "I'm sure they're just patrolling the lake."

"I hope you're right," said Allnutt, struggling to look calm.

Just then, the Queen Louisa began to move in the opposite direction.

"She's changing course!" exclaimed Rose.

"She can't have seen us, then," said Allnutt. He sounded relieved.

The pair watched as the Queen Louisa moved slowly in the direction of a nearby group of islands.

"She's going to anchor there for the night," said Allnutt. "They'll probably move on down the river in the morning."

Rose was suddenly disappointed. "We should have been ready for them," she complained. "What if they don't come back?"

Allnutt laughed. "They'll be back, Rose, don't you worry."

"How can you be so sure?" she asked.

"Because the Germans are predictable," replied Allnutt. "Surely they patrol the lake according to a schedule. I have no doubt they'll be back in a few days."

Rose thought for a moment. "Charlie, how long will it take you to make the torpedoes?"

"A couple of days, I suppose," said Allnutt. "It won't take very long to put the blasting gelatine in the cylinders; the detonators might take a while, though, because I'm still not sure how I'm going to make them."

"I see," said Rose.

"I suppose you want us to be ready to attack the Queen Louisa as soon as she returns?" asked Allnutt, though he already knew the answer.

Rose nodded. "Yes, I do," she said.

"You know, Rosie," said Allnutt as he took Rose's hands in his, "you don't have to put yourself in any further danger. I can carry out the plan on my own."

