

## CHAPTER 9

**T**HE CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN LOUISA WAS AMAZED WHEN HIS officers brought the prisoner to his cabin. His crew had found a man wandering on a nearby island that morning, and thought that the man may have been a spy. The man was unable to respond to any of the officers' questions and he seemed to be very sick.

The prisoner had long, dirty hair and torn clothes, and he could barely stand. "He can't be a spy. He must be a madman," the Captain thought. "But what had he been doing in the middle of nowhere?"

Allnutt was barely aware of what was going on around him. He felt weak and dizzy and hardly had the strength to talk. He knew that he was aboard the Queen Louisa, but he didn't care. He didn't care what the Germans did to him either; he had already lost Rose and the African Queen, and that pain was greater than anything that the Germans could do to him.

"What is your nationality?" asked the Captain in German.

Allnutt stared at him, confused.

"Belgian?" asked the Captain. "English?"

Allnutt nodded when he heard the word 'English'. "Yes, English," he said.

"What is your name?" asked the Captain.

"Charles Allnutt."

"And what were you doing on that island?"

"Nothing," replied Allnutt. The mechanic did not think it would be wise to mention the plan to sink the Queen Louisa.

Just then, the cabin door burst open and an officer brought in a new prisoner, a woman. It was Rose! Allnutt stared as the officer explained to the Captain that the woman had been found on one of the other islands. The officer then showed the Captain the orange lifebuoy the woman had been wearing. The name 'African Queen' was printed on it.

"African Queen?" murmured the Captain. The name sounded familiar to him. The Captain searched through some papers on his desk until he found a notice that had been sent out by von Hanneken. The notice said that a steamboat named the African Queen had gone





missing on the Upper Ulanga; a mechanic and a missionary's sister were aboard the boat.

The Captain thought. He assumed that his two prisoners had abandoned their boat on the Upper Ulanga and come down the river in a canoe which had probably been destroyed during the storm the night before.

"Please sit down," said the Captain to Rose. Her clothes were torn and she felt uneasy. The Captain seemed to notice that. He opened a locker and took out a white uniform jacket, which he gave to Rose. This made her feel better.

The Captain then started questioning Rose, and was most surprised to discover that she and Allnutt had brought the steamboat down the rapids of the Ulanga and through the Bora Delta.

"But, gracious lady," said the Captain, "that was a very dangerous thing to do. You could have both been killed."

Rose shrugged. "We had no choice," she said simply. She glanced at Allnutt and smiled. Though she was happy to see him again, Rose was extremely disappointed that she had lost her opportunity to destroy the Queen Louisa.

The Captain thought for a moment. It was clear that the prisoners were not spies and definitely not a threat for the Germans. Secretly, he admired them for their bravery; few people would have been able to bring a boat through such dangerous waters.

"But, madam," asked the Captain, "why did your friend here not explain to us what happened?"

Rose stood up, walked over to Allnutt and put a protective hand on his shoulder. "Because he is ill and tired," she replied and gently stroked Allnutt's face. "He should be in bed."

"You are ill too, madam," said the captain. Rose didn't bother to answer back.

The Captain didn't know what to do with his prisoners. Von Hanneken would want them to be sent to the mainland and imprisoned. But the Captain did not think that it would be right to imprison two such courageous people, especially since they were so ill.

The Captain sighed. Von Hanneken would be furious if he found out that the prisoners had been released, but he wasn't too worried

about that. The Captain considered himself to be the master of the lake and he could do what he liked on his own ship.





## CHAPTER 9

### Comprehension

#### 1 Answer the following questions.

1. What was the reaction of the Queen Louisa's captain when Allnutt was brought to him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why didn't Allnutt answer the Captain's questions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was the African Queen last seen?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the Captain secretly feel about the prisoners?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the Captain decide to do with the prisoners?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 What do the words in bold refer to?

1. He opened a locker and took out a white uniform jacket, **which** he gave to Rose. (page 48)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. '... **that** was a very dangerous thing to do.' (page 48)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. '**He** should be in bed.' (page 48)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. '... but he wasn't too worried about **that**.' (pages 48-49)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

#### 3 Choose a, b or c to complete the following sentences.

1. The mountain rescue team found two walkers \_\_\_\_\_ around lost and confused.  
a. staring                      b. wandering                      c. admiring
2. A lot of sports teams have the name of their sponsors \_\_\_\_\_ on their shirts.  
a. printed                      b. assumed                      c. considered
3. I always feel calm when I \_\_\_\_\_ my cat.  
a. search                      b. release                      c. stroke
4. Niagara Falls has a number of fast-moving \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. missionaries                      b. rapids                      c. islands

5. Two men were arrested at midnight at the border crossing. They are suspected \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. threats                      b. officers                      c. spies

#### 4 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

respond    canoe    protective    courage    master    torn

1. Despite hours of training, Tom's dog never obeys his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Many Native Americans still use a \_\_\_\_\_ for fishing in mountain streams.
3. Scientists working in laboratories often have to wear \_\_\_\_\_ clothing to protect themselves from dangerous chemicals.
4. My sister is waiting to see how many people will \_\_\_\_\_ to her wedding invitation.
5. You need a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to be a stuntman.
6. When I bought this book, I didn't notice that the last pages were \_\_\_\_\_.

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

1. How do you think Charlie felt when he realised that he was alone on the island?
2. The Germans acted in a kind way to Rose and Charlie. They showed respect for their courage. How should the winners behave toward the losers in any situation, such as in a war or even in a sports game?
3. The Captain of the ship made a decision that he knew would make his superior officer, von Hanneken, unhappy. Why did he do that? What do you think the consequences will be?
4. Do you think Rose and Charlie's feelings towards the Germans will change because of the kind way the Captain of the Queen Louisa treated them?

- 6 **Imagine that you are Charlie or Rose and that the Germans are keeping you in separate rooms. A friendly guard has promised to give a message to the other person. Write your letter to express your feelings and what you've been through until now. (100 - 120 words)**