

river. He was furious that the African Queen had escaped, but was convinced that she would be torn to pieces in the cataracts. "Poor devils!" thought the commandant. "No one has ever managed to successfully pass through the rapids and cataracts of the Lower Ulanga. That little steamboat doesn't stand a chance at all!" The commandant decided not to tell von Hanneken about the incident; he knew there would be trouble if he did.

Meanwhile, the strong currents of the Ulanga River were carrying the African Queen towards the rapids with frightening speed.

"Were those gunshots?" shouted Rose.

"Yes!" said Allnutt. "Keep going, Rose! We're approaching the cataracts!"

Rose gasped when she saw the rushing water and dangerous rocks ahead of her. The boat swayed and rocked violently as they entered the rapids. The air was suddenly full of spray and the sound of the raging waters was terrifying. Allnutt kept his attention focused on the engine – Rose was struggling to keep the African Queen on course, and he was too frightened to look up. He started to pray; seconds later, the boat was flying down a dangerous cataract.

They reached a second series of rapids, and Rose turned the tiller sharply to the right in a desperate attempt to avoid the black rocks in the water. She knew that the rocks would tear open the bottom of the boat if she touched them. The current started to push the boat to the opposite bank, and Rose threw herself on the tiller to make it turn.

Once they had passed a third series of rapids, Rose realised that Allnutt was trying to get her attention. He was waving a piece of wood at her; their fuel was running out and they would have to find a place to stop. Rose looked around frantically, then she saw what she was looking for. Further up the river, Rose noticed a gap in some rocks. The waters there were clear and calm. Rose aimed the boat at the gap and the strong current carried the boat down into a gorge.

"We made it!" said Rose as Allnutt dropped anchor. "We made it through the rapids!"

Rose and Allnutt hugged each other, with tears of joy and relief

