

"We should bury him," said Allnutt. "I'll do it, don't you worry yourself, miss. And I can do the service, if you want."

"I have my prayer book," said Rose, "I'll read the service."

"All right, miss," said Allnutt. "But we'd better hurry, in case the Germans come back."

Once Samuel had been buried, Rose stood quietly beside the grave, while Allnutt nervously looked around for Germans.

"We really should go now, miss," said Allnutt. "It's not safe for you here. You should come to the river with me."

Rose realised she didn't have any choice. She did not wish to stay at the house alone, so she quickly packed her possessions and followed the mechanic down the steep path that led to the river.

An hour later, Allnutt's boat finally came into view. The African Queen was a nine-metre long, flat-bottomed steamboat. Allnutt explained to Rose that the boat was powered by a steam engine, which included a boiler and a furnace. In order for the boat to move, the furnace had to be regularly filled with wood. The heat from the burning fuel then turned the water in the boiler into steam, and the steam made the engine work.

Once Allnutt had helped Rose into the boat, he removed a container of hot ashes from the furnace and filled it with fresh wood. The engine quickly sprang to life. Allnutt pulled up the anchor, then took hold of the tiller and steered the boat through the brown waters of the Ulanga River.

"You know, miss," said Allnutt, "this river is full of channels and small islands. We should find a safe place to hide, perhaps a backwater somewhere, where we can talk about what to do next."

"Yes," Rose agreed, "that sounds like a good idea."

About a kilometre up the river, Allnutt asked Rose to take hold of the tiller while he filled the furnace with fuel. Rose grasped the iron rod tightly; it was so hot from the sun it almost burnt her fingers, but she held on. Rose had never steered a boat before, and the experience was both exciting and terrifying.

"Steady, miss! Steady!" Allnutt called out.

A short while later, Rose and Allnutt found a suitable spot to drop anchor and the African Queen stopped moving.

