

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Chapter 5 (extract)

Abilene is with her parents on the Queen Mary ship sailing to England. She has brought her favourite toy, the rabbit Edward Tulane, to keep her company on the journey.

As was to be expected, Edward Tulane exacted much attention on board the ship.

"What a singular rabbit," said an elderly lady with three strings of pearls wrapped around her neck. She bent down to look more closely at Edward.

"Thank you," said Abilene.

Several girls on board gave Edward deep glances full of longing. They asked Abilene if they might hold him.

"No," said Abilene, "I'm afraid that he's not the kind of rabbit who likes to be held by strangers."

Two young boys, brothers named Martin and Amos, took a particular interest in Edward.

"What does he do?" Martin asked Abilene on their second day at sea. He pointed at Edward, who was sitting on a deckchair with his long legs stretched in front of him.

"He doesn't do anything." Said Abilene.

"Does he wind up somewhere?" asked Amos.

"No," said Abilene, "he does not wind up."

"What's the point of him then?" said Martin.

"The point is that he is Edward," said Abilene.

"That's not much of a point," said Amos.

"It's not," agreed Martin. And then, after a long thoughtful pause, he said, "I wouldn't let anybody dress me like that."

"Me neither," said Amos.

"Do his clothes come off?" asked Martin.

"Of course they do," said Abilene. "He has many different outfits. And he has his own pajamas too. They are made of silk."

Edward, as usual, was disregarding the conversation. A breeze was blowing in off the sea, and the silk scarf wrapped around his neck billowed out behind him. On his head, he wore a straw boater. The rabbit was thinking that he must look quite dashing.

It came as a total surprise to him when he was grabbed off the deckchair and first his scarf, and then his jacket and trousers, were ripped from his body. Edward saw his pocket watch hit the deck of the ship and roll merrily towards Abilene's feet.

"Look at him," said Martin. "He's even got underwear." He held Edward aloft so that Amos could see.

"Take it off," shouted Amos.

"NO!!!!" screamed Abilene.

Martin removed Edward's underwear.

Edward was paying attention now. He was mortified. He was completely naked except for the hat on his head, and the other passengers were looking at him, directing curious and embarrassed glances his way.

"Give him to me," screamed Abilene. "He's mine."

"No," said Amos to Martin, "give him to me." He clapped his hands together and then held them open.

"Throw him," he said.

"Please," cried Abilene. "Don't. He's made of china. He'll break."

Martin threw Edward.

And Edward sailed naked through the air. Only a moment ago, the rabbit had thought that being naked in front of a shipload of strangers was the worst thing that could happen to him. But he was wrong. It was much worse being tossed, in the same naked state, from the hands of one grubby, laughing boy to another.

Amos caught Edward and held him up, displaying him triumphantly.

"Throw him back," called Martin.

Amos raised his arm, but just as he was getting ready to throw Edward, Abilene tackled him, shoving her head into his stomach, and upsetting the boy's aim.

So it was that Edward did not go flying back into the dirty hands of Martin.

Instead, Edward Tulane went overboard.

TASK:

Imagine you are a news reporter. Write a newspaper report with details about how Edward ended up in the sea.

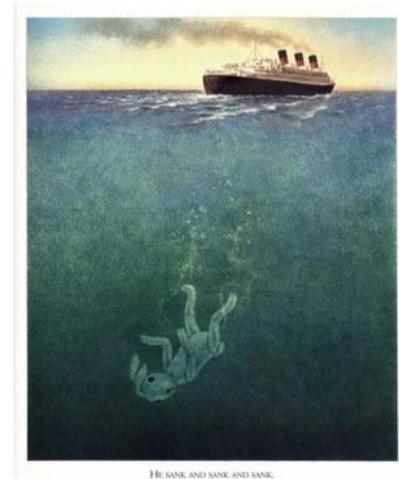
Or write a newsreader's script and create a video of you reading the news about the incident on the Queen Mary ship.

When writing the report, remember to include or the features of a newspaper article:

Headline, introduction, key facts and evidence (when, where, who, what)

Think about quotes you could add from passengers who witnessed the incident. You can also add a picture and caption.

Remember to make your writing interesting by using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials.



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