

The captain and I

It's 1875. I'm on Cutty Sark. We're going to England with tea from China. It's a long way but this ship could do it, I hoped. BANG! A huge wave was shaking the ship. I toppled over while trying to stay on the ship. The captain shouted to us, "Reef the sails, ever..." His voice quickly fell into the darkness while the immense waves kept shaking the ship. I heard a faint, "You too!" from the captain while he was pointing to me. I began to help reef the sails, but I was tired and slow. After all, I was new at that. After having looked at my dangerous surroundings, I heard the captain yell at me, "Come down, Briggs – you're in the way!" I felt sick, I was disappointed of what I had done. I slowly climbed down the rigging. The other sailors were reefing the sails, all I could do was watch helplessly. The captain had just regained control of the wheel with the help of the first mate. He ordered me to get water. I ran to the stairs to get it. A spider web got caught on my face. I didn't care, that's the least of my worries at that moment. I was halfway to the wheel when a HUGE wave splashed on deck... The first mate plunged into the sea, as far as I could tell, he hadn't done that on purpose. He's trying to stay afloat. "Help, I can't swim! Save me!" I realised that that was the first mate. The captain threw a lifebuoy but it didn't reach the first mate. The sailors were making the lifeboats ready. The captain and first mate could tell it wouldn't be fast enough. The first mate started to lose hope. I wanted to prove the captain wrong, "I'm a brave sailor!", I thought. "This is my chance". SPLASH! I could swim, thankfully. I brought the lifebuoy to the first mate. I was trying to fight the waves to keep me and the first mate alive. Just then, the clouds started to clear up. The lifeboat came, me and the first mate pulled ourselves onto it. We instantly sat down onto the remaining empty seats. The captain started to pull the lifeboat up. After it had reached the top, I climbed out immediately. The captain invited me to talk with him. I kindly accepted and he led me downstairs. I was nervous, obviously. "I'm sorry, Briggs. "I was wrong about you." That lit a smile on my face. "Brave people make good sailors, I'm very happy to have you on Cutty Sark, Briggs." He shook my hand. I'm excited about my future.

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