



Scary Stories

The Flying Dutchman



An old legend and famous scary story, there was even a movie based upon this legend in the 1950s. Some versions say the Dutchman must sail the seas until he finds the love of a good woman.



The legend of The Flying Dutchman began 1641, when a Dutch ship sank off the coast of the Cape of Good Hope.



The captain, a Dutch man named Van der Decken, failed to notice the dark clouds looming. Only when he heard the lookout scream out in terror did he realise that they had sailed straight into a fierce storm.



The captain and his crew battled for hours to get out of the storm. At one point it seemed as if they would make it.



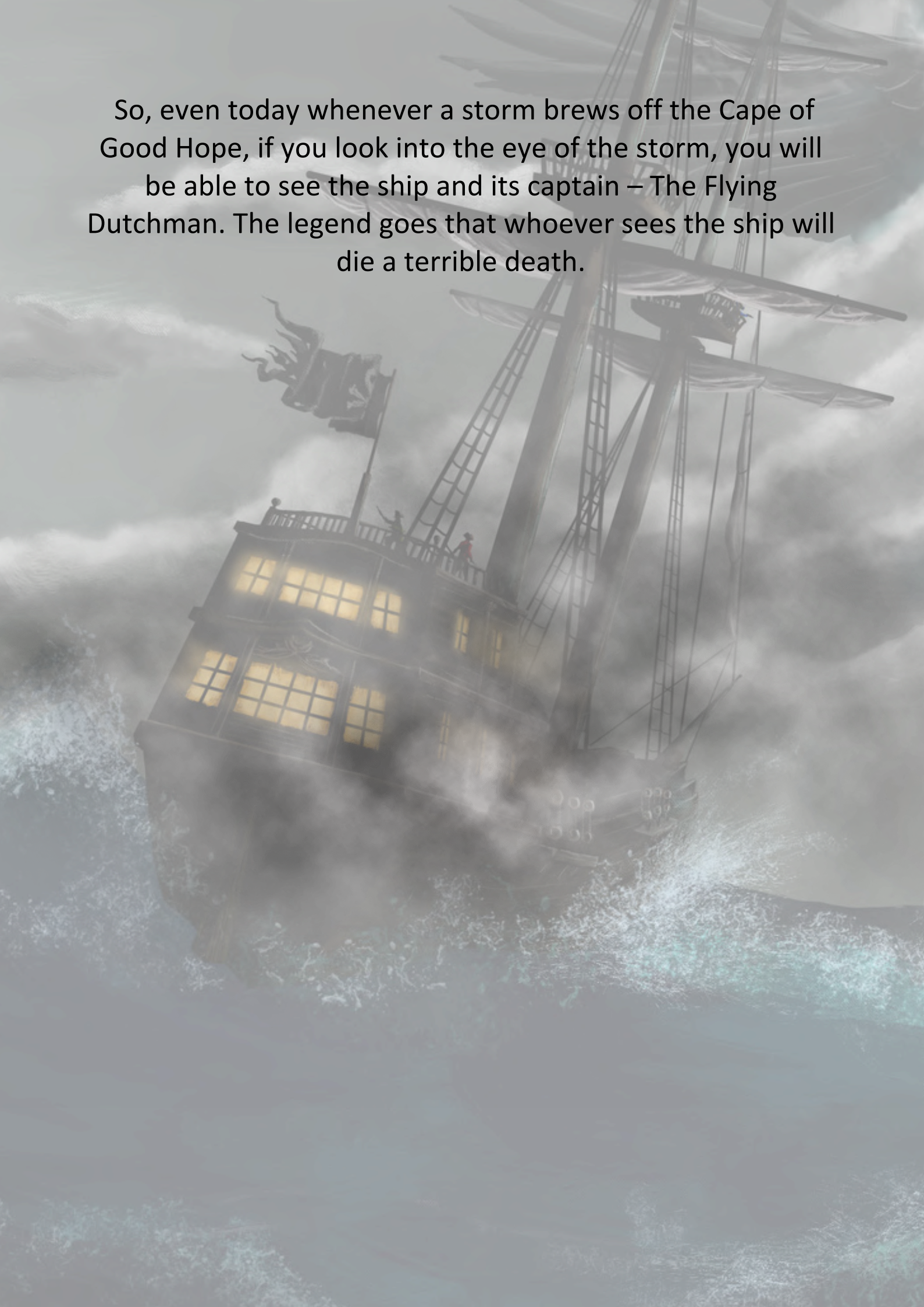
Then they heard a sickening crunch; the ship had hit treacherous rocks and began to sink.



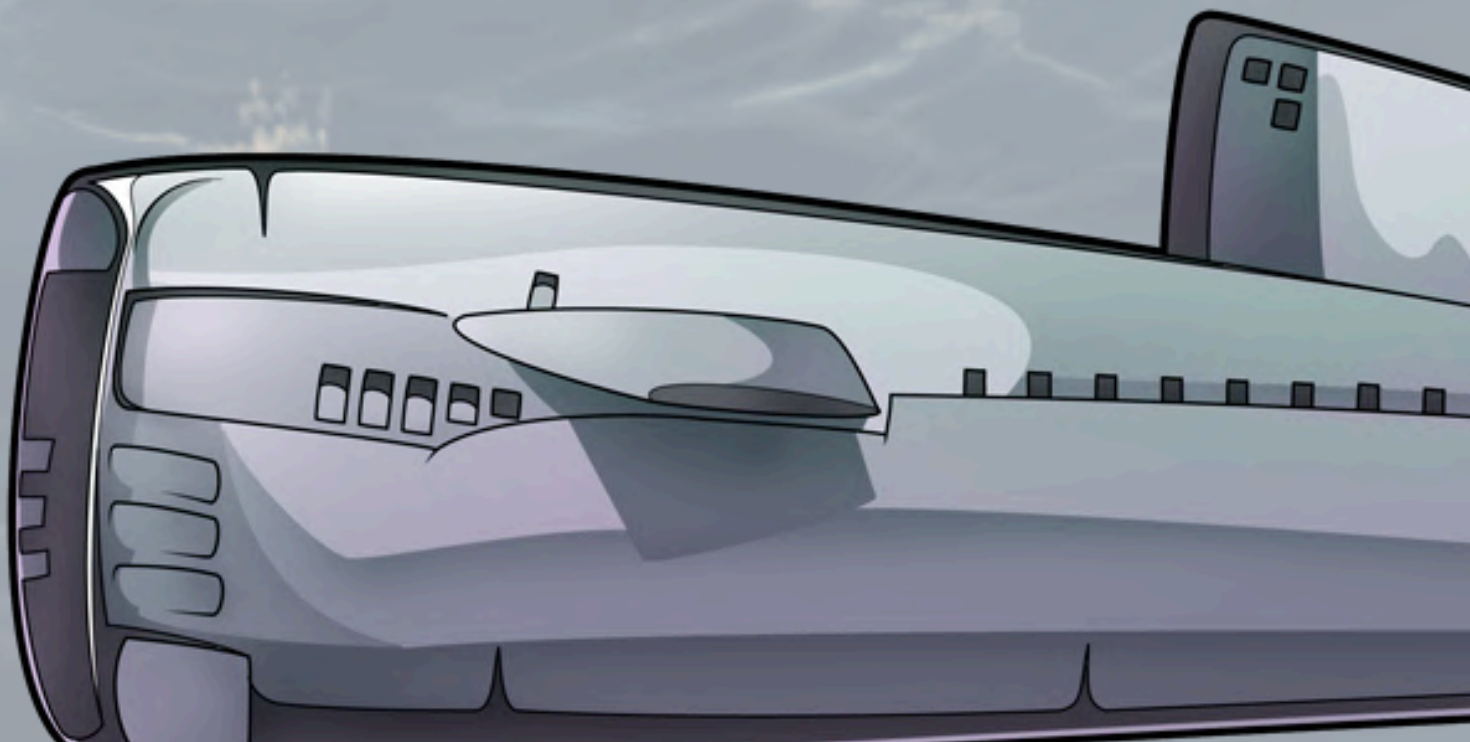
As the ship plunged downwards, Captain Van der Decken knew that death was approaching. He was not ready to die and screamed out a curse: "I WILL round this Cape even if I have to keep sailing until the end of time!"



So, even today whenever a storm brews off the Cape of Good Hope, if you look into the eye of the storm, you will be able to see the ship and its captain – The Flying Dutchman. The legend goes that whoever sees the ship will die a terrible death.



Many people have claimed to have seen The Flying Dutchman, including the crew of a German submarine boat during World War II.



On 11 July 1881, the Royal Navy ship, the Bacchante, was rounding the tip of Africa when they were confronted with the sight of The Flying Dutchman.



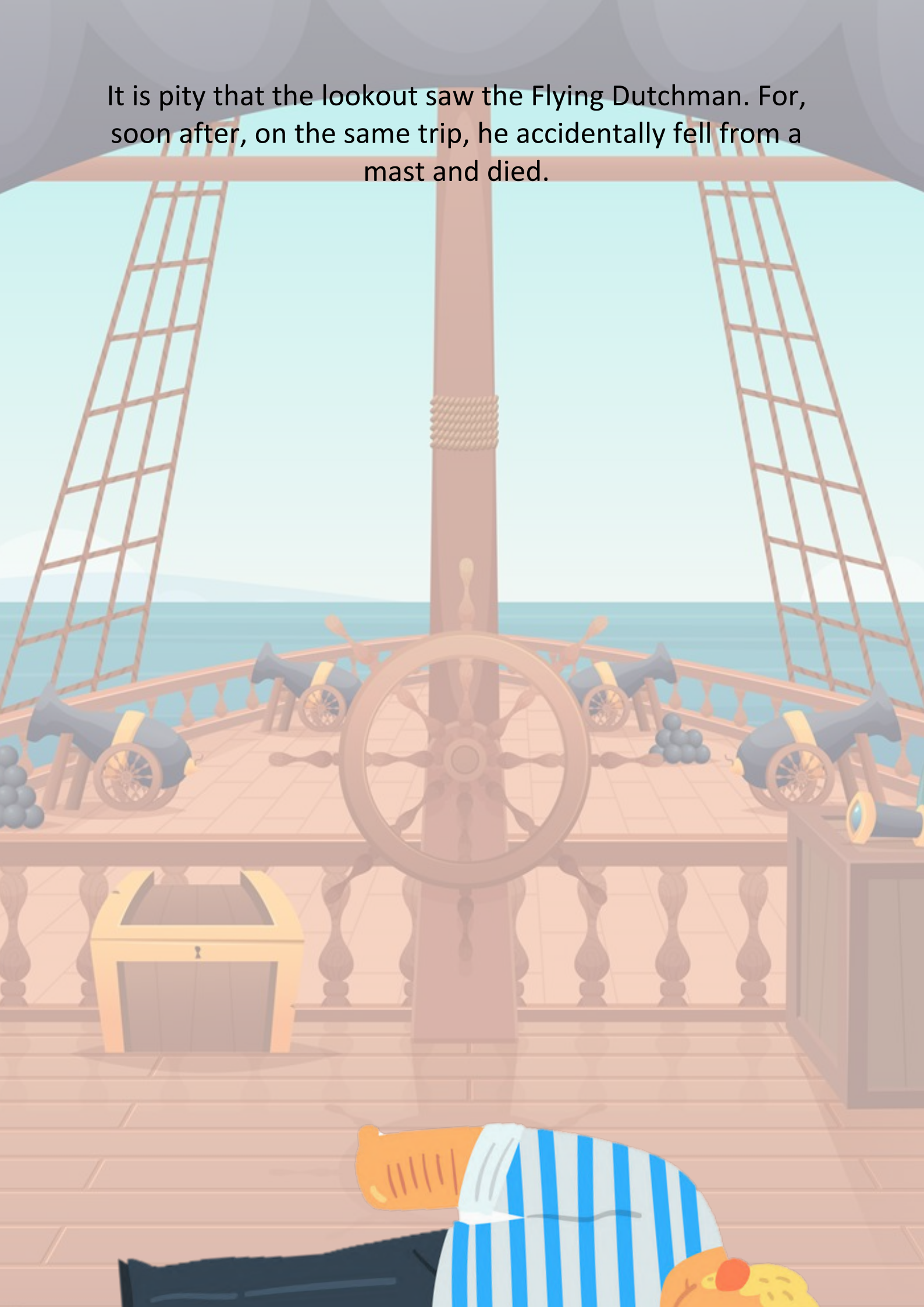
The midshipman, a prince who later became King George V, recorded that the lookout man and the officer of the watch had seen The Flying Dutchman and he used these words to describe the ship ...



A strange red light as of a phantom ship all aglow, in the midst of which light the mast, spars and sails of a brig 200 yards distant stood out in strong relief.



It is pity that the lookout saw the Flying Dutchman. For, soon after, on the same trip, he accidentally fell from a mast and died.



Fortunately for the English royal family, the young midshipman survived the curse to become The King of England!





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