



Chapter Two - by Kay Hively

While Captain Todd sat working at his desk, Emily showed Sam around the small pilothouse. She invited him to turn the ship's wheel. Sam was very friendly and very talkative. Emily thought he was funny. He made her laugh.

When Captain Todd finished his paperwork, they locked the pilothouse and climbed down to the deck. Sam said good-bye and promised to be back in the morning with his brother for their trip to St. Louis.

That night, Mrs. Todd packed clean shirts for her husband to take on his journey. Captain Todd would be gone for several days. Emily wanted to be with him as much as she could, so she stayed up as late as her mother would allow.

Early the next morning, Emily and her mother walked down to the levee to say good-bye. When they arrived at the boat, Captain Todd came to greet them. He kissed Emily and her tearful mother. Mrs. Todd always cried into her handkerchief when her husband left.

As the boat moved out into the river, Captain Todd blew his whistle and waved from the pilothouse. Emily waved back to her father and to Sam, who was standing on the lower deck.

Emily's friends, John and Rose, were waiting when she and her mother arrived back at home. The three children hoped to go exploring on the river bluffs. Emily asked her mother if she could go with her friends. Mrs. Todd said Emily could go, but she warned all three children to be careful. They promised to be back by noon.

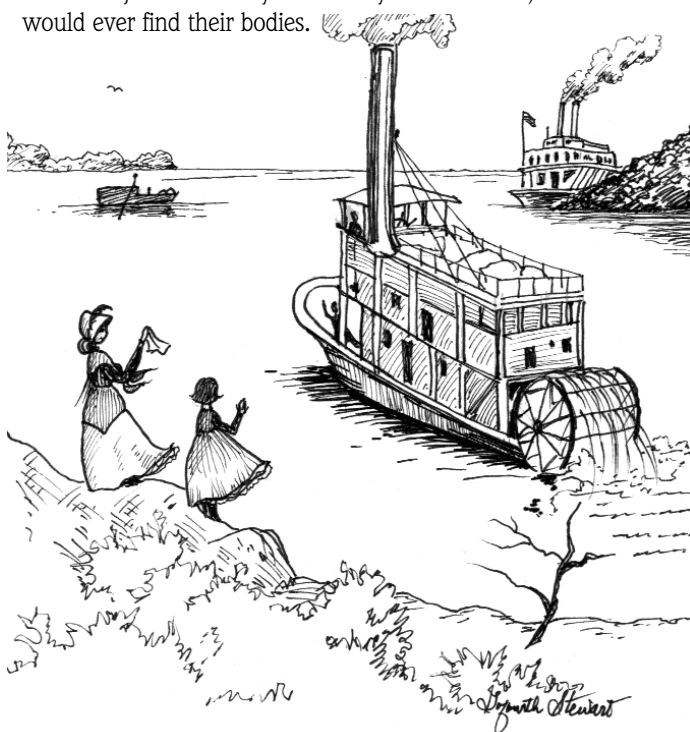
Quickly, the children raced off to the rugged bluffs where all the children in the village loved to play. The bluffs had great rocks to climb over and little caves where kids could hide from each other.

No other children were on the bluffs when Emily and her friends arrived. Since they were alone, they decided to just explore together. Soon they found a large cave. Just inside, John found a torch and flints to light it. Emily and Rose said the cave was too big for exploring, but John lit the torch and went inside anyway. Although they were afraid, the girls followed John into the cave.

Emily and Rose held hands as they followed John. Emily had never been so far inside a cave. John used the torch to mark a trail on the walls so they could find their way back through all the twists and turns. Finally, the children decided they had gone deep

enough into the cave. Just as they turned and started back, the torch suddenly went out. With the light gone, the cave turned completely black.

Emily was sure they were lost and would never get out of the cave. She just knew they would stay there and die, and no one would ever find their bodies.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri.
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Things to Think About and Do

- Sam was standing on the lower deck of the riverboat. Draw a riverboat with a lower and an upper deck. Put a pilothouse on top of the upper deck. Put the boat's name on the pilothouse.
- Emily and her friends went into a strange cave. If you wanted to go cave exploring, list three things you should do before you go into the cave. Explain why you should do these three things.

Next Week: Chapter Three – Two strangers