

The Rescue

Crack! Waves pound our wounded and sinking boat, like an oversized boxer! My arms ache as I try to hold on for dear, dear life! The water in our boat is red and foamy with blood, as the two of us were cut and maimed from being thrown around like rag dolls! My nerves turn to butter, as I start to lose hope!

It was a gorgeous day, the twelfth of October 2001.

"I've got one Jedd, I've got one!" my first mate Archie yells over his scrawny shoulder, as he pulls up a decent sized marlin.

"Good on you Arch, but can we wrap this up?" Screams of thunder come bellowing into my ears! That must have motivated Archie to hurry, because he nearly beat me to the hull of the boat. Both our faces go pale as a huge wave pummels the boat.

We were now only three kilometers from shore, although we were next to a rocky out hanging limestone cliff. The storm had finally caught up to us, torrential rain started lashing at the deck and white tongues of foam crawled onboard and grabbed at fishing rods and nets, breaking them loose onto the deck! Now only seconds separated the blinding balls of lightning! Suddenly our boat smashes into something! Archie and I both scream a muffled cluster of words! We were stuck, and sinking!

Flare guns popped and sizzled, as we try desperately to get someone's attention! Just as my hope starts to dry up, a person peers over the cliff!

"Over here , over here!" Archie and I both yell in unison! The person leaves the cliff, my heart sinks to the bottom of my feet! But just as I thought my life was over, a deep sound overpowers the screams of thunder and lightning. It was like seeing an angel, it was a rescue helicopter, our big powerful saviour! The side door of the chopper slides open with a squeak, revealing a large powerful winch. Our vessel was taking on water dangerously quickly.

A man in a high vision waterproof jacket seemingly floats down to us with one harness. "One harness," I think to myself, with snakes slithering in my stomach. I knew what I had to do. "Archie, take the harness and go up first, I'll wait!" I stammer, with shaking limbs! Archie was pulled up quickly and efficiently. The piece of broken metal that I'm standing on shudders, then suddenly, it gives way and I plummet to the icy water! I kick and scream in desperation, trying frantically to get to the surface! My body starts to shut down as I slowly start to sink! I think of all the things that I've regretted doing in my life, I think of all the good things, like letting Archie's life be saved, instead of mine. I think of my family, they will never truly know where my dead corps really is! I close my eyes, as my lungs start to deflate! I can faintly feel a tug on my arms, my head is spinning as I'm slowly lifted out of the water, salt stinging my face, and waves beckoning me back!

Written By Jedd Smallwood.