

a bold round face and a curving tail

In a maritime escape, the characters leave behind an ominous past, journeying away from danger aboard the ship "Flower." As they round the eastern tip of the island, the ship's immense shadow looms, illuminated against a dark sky, hinting at its historical significance. With the mainsail rendered useless, they rely on the jib and the steady hand of Burke, revealing that he is more competent at sailing than expected. The group's tension simmers, especially regarding their captors Werryck and others left behind, and the constant threat of recapture lingers in the air.

As the days stretch on, the gang navigates through rain, hunger, and fatigue, ultimately easing into the quiet harbor of Jolie, where life begins anew. They find solace at the Girards' home, where Evelyn offers warmth and hospitality. Though they struggle with the physical and emotional toll of their escape, the bonds between them begin to form stronger roots in the safe haven.

Burke's departure after ten days leaves mixed feelings within the group, particularly as Sol seems disengaged from him, having perceived his darker moments. Meanwhile, the narrator manages to secure work with a local welding shop, solidifying their place in the new environment.

The narrative then shifts to Sol's parallel journey of adjusting to life outside of captivity. Her early impressions of the ship demonstrate a complex emotional landscape — a mix of comfort and trepidation surrounding her identity and experiences. She recalls the kindness of a woman who provided meals but was never conversational, instilling in Sol a fear of losing her name through the promise of better ones. This fear highlights her struggle with identity and recognition in an unforgiving reality.

As spring approaches, Sol's growing affection for gardening reflects her resilience and desire for normalcy as she plants seeds around the town. News trickles in about their former captors through the excitable *Mosquito*, revealing a miraculous escape while shedding light on familiar yet distant faces from their past.

The chapter culminates with an introduction to Harriet, a figure from the past who brings tidings about the ship and its occupants, including disconcerting news of loss and resilience. Through their exchange, the narrative explores themes of survival, hope, and the bittersweet nature of returning to life after trauma, leading to a contemplative view of the comet's arrival, symbolizing unforeseen futures.