

white-maned horses

In the midst of a fierce storm, the narrator battles treacherous seas while aboard a boat named Flower. The scene opens with the tumultuous waves crashing against the seawall, creating a chaotic environment filled with rain and wind. As the narrator struggles to maintain control, they realize that the vessel is in peril, and it's not sinking that they fear, but rather the imminent threat of crashing onto the rocks.

Seeking a solution, the narrator secures the tiller and goes to deploy the anchor, which succeeds in stabilizing Flower against the relentless waves. Despite the chaos, the situation calms somewhat when the sail is hoisted, allowing the boat to pick up speed. Embraced by the elements, the narrator reflects on the struggles of the night and the elation of hoisting a sail after years. The shoreline gradually comes into view, bringing a sense of hope and salvation as the narrator contemplates disembarking.

As dawn approaches, visibility improves, yet the narrator is reminded of the challenges of sea life when they wake with a stiff neck and find the boat in a disheveled state. Despite the storm's aftermath, familiarity emerges as they spot the shoreline more clearly. However, the contentment is short-lived. The narrator is overcome with a strong desire to reach land, fueled by hunger and fatigue, prompting a moment of desperation: they consider swimming ashore.

Upon anchoring in calmer waters, the narrator perceives a woman on the beach, sharply dressed and observing them with binoculars. Initially greeted with excitement at the sight of another person, the mood quickly shifts as the woman remains unresponsive and begins taking notes, leaving the narrator feeling monitored and uneasy. A man soon joins her with a cell phone in hand, indicating further discomfort.

While trying to pump water out of the boat, the situation escalates as the narrator senses the wind rising. Despite the initial progress, the pump fails, prompting them to fashion a makeshift bellows from available materials. With the shore still looming so close yet feeling unwelcoming, the potential threat from the woman becomes evident, ultimately leading to a tense confrontation as she draws a gun. As she fires, the narrator's instinct for survival kicks in, spurring them to sail away through the fog, leaving behind the unsettling encounter on the shore.