

# Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive

Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive by Victor Appleton is an adventurous novel where young inventor Tom Swift designs a groundbreaking electric locomotive, facing challenges and excitement as he tests his creation and uncovers a plot to sabotage it.

## CHAPTER I -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive

In "A Tempting Offer," the opening chapter of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," Tom Swift and his father, Mr. Barton Swift, discuss the potential of a high-speed electric locomotive with Mr. Richard Bartholomew, a visitor from the West representing the Hendrickton and Pas Alos Railroad Company. Faced with intense competition and a need for innovation to sustain its financial viability, Bartholomew presents the Swifts with a challenge to develop an electric locomotive capable of unprecedented speed and power. He highlights the indispensability of such a development for overcoming the rugged Pas Alos Range and outperforming the rival Hendrickton & Western railroad, backed by Montagne Lewis, whom Bartholomew sees as a formidable and vengeful adversary.

Bartholomew's proposition involves a significant element of secrecy and urgency, reflecting his fears of industrial espionage by Lewis's operatives. He offers the Swifts \$25,000 for their experimentation toward creating an advanced electric locomotive, with a promise of a \$100,000 bonus plus orders for all units they can produce within two years if they succeed. This financial arrangement underscores the high stakes and the transformative potential of their proposed work in the railroad industry.

Tom, intrigued by the challenge and the opportunity to engage in a "battle" of wits and innovation, is eager to proceed. Despite the risks and the pressure, the Swifts agree to undertake the project, with plans to finalize a contract with Bartholomew. As the chapter concludes, the Swifts are aware of the need for discretion due to the sensitivity of the project, hinting at the adversities and intrigue they may face in their pursuit of revolutionary technological advancements in rail transportation.

## CHAPTER II -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive

In Chapter II of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Trouble Starts," Tom Swift encounters a threatening situation that, although startling, doesn't surprise him due to recent reports of footpads in the area. His encounter with a thug who forcibly searches him and steals his wallet under the threat of violence is linked in Tom's mind to warnings from Mr. Richard Bartholomew about a spy from the West, possibly connected to Montagne Lewis and his associates, seeking information harmful to the Swift Construction Company and Bartholomew's railroad business, the H. & P. A.

Reflecting on his numerous adventures since first appearing in "Tom Swift and His Motor Cycle," Tom's thoughts primarily center on the exciting possibility of developing an electric locomotive for Bartholomew, which is believed to be crucial for the financial salvation of the H. & P. A. Railroad. Despite the perilous confrontation under the darkened archway, Tom assesses the situation with the seasoned judgment of a veteran inventor and adventurer. He understands the thug's actions as an aggressive attempt to intimidate rather than a direct threat to his life, drawing some courage from the likelihood that Bartholomew's enemies wouldn't dare cause a scandal.

The assailant's specific interest in Tom's notes regarding the impending contract with Bartholomew suggests a calculated move to undermine the railroad's plans. However, Tom's composed demeanor, even in the face of robbery, indicates his resilience and focus on broader inventorial ambitions over material losses. His return to contemplation of the electric locomotive project after the incident underscores Tom's unwavering dedication to innovation and his significant role in the Swift Construction Company's success. This brush with danger is subtly woven into the narrative of Tom's ongoing ventures, setting a tone of intrigue and challenge regarding the electric locomotive development and the wider industrial espionage that threatens it.

## **CHAPTER III -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

After an adventurous evening, Tom Swift visits Mary Nestor, sharing with her the details of a potentially revolutionary electric locomotive project and a recent encounter with a thief. Mary, concerned for Tom's safety and supportive of his endeavors, listens intently as Tom explains how he was unbothered by the theft due to the thief stealing notes written in his own unreadable shorthand. This detail delights Mary, recognizing the thief's surprise upon discovering the notes' indecipherability. Tom, confident in his memory, plans to draft a contract regarding the locomotive with his colleague, Ned, highlighting the advanced potential of his design compared to existing electric locomotives, such as the Jandel patent used by Mr. Bartholomew on the H. & P. A.

Leaving Mary's, Tom ensures her of his safety, equipped with a strategy for self-defense. As he departs, Mr. Wakefield Damon surprises them, offering Tom a ride, which Tom accepts after expressing his intent to first visit Ned. Their departure is abruptly interrupted by the same thief attempting to threaten Tom again. However, Mr. Damon's sudden vehicular maneuver and Tom's quick use of his ammonia gun—a defensive invention—neutralizes the threat, showcasing Tom's preparedness and innovative prowess in handling danger.

## **CHAPTER IV -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

As the evening progressed, Tom Swift and Mr. Damon visited Ned Newton, fully expecting him to be awake despite the late hour. Upon their arrival, they quickly delved into the events of the night, revealing they were targeted by a highwayman close to Ned's residence, a predicament they humorously blamed on Tom's presence.

Mr. Damon, brimming with excitement, prompted Tom to disclose the night's significant discussion. Tom, emphasizing the need for discretion, revealed that he and his father were contemplating a lucrative venture for the Swift Construction Company, sparked by a proposition from the president of the Hendrickton & Pas Alos Railroad.

The proposition - building an electric locomotive capable of two miles a minute - was met with enthusiasm from Ned and astonishment from Mr. Damon. Despite the daunting challenge, Tom was invigorated by the project's potential impact on the future of electrically-powered transport, particularly in reducing the operational costs of railways which were currently burdened by the high expenses of coal and oil.

Historically, Tom noted, the ambition for electrification in rail transport had always aimed at surpassing the limitations of steam locomotives while achieving significant cost-efficiency. However, existing electric models, such as the Jandel locomotive, lacked the necessary speed and power, particularly on challenging terrains like those faced by the H. & P. A. railroad.

Convinced of their capability to innovate, Tom, supported by Ned's financial acumen and Mr. Damon's boundless enthusiasm, looked forward to tackling the project. Yet, amid the excitement, the recent theft of

Tom's wallet and subsequent hold-up cast a shadow of concern, hinting at a possible sabotage connected to their new venture.

As speculation about the identity and motive of the assailants ensued, Ned suggested that the thief might have local connections, implying a deeper intrigue against the Swift Construction Company's ambitions. Despite the looming threat, the focus remained on the electric locomotive's potential to revolutionize rail transport, with each party ready to contribute to this groundbreaking endeavor.

## **CHAPTER V -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

As Tom Swift and Mr. Damon continued their journey, Mr. Damon revealed his peculiar problem to Tom. He was plagued by chicken-house burglars targeting his prized buff Orpingtons, notably a special cockerel, Blue Ribbon Junior. Despite Mr. Damon's efforts, including surrounding his chicken yard with a barbed wire entanglement and arming his servant with a rock-salt loaded shotgun, the burglars remained a persistent nuisance. Mr. Damon sought Tom's assistance to secure his chicken house more effectively.

Tom proposed electrifying the barbed wire encircling Mr. Damon's chicken yard to deter the thieves without causing serious harm. He planned to modify the existing electrical setup and advised Mr. Damon to obtain a permit from the Electric Supply Company. Despite Mr. Damon's readiness to bear any expense for the solution, Tom intended to ensure the safety of the implementation.

The discussion was interrupted by the sudden appearance of Koku, Tom's giant associate, who reported suspicious activities around the Swift premises. Koku, who was once accustomed to dealing with enemies in a more direct and lethal manner, had discovered mysterious footprints indicating an intruder. Although Koku was eager to confront the intruder, Tom instructed him to refrain from any violent actions without explicit permission.

Upon investigating, Tom and Mr. Damon discovered large boot prints matching those from an earlier encounter, suggesting they were being spied on, likely due to their involvement with Mr. Bartholomew. Although concerned, Tom remained calm, instructing Koku to avoid any confrontation until further notice. This encounter revealed that the dangers facing Tom were not only about thwarting chicken thieves but also about combating a lurking spy potentially linked to Mr. Bartholomew's unspecified adversaries.

## **CHAPTER VI -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter VI of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "The Contract Signed," Tom Swift experiences an eventful morning following an attempt by a mysterious adversary to confront him. He sleeps securely under the protection of his devoted giant servant, Koku, who hails from a lineage of warriors. Despite a breach attempt, the offender fails to make an appearance, and the chapter unfolds with a humorous altercation between Koku and Rad, Tom's other servant, reflecting their competitive zeal to serve Tom.

The early morning chaos involves Koku accidentally causing Rad to crash through a window in an attempt to report on his nocturnal vigil. This incident highlights the contrasting personalities and deep-seated rivalry between Tom's two eccentric helpers, Koku's primal approach to protection, and Rad's dramatic reactions, both driven by loyalty to Tom.

As the day progresses, Tom and his father head to the Swift Construction Company to meet with Mr. Richard Bartholomew concerning a significant contract to electrify his railroad through the Pas Alos Range. The contract has been meticulously prepared to protect both parties' interests and indicates the dire circumstances under which Mr. Bartholomew seeks Tom's innovative expertise. Their meeting underscores the gravity and

potential dangers of the project, hinted by the mention of spies and rivals, specifically targeting Mr. Bartholomew and potentially endangering the Swifts.

This chapter paints a vibrant picture of early 20th-century technological ambition intertwined with intrigue, showcasing Tom's genius and the trust placed in his inventions to revolutionize industries. It concludes with the formalization of a partnership that promises to navigate through threats and leverage electrification as a groundbreaking solution for Mr. Bartholomew's railroad dilemma, setting a tone of adventure and technological pursuit against a backdrop of industrial espionage.

## **CHAPTER VII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter VII of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," the narrative pivots towards the future potential of electric locomotion beyond the immediate financial concerns of the Swift Construction Company. Tom Swift admits to his colleagues, including his father and Ned Newton, that despite his knowledge of current electric locomotives, he has yet to conceptualize an improved design. This admission underlines the intrinsic uncertainties in pioneering innovation but also displays Tom's calm and methodical approach to problem-solving. The discussion then delves into the advantages of electric locomotives over traditional steam engines, highlighting the economic, environmental, and operational benefits, such as cost-effectiveness, consistent performance irrespective of weather conditions, and reduced maintenance requirements. These benefits align with the vision of Mr. Richard Bartholomew, a character introduced earlier, who aims to leverage these advantages for his railroad line through electrification.

The conversation touches upon technical barriers and the ambitious goal of creating a two-mile-a-minute locomotive, showcasing the characters' foresight in anticipating future challenges in the rapidly advancing field of locomotive technology. Tom's commitment to meeting these challenges head-on, despite the enormity of the task, underscores his inventiveness and determination to contribute to the evolution of transportation.

After the meeting, Tom plans a trip to Waterfield, intending to carry forward his research. His discussion with Eradicate and the subsequent inclusion of Koku, his assistant of immense stature but limited understanding, injects a lighter, more personal dimension into the narrative. This section reveals Tom's attention to both his innovative pursuits and the dynamics of those around him, illustrating his multifaceted responsibilities and the interpersonal relationships that play a background role in his inventive endeavors.

As Tom and Koku depart, they encounter a suspicious figure, potentially connected to previous adversities, hinting at underlying threats or challenges beyond technical hurdles. This encounter foreshadows the intertwining of technical innovation with elements of suspense and mystery, expanding the scope of the narrative to include external conflicts alongside the central theme of technological advancement.

## **CHAPTER VIII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter VIII, "An Enemy in the Dark," of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," the narrative unfolds with a tense episode involving Tom Swift and his loyal but impulsively acting giant helper, Koku. Sensing potential trouble, Tom reacts quickly when Koku chases after a suspicious figure, a dark-faced stranger possibly involved in espionage. Despite Tom's stern commands, Koku initially disregards them, driven by a desire to confront the stranger, whom he suspects is connected to past disturbances at the Swift residence. However, Tom's threat of sending Koku back to his homeland, with its distasteful diet, halts the giant's pursuit.

Tom, angered by Koku's disobedience, worries that the stranger, potentially a spy named Andy O'Malley hired by rival Montagne Lewis, now knows he has been identified. This mishap could compromise the secrecy around Tom's projects, particularly concerning a financial agreement beneficial to the H. & P. A. railroad, struggling under Mr. Richard Bartholomew's leadership. Intent on not alarming his father with these developments, Tom plans to bolster security at their company while maintaining a facade of normalcy.

The scene shifts to Tom's visit to Mr. Damon's residence in Waterfield, to install an electrified fence around a chicken coop. This project, though minor, is significant to Mr. Damon and underscores the bond between him and Tom. Despite their focus on home security against thieves, their conversation returns to the potential danger posed by the mysterious stranger stalking Tom. Nonetheless, Tom lightly dismisses the concerns, optimistic the issue will resolve once the stranger realizes Bartholomew has left town.

Back at his workshop, Tom immerses himself in developing an electric locomotive, demonstrating his dedication and the trust his team places in him. Shielding his work from potential industrial espionage becomes a silent battle, highlighted by the secure environment of the Swift Construction Company. Late at night, engrossed in his work, Tom discovers a figure lurking outside his window, introducing a direct threat to his safety and amplifying the narrative's tension around espionage and protection of intellectual property.

This chapter intertwines themes of loyalty, innovation, and security against the backdrop of early 20th-century industrial espionage, setting the stage for conflicts that test Tom Swift's resolve and ingenuity.

## **CHAPTER IX -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

Chapter IX of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive" unfolds a night full of suspense and action. Tom Swift, keen to secure his innovations from potential espionage, enacts a layer of security within his home by setting a burglar alarm. His prompt actions are triggered by the suspicion of an intruder, leading him to safeguard a crucial portfolio in the house's safe. Despite taking precautions, Tom faces the unnerving reality of being locked out of his own house, underlining the urgency of the situation compounded by inclement weather and his scant attire of shirt, trousers, and felt slippers.

The narrative tension escalates as Tom Swift discovers that the intruder's presence is near yet invisible in the shadowy exterior, prompting a silent alarm that should have roused Koku, his giant servant and protector, who unexpectedly does not respond. This omission in Koku's usually vigilant nature spurs Swift to investigate further, revealing a distressing scene: Koku immobilized, a victim of chloroform, illustrating the lengths to which the adversaries will go to gain the upper hand.

Tom's realization that the enemy managed not only to infiltrate his house but also to neutralize Koku without arousing suspicion highlights the sophistication and danger posed by these foes, who are linked to rival industrial interests. Despite the initial fright and the precarious position it places him in, Tom's quick thinking and resilience shine through as he navigates the situation, understanding the gravity of the threats against him and his work.

The chapter concludes with Tom taking more stringent security measures, underscoring the narrative of espionage and industrial sabotage that runs through the story. His decision to employ a bodyguard and investigate further into the identity and motives of the encroaching spy amplifies the stakes, as it becomes evident that the battle for supremacy in technological advancements is fraught with peril beyond the confines of innovation and creativity. This chapter, thus, sets a darker tone for the challenges Tom Swift must overcome in his journey, emphasizing the constant vigilance required to protect one's intellectual and physical assets in a rapidly evolving world.

## **CHAPTER X -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

Mr. Wakefield Damon, a friend of Tom Swift and an enthusiast for inventions, frequently visits the Swift's workshops, keenly interested in Tom's latest project—an electric locomotive designed to surpass any in the market. Damon reminisces about his past experiences with Tom's inventions, humorously noting their effectiveness, including an instance where an electric fence efficiently dealt with nuisance cats. Tom discusses technical details of the locomotive, aiming for a groundbreaking forty-four hundred horsepower output, driven by direct-current and boasting twelve driving wheels for unparalleled speed and power.

Ned Newton and Mr. Damon express their unwavering faith in Tom's endeavor, contrasting it with existing patents and forecasting its success even in its unfinished state. Tom's commitment to the project is clear, working in secrecy to ensure the innovative aspects of his locomotive remain confidential. The workshop buzzes with speculation and anticipation as Tom and his team assemble the massive machine, stirring interest within the community and beyond. The narrative subtly hints at external scrutiny, with competitors and observers closely watching Tom's progress.

The chapter takes a turn as Ned Newton, handling financial errands for the Swift Company, overhears a suspicious conversation in a bank, mentioning an "invention" and an ominous "good-night" to it in five hours. This snippet, although seemingly disconnected, stirs Ned's concern, connecting it potentially to Tom's electric locomotive project. The stage is set for intrigue, combining technological ambition with elements of mystery and potential sabotage, highlighting the broader impacts and interests Tom's inventions garner from various quarters.

## **CHAPTER XI - Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

As Tom Swift neared the completion of his groundbreaking electric locomotive, his attention turned to the intricate task of setting up its electrical equipment. Weighing nearly two hundred thousand pounds, with the total weight of the locomotive reaching a staggering two hundred and eighty-five tons when fully equipped, the vehicle was a true behemoth. Wrestling with the logistics of ensuring sufficient power supply from the Shopton Electric Company, Tom estimated a demand of forty-four hundred horsepower, necessitating a robust three-thousand-volt direct-current for optimal operation.

With the heavy lifting of integrating the electrical components behind him, Tom, dressed in his workman's overalls, concentrated on the finer aspects of the installation. The electrical locomotive, unlike its steam-powered predecessors, had a distinctly modern aesthetic with all its machinery encased, presenting an uncluttered silhouette akin to a box car. Standing amidst the towering driving wheels and beneath the streamlined body of the locomotive, Tom was momentarily distracted by a ticking sound, reminiscent of a watch or a death-watch beetle, emanating from within the vehicle.

Curious and slightly alarmed by the mysterious noise, Tom discovered a bundle of overalls shoved near the locomotive's motors, dismissing it initially as an oversight by the workmen. However, the situation took a dramatic turn when Ned Newton and Rad Sampson burst into the scene, the latter frantically warning of a bomb threat. With the workshop plunged into sudden chaos, Tom's father, with his extensive experience in mechanical and chemical mysteries, quickly deduced the ticking to be an ominous sign of danger, likely indicating a time bomb concealed among the locomotive's components.

Reacting with a blend of urgency and calmness that characterizes true inventiveness, Tom, understanding the gravity of the situation, bravely retrieved the ticking bundle. With an expert toss, he submerged it into a barrel of water, a simple yet effective method to neutralize the potential threat, sparing the workshop and all present from imminent disaster. This act, amidst the tension of innovation and the shadow of sabotage, showcased not just Tom's technical acumen but also his presence of mind and courage under fire, embodying the spirit of adventure and the relentless pursuit of progress that define his endeavors.

## **CHAPTER XII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

The excitement and tension surrounding Tom Swift's electric locomotive increased as the try-out day approached. After Ned Newton shared his alarming discovery of a deliberate attempt to sabotage the locomotive with explosives, Tom, his father, and Ned delved into investigating the incident. They quickly deduced that the attempt likely stemmed from O'Malley, aiming to thwart Mr. Bartholomew and the H. & P. A. railroad rather than directly targeting the Swift Construction Company. The focus then shifted to tightening security around the construction site, notably by enhancing the stockade's defenses with a potentially electrified copper wire to prevent further sabotage attempts.

Despite steps to fortify the site and a keen focus on completing the locomotive, the cost of these preparations worried Ned Newton due to the financial strain they imposed on the Swift Company. Nonetheless, Tom was unwavering in his commitment, emphasizing the necessity of simulating real-world conditions for the locomotive's trial. This entailed establishing a system capable of converting and reducing a 100,000-volt alternating current received at the newly built station to a 3,000-volt direct current specifically for the locomotive's operation, aligning with the conditions it would face on the Hendrickton & Pas Alos line.

The meticulous plan for the electric locomotive extended beyond its internal mechanisms. Tom also had to consider the physical infrastructure for the trial, leading to the construction of a two-mile track within the stockade, equipped with an advanced overhead trolley system. This setup required substantial investment, much to the chagrin of Ned, who monitored the escalating expenses with caution. Despite the risk and the high stakes involved, Tom's resolve remained firm, driven by a blend of innovation ambition and a determination to outdo the competition, symbolized by the "Jandels."

As the chapter closes, the advanced nature of Tom's project is evident—not only in the ambitious engineering efforts to create a cutting-edge electric locomotive but also in the strategic measures taken to protect the invention from sabotage. The seamless blend of technical detail, suspense, and determination sets a robust foundation for the try-out day, promising a showdown not just of technological prowess but also of Tom's resilience against external threats and internal challenges.

## **CHAPTER XIII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XIII of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Hopes and Fears," Tom Swift presents his latest invention, the Hercules 0001, an electric locomotive, to an eager and curious crowd. The locomotive, a significant feat of engineering, stretches over ninety feet in length and boasts a unique design with high windows and a locked pantagraph that adds height. This chapter captures the moment Tom unveils the locomotive, conducting its initial yard track test, which generates a mix of admiration and anticipation from the spectators and his close friends and family.

As Tom maneuvers the Hercules 0001 around the track, demonstrating its ability to move but not yet at its full potential speed, the crowd, including Ned, Mr. Damon, and Mr. Barton Swift, showers him with praise. However, Mary senses Tom's dissatisfaction, a sentiment that Tom acknowledges. He admits that while the locomotive 'do move,' achieving the desired speed is another matter entirely. Revealing his aim for unprecedented speed, Tom highlights a technical hiccup with the power-feed mechanism, which needs refinement for optimal performance and to prevent electrical discharges during sharp turns.

Tom's revelation about needing a twin conductor trolley system for smoother power collection without 'fireworks' showcases his meticulous attention to detail and dedication to innovation. Despite the initial successful display, Tom confides in Mary and Ned his concerns about achieving the groundbreaking speed he envisions, which is crucial not only to fulfill his contract but also to revolutionize freight transportation. The

Hercules 0001, while compact and potent, must meet Tom's ambitious goal of two miles a minute—a speed he believes is not just a dream but an imminent reality in the realm of human achievement.

The chapter concludes with Tom, buoyed by the faith of his friends and his own unwavering determination, reaffirming his goal. He acknowledges the challenges ahead but is resolute in pushing the boundaries of what is possible, embodying the spirit of innovation and the relentless pursuit of progress.

## **CHAPTER XIV -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XIV of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Speed," four months have elapsed since Tom Swift signed a contract to enhance the Hendrickton & Pas Alos Railroad using his innovative electric locomotive, the Hercules 0001. Despite the disappearance of the saboteur, Andy O'Malley, hired by the antagonist Montagne Lewis, Tom remains wary of potential threats. He employs safety measures around the Swift Construction Company's premises, where development and testing of the Hercules 0001 are ongoing.

Rad, a loyal but envious associate of Tom, believes his assistance is crucial for the locomotive's success. Though aged, Rad insists on accompanying Tom to the West for final testing, a notion Tom gently refutes, considering Rad's age and opting for Koku's company instead. Mr. Damon, another of Tom's companions, expresses his desire to witness the locomotive's final test, underscoring his own commitment despite other personal interests.

Most of the chapter focuses on Tom's challenge: achieving a maximum speed of two miles a minute—a goal he believes is attainable but technically unproven due to limitations at the Shopton testing site. Conversations with his financial manager, Ned Newton, reflect Tom's determination to confirm the locomotive's capabilities before its ultimate trial on the Hendrickton & Pas Alos tracks. Although theoretical calculations support the Hercules 0001's potential, its practical performance remains uncertain, with Tom planning a secretive, high-current test to push its limits, albeit with precautions against derailment.

Meanwhile, unresolved concerns linger about the failures of a private detective agency to track O'Malley and another suspect, leading Tom and Ned to doubt the agency's competence and ultimately to rely more on physical security measures to protect the invention. The chapter closes with anticipation of a crucial night test that Tom regards as a decisive moment for his project, underlined by a mix of optimism and apprehension about the endeavor's outcome, and a continued vigilance against sabotage.

## **CHAPTER XV -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XV of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," the scene unfolds on a dark, starless night, where Ned Newton, dressed discreetly, ventures into the Swift Construction Company's yard. His suspicions rise when he spots a flicker of light outside the secure fence. Worried about a potential saboteur recalling past attempts to damage the Hercules 0001 locomotive, Ned stealthily moves closer, unseen under the cloak of shadows.

Amidst his vigil, the silence is shattered by the Hercules 0001's sudden test run, its blazing headlights sweeping the yard. In this moment, Ned spots a figure climbing the fence using a notched pole. Initially fearing an explosive attack, Ned's concern grows as the trespasser seems to be tampering with the fence's wiring. The locomotive's thunderous pass temporarily paralyzes him with its force and speed.

Reacting to the imminent danger, Ned screams a warning as the intruder, fiddling with the wires, is engulfed in electric shocks from a botched attempt to cut through them. The sparks and screams draw the attention of Tom Swift, the locomotive's inventor, and others to the scene.



The intruder, identified as Joe Myrick, a detective from Blatz Detective Agency, is caught in his malicious act. Despite his protest and threats to invoke the law, his nefarious intent is clear. Found with an oil can, likely meant to sabotage or cause damage to the locomotive, Myrick faces the immediate consequence of his actions.

Needing to understand Myrick's motives and the involvement of the Blatz Agency fully, Tom decides to call the police, ensuring the safeguarding of his invention and the worksite. This chapter intensifies the narrative, blending elements of suspense, adventure, and technological innovation, highlighting the ongoing challenges Tom faces from external threats to his creations.

## **CHAPTER XVI -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XVI of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Off for the West," Tom Swift deals with the aftermath of Joe Myrick's betrayal. Myrick, previously an operative for the Blatz Detective Agency, was caught spying on Tom and possessing explosives intended to sabotage Tom's electric locomotive project. Despite Blatz's insistence that Myrick acted alone and without the agency's knowledge, Tom remains skeptical but decides to move forward with his plans.

As Tom prepares to transport his invention, the Hercules 0001, to the West for a major job with the H. & P. A. railroad, he takes extensive security measures due to potential threats against the locomotive. He entrusts Koku, his loyal and strong assistant, with guarding the locomotive during its transport. Koku is locked inside the locomotive's cab with food and a cot, though unarmed, as Tom relies on his strength rather than weaponry for protection.

The departure for the West is bittersweet, with Tom's girlfriend, Mary Nestor, and his father coming to see him and his friend Ned Newton off. Mary expresses her concerns for Tom's safety given the previous attempts on his invention and his life. Tom reassures her, reminding her of the precautions he's taken, including relying on Koku and the promise that Mr. Damon, another ally, will soon join them.

The chapter also touches on Tom's conviction that Andy O'Malley, a known desperado and part of the attempts to ruin Tom's project, will not make a move against him personally. He believes the threat to his locomotive is more pressing than any direct physical danger to himself.

The chapter concludes with Tom and Ned boarding the train to Hendrickton, leaving behind worried but supportive loved ones. As they embark, Tom receives a telegram confirming that the Hercules 0001, along with Koku, has safely reached its first stop. This moment underscores Tom's innovative approach to ensuring his project's security and his determination to succeed despite opposition.

This chapter sets the stage for Tom's and Ned's journey into what they perceive as "enemy territory," filled with both anticipation for their project and caution against the dangers posed by their adversaries. Tom's confidence and meticulous planning highlight his character as an inventor determined to protect his creation and bring it to success.

## **CHAPTER XVII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

Tom Swift and his friend Ned were initially content with their journey, having received reassuring updates about the safety of Tom's electric locomotive, the Hercules 0001. Even with a minor concern about Koku, their exotic companion, who the railway crew found puzzling, the duo remained undisturbed. However, their peaceful travel was abruptly interrupted near Hendrickton when their train was halted due to a freight train wreck ahead. This freight train, Number Forty-eight, had derailed and caused significant disruption, but their

immediate concern was for the Hercules 0001, which was part of the derailed convoy.

Rushing to the scene at dawn, Tom and Ned discovered the wreck's extent and quickly sought out the Hercules 0001. To their relief, the electric locomotive was undamaged, upright on the tracks, near the front of the train. A railroad worker warned them of a "savage" onboard, referring humorously to Koku, who was safeguarding the locomotive. The young inventor reassured the giant Koku, who was impatiently waiting inside the cab, indicating their venture was still on track despite the incident.

In the aftermath, while assessing the situation, Tom and Ned's attention was drawn to a distinguished-looking man inquiring anxiously about a missing individual, O'Malley. This conversation piqued their interest, recalling O'Malley's link to corporate espionage connected with Tom's inventions. The chapter closes on their realization of O'Malley's disappearance from the scene, adding a layer of intrigue and concern regarding potential industrial sabotage beneath the surface of an accidental train wreck. This incident not only highlighted the vulnerabilities in transporting valuable inventions but also foreshadowed the complexities of corporate competition and espionage that Tom and Ned would have to navigate.

## **CHAPTER XVIII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XVIII of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "On the Hendrickton & Pas Alos," Tom Swift and his friend Ned Newton face the aftermath of a train wreck that delayed their transcontinental journey by three hours. The wreck had nearly jeopardized the safety of Tom's revolutionary electric locomotive, Hercules 0001, but fortunately, it remained unscathed. Suspiciously present at the accident site were Andy O'Malley and Montagne Lewis, the latter being an antagonist who had previously targeted Tom's invention.

Tom speculates that O'Malley, upon noticing Tom and Ned, likely fled to avoid detection, given his malicious intentions towards the locomotive. The chapter delves into the characters' concerns over the safety of the Hercules 0001, highlighting the tangible threat posed by Lewis and his henchmen.

Upon their arrival at the Hendrickton terminal, Tom and Ned are warmly received by Mr. Richard Bartholomew, the president of the H. & P. A. Railroad, who is keenly interested in the potential of the electric locomotive to revolutionize rail travel by achieving unprecedented speeds. Bartholomew intimates trust in Tom's genius but expresses his eagerness to see the locomotive's capabilities firsthand.

Tom details the challenges he faces, underscoring the ambitious goal of driving the locomotive at two miles a minute, a feat unheard of in railroad history. The focus shifts to the intricate balance between innovation and practical application, with Tom eager to prove the worth of his invention under real-world conditions.

The narrative follows Tom, Ned, and Koku, Tom's loyal giant companion, as they prepare the Hercules 0001 for rigorous testing on the H. & P. A.'s tracks. Koku's comic relief contrasts with the technical discussions and the looming pressure of achieving high speeds. The chapter emphasizes the complexity of innovation in the face of skepticism, the camaraderie amongst the characters, and their shared hope for the locomotive's success.

As testing commences, the reader is taken through the meticulous preparations and the collaborative spirit between Tom and the railroad staff, all while facing the dual challenges of technological breakthroughs and the machinations of adversaries. The tests aim not only to showcase the locomotive's speed but also to demonstrate its ability to handle demanding rail conditions, particularly the challenging Pas Alos Range.

The chapter concludes with a mix of anticipation and uncertainty as Tom endeavors to balance his visionary ambitions with the practicalities of railroading, underscoring the broader theme of innovation's potential to transcend existing boundaries, albeit not without overcoming formidable obstacles.

## **CHAPTER XIX -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XIX of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Peril, The Mother of Invention," the narrative unfolds amidst high stakes as Tom Swift and his companion Ned Newton find themselves aboard the Hercules 0001, an electric locomotive careening uncontrolled down a mountain slope. Tom's initial relief that they aren't hauling additional weight turns to dread as he realizes the locomotive's brakes are inoperable, and their speed is rapidly increasing. With the presence of a fast express train due to cross their path, the peril escalates, threatening not only Tom and Ned but also unsuspecting individuals on the approaching train and those within the vicinity of Hammon station at the mountain's base.

Tom's response to the crisis showcases his inventiveness and determination. As they descend, he signals madly to the operator at Half Way station, hoping to communicate their dire situation to prevent a catastrophic collision with the westbound express or anything else on the track leading to Hammon. Meanwhile, Tom is struck by an idea for a safety innovation inspired by the present danger—a concept he resolves to implement in future locomotives if they survive. This moment of crisis spurs Tom to consider not only the immediate danger but also the broader implications for rail safety and his responsibilities as an inventor.

The operator at Half Way station quickly grasps the severity of the situation upon seeing the runaway locomotive. Acting with commendable speed and clarity, he uses the telephone to alert Hammon to clear the tracks and avoid an impending disaster with the westbound express. This swift communication reflects a blend of personal initiative and procedural adherence critical in emergency scenarios.

Throughout this ordeal, Ned is overwhelmed by fear, contrasting Tom's focused action. The chapter's conclusion leaves readers in suspense regarding the outcome of this frantic race against time, emphasizing themes of technological innovation, human courage in the face of danger, and the unforeseen challenges that can arise from progress. Tom Swift's experience with the runaway locomotive serves as a stark reminder of the importance of foresight in engineering and the potential of crisis to inspire breakthroughs in safety and design.

## **CHAPTER XX -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XX of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," a near-catastrophe is averted thanks to quick thinking and modern technology. The fast express, No. 28, is delayed, and this delay, along with a warning from the Half Way operator, allows for preventive measures to be taken at Hammon station. Subsequently, Tom Swift's electric locomotive, the Hercules 0001, manages to keep on track despite a high-speed descent, evading disaster.

After the event, amidst the excitement and relief of the railway men, Ned Newton, Tom's companion, expresses his fear and reluctance to ever control such a powerful locomotive again. In contrast, Tom Swift is invigorated by the incident, seeing it as an inspiration for further innovation. He reveals to Ned that the thrill of danger has sparked a new idea in him: enhancing safety features for his locomotives, specifically, incorporating wireless telephones to allow locomotive engineers to send warnings of their accidents both up and down the track.

Tom's rationale is that although it's impossible to ensure a locomotive will never lose control, it is possible to better communicate such emergencies, reducing potential harm. He plans to equip each of his electric locomotives with wireless sets and to improve the design of brake controls to prevent similar mishaps.

Mr. Bartholomew, backing Tom's project, approves of the idea, recognizing the value in investing in these innovative safety measures. The chapter concludes with optimism for the future of Tom's invention, as preliminary tests indicate the Hercules 0001 not only meets but exceeds performance expectations, showing promise for revolutionizing rail transport.

This chapter encapsulates the essence of progress in the face of adversity, highlighting the importance of innovation and safety in the advancement of technology. The close shave with disaster becomes a catalyst for development, showcasing Tom Swift's resilience and inventive spirit.

## **CHAPTER XXI -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

"The switch! It is open!"

In the electrified world of the Hendrickton & Pas Alos Railroad, Tom Swift and his revolutionary electric locomotive, dubbed the Hercules Three-Oughts-One, were pushing the boundaries of railway innovation. Amidst the rivalry with the Hendrickton & Western, spearheaded by the shady figure Lewis and his henchmen, Tom, alongside his faithful friends Ned Newton and the giant Koku, plus the eccentric Mr. Damon, worked diligently to finalize the Herculean machine's capabilities.

Despite the looming threat of sabotage, particularly from a figure known as Andy O'Malley, the team steadfastly operated under the belief that their security measures and the watchful eyes of Mr. Bartholomew's police would thwart any potential interference. Yet, Ned maintained a healthy suspicion towards their rivals, especially the underhanded tactics of Lewis, reflecting the tense atmosphere surrounding their groundbreaking project.

Tom's dedication to perfecting every aspect of the Hercules Three-Oughts-One was unwavering. Each test, whether on level tracks or the challenging grades between Hammon and Cliff City, was approached with a mix of scientific rigor and the cautious optimism that had become Tom's hallmark. The inventor's methodical approach to innovation was further underscored by his strategic moves to protect their intellectual property, ensuring that every advancement was legally safeguarded against the competitive and sometimes predatory environment of railway entrepreneurship.

Amidst this backdrop of technological progress and industrial espionage, the Hercules Three-Oughts-One showcased its superior power and potential to revolutionize the way railroads operated. Test runs over steep grades and the successful hauling of heavy loads demonstrated not just the locomotive's raw power, but also Tom Swift's visionary prowess in the field of electrical engineering.

However, the shadow of danger never fully receded. A startling incident at a seemingly mundane switch point illustrated the precarious balance between triumph and catastrophe in the world of innovation. As the team prepared to celebrate their achievements, they were rudely reminded of the ever-present risks that came with challenging the status quo and pushing the limits of technology.

The open switch incident served as a climactic reminder that in the race towards progress, vigilance against both the seen and unseen threats was paramount. For Tom Swift and his allies, the journey was as much about navigating the perils of rivalry and sabotage as it was about engineering excellence and the pursuit of a brighter, electrified future for rail travel.

## **CHAPTER XXII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XXII of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "A Desperate Chase," a high-stakes pursuit ensues involving Tom Swift, his giant companion Koku, and the suspected saboteur, Andy O'Malley. The chapter opens with Tom and his companions experiencing a perilous moment as their electric locomotive unexpectedly diverts onto a siding due to an open switch, leading to a distressing but controlled crash. This event, fraught with danger, threatens not only the integrity of Tom's innovative creation and potential financial losses but also poses a significant risk of derailment or collision.

As Tom manages the locomotive's sudden and hazardous stop, his attention quickly shifts to the chase outside, where Koku is pursuing a fleeing figure across the terrain. Believing the figure to be Andy O'Malley, a spy for Montagne Lewis and a formidable adversary to Tom's ventures, the urgency to capture him intensifies. With the locomotive momentarily secured, Tom and his friend Ned Newton set off to assist Koku in the manhunt, navigating the challenging landscape with determination.

The tension escalates as Tom, driven by the imperative to safeguard his invention from sabotage and to prevent further espionage by O'Malley, endeavors to catch up with Koku and ensure the capture is executed without causing permanent harm to the suspect. Despite the complex emotions and the physical toll of the chase, the primary objective remains clear: stop O'Malley and protect Tom's electric locomotive project from any further threats.

Through their frantic pursuit, the chapter illustrates not only the technical challenges and dangers associated with groundbreaking inventions but also underscores the lengths to which Tom Swift is willing to go to defend his work against malfeasance. This chapter is a vivid portrayal of ingenuity, companionship, and the ceaseless quest for innovation in the face of adversity.

## **CHAPTER XXIII -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XXIII of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," Mr. Wakefield Damon exhibits notable bravery and quick thinking after their locomotive, the Hercules 0001, collides with a bumper at the end of a timber siding. The collision causes significant damage to the front end of the locomotive, particularly to the pilot or cow-catcher. As Mr. Damon assesses the damage, a group of men, led by a bullying figure with a dyed mustache named Montagne Lewis, approaches him demanding to know the whereabouts of Tom Swift.

Determined to protect Tom's invention and unaware of Tom and Ned's location, Mr. Damon retreats to the cab of the locomotive, refusing entry to the menacing visitors. Despite their threats and attempts to board the locomotive, Mr. Damon successfully fends off the leader with an ammonia pistol invented by Tom Swift. The situation escalates as Montagne Lewis, blinded temporarily by the ammonia spray, orders his gang to break into the cab. However, their attention shifts when they hear the whistle of an oncoming freight train, realizing it could cause further destruction to the electric locomotive due to an open switch on the track.

In a turn of malicious strategy, Lewis and his gang decide to allow the approaching freight, loaded with empties and traveling at high speed, to crash into the siding where the electric locomotive sits, hoping it will do more damage than they could themselves. The chapter closes with the freight train unknowingly headed towards the site of the derailment, and a crucial detail emerges: the communication breakdown that has prevented the Cliff City yardmaster from being alerted to the Hercules 0001's predicament due to an incomplete installation of Tom's new telephone system.

## **CHAPTER XXIV -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XXIV of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Putting the Enemy to Flight," a dramatic confrontation unfolds. As a freight train approaches a critical switch, the danger is initially unnoticed by its engineer due to the deceitful setup orchestrated by Montagne Lewis and his gang, aiming to destroy Tom Swift's electric locomotive, Hercules 0001, which is safely on a siding. The peril becomes apparent when Tom, having observed the situation from a higher vantage point, rushes to intervene, shouting warnings.

The appearance of Tom Swift, followed closely by his giant companion Koku, carrying the limp form of a saboteur, strikes fear into Lewis's hired miscreants. They retreat into the woods, abandoning Lewis to face the consequences alone. Amidst ammonia-induced confusion and threats, Tom manages to avert disaster by swiftly adjusting the switch, allowing the freight train to pass safely—actions observed with gratitude by the freight train's engineer.

Facing the aftermath, Tom confronts Montagne Lewis, promising exposure and justice for his crimes. Koku detains Lewis, who is rendered powerless, and he, along with his chief accomplice O'Malley, becomes restrained inside the electric locomotive. Subsequent efforts by Tom and his team ensure the locomotive's operational integrity, despite prior damages.

As the chapter concludes, the narrative reflects on the broader implications of the event: the foiling of Lewis's sabotage presents a significant victory for Tom Swift and his electric locomotive, which triumphs both technologically and morally against its adversaries. The chapter captures themes of ingenuity, bravery, and righteousness prevailing against corruption and malevolence, set within the exhilarating context of early 20th-century railway innovation.

## **CHAPTER XXV -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive**

In Chapter XXV of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," titled "Speed and Success," the characters experience the thrilling capabilities of Tom Swift's invention, the Hercules 0001, an electric locomotive. This test run garners excitement and satisfaction among the characters, including Mr. Damon and Mr. Bartholomew, the president of the Hendrickton & Pas Alos Railroad, due to the impressive speed and power demonstrated over the test route.

The chapter elaborates on the journey, highlighting the locomotive's performance and the reactions of various characters to its speed and efficiency. Notably, the locomotive successfully hauls a freight over challenging terrains, including the Pas Alos Range and the mountain to Hammon, at unprecedented speeds, showcasing its superiority over traditional steam engines. The test proves the electric locomotive's potential to revolutionize rail transport, fulfilling Bartholomew's expectations and earning the Swift Construction Company a lucrative contract for the production of more units.

The narrative also touches on personal moments among the characters. Tom Swift is reunited with his father, Barton Swift, who had to be convinced of the locomotive's merits before endorsing the new contract. Furthermore, Mary Nestor's appearance introduces a heartwarming element, displaying her affection for Tom and concern for his safety.

By the chapter's conclusion, Tom's invention is not only acknowledged as a commercial success but also as a significant advancement in the field of transportation. It marks a leap towards the "Age of Speed" in commercial rails, positioning Tom Swift as a pivotal figure in engineering and innovation. The personal interactions and professional achievements interwoven throughout the chapter underscore the intertwining of human elements with technological progress, highlighting the broader impacts of Tom's work on personal relationships and societal advancement.