

THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE SUMMER

Anne, Cathy and Tom had gone camping to the beach the first night of the summer, as they had finished the school and they wanted to celebrate the beginning of the holidays. After preparing the tent and the sleeping bags, they made a campfire to warm their hands, and they took advantage of it and started telling some amazing but frightening tales. It was Cathy's turn:

- During the 1685 people lived in the golden age of the maritime piracy, what resulted in fear and poverty for the citizens of this village, as well as in many places. Pirates arrived at this exact beach, docked their ships and stole everything that shone. However, the peasants that lived near the beach were fed up of living afraid, and they decided to change the situation: the first night of the summer, they saw a pirate ship, and they went with their rowboats and circled the ship. They were so small that the pirates didn't even notice what was going on. They started perforating the surface of the wooden ship, so it started sinking slowly but in a menacing way. The legend says that after that, people started looking for the rests of the wreck, but they didn't find neither the ship nor the pirates. Nevertheless, every first night of summer a pirate ship is seen in the distance, and the people of the town say that it's the pirates from the 1685, that are looking for revenge and that try to come to this beach in order to steal again all the valuable objects that they find.
- I've never heard of that legend – Anne commented a moment later, thoughtful.
- I don't believe it – Tom replicated –. This kind of legends only try to frighten children so that they don't go to the beach during night.

After a long discussion debating whether the story was true or not, the three friends decided to look for the pirate ship, as it was the first night of the summer that day. Anne's father was a fisherman, and he had an old rowboat. There wasn't pretty much anything to do during summer there, so Anne always went with his father fishing during the hottest days. Due to that, she knew every essential tip to be safe in the middle of the sea.

They went to Anne's house and, with as much discretion as they could, they went to the small shed that was communicated with her home and borrowed the small boat. It was made of wood, so it wasn't too heavy and they could carry it to the beach. After packing their things, they got on the rowboat and left. After a couple of hours, they didn't see anything, and they started to get bored, but when they were about to go back to the beach, Tom saw something far away.

- Look! What is that?

The three friends rowed in that direction, and when they got closer, they saw it properly: it was a huge wooden ship, and time had faded its gold colour, so now the enormous boat had an ancient aspect. They were too amazed to react, but when their eyes finally believed what was in front of them, they started talking excitedly. After a long talk, they decided to enter the boat.

- We shouldn't enter. It's too dangerous. If the legend is true, imagine what kind of things we could find! – Cathy protested.
- I still don't believe it; this must be a coincidence – Tom replied.
- Come on, let's hurry. If we don't enter now, we won't be able to see if this story is true. There are only two hours left for midnight and, if the legend is true, the ship will disappear by then – Anne said.

They saw a metallic ladder, so they climbed it and arrived at the prow. There was a dense fog, and they could see barely. They turned on some lanterns that they had and started inspecting the ship. There was dust everywhere. After having a look, they were amazed. The last place that they saw was the captain's cabin. Anne lighted the door, that was made of wood and with a broken window. However, when she touched doorknob, she heard a scream. It was Cathy. She had decided to stay in the prow because she was afraid of walking around the ship.

Anne ran as fast as she could to see what happened. When she arrived, Cathy wasn't there anymore. With Tom, they looked in her father's rowboat, where she was hiding.

- Cathy, what's the matter? – Tom asked.
- I saw it! It was horrible! – She answered.

- What did you see? – Anne inquired
- I saw the ghost of the captain. I saw a shadow, and it wasn't neither Tom's nor yours'. What else could it be?
- I think you are being too dramatic – Tom said downplaying the situation.
- It's true! I know what I saw – she said angrily.

They were discussing it when Anne pointed at the ship. They all stopped arguing and looked at what her finger was indicating. The three friends saw a shadow moving incredibly fast, and the energy that they had left from screaming was inverted in rowing as fast as they could to the coast. When they arrived, they were so tired that they fall asleep in the same moment that they laid on the sand.

They woke up at the break of the dawn and, after a long night resting and thinking about the events occurred, they started commenting them excitedly. They finally decided that the best option was telling it to their parents and asking for their opinions.

They went to Anne's home and told everything that had happened the night before. Of course, Anne's parents didn't believe their story, and Anne's father was very angry, because with the fright of the last night they forgot to return the rowboat to the shed, and the current had taken it away.

- Don't be so tough. The rowboat was too old, and we would have thrown it anyways. And, also, it's possible that you – Anne's mother stopped talking to her husband to talk to the three teenagers – saw a boat. In fact, there is a village near this one, and one businessman that has come to spend the summer there has a big ship. I've heard that he is looking for it because he docked it wrong and the current took it away. However, it's very strange that you saw a shadow, you must have confused.

Anne's mother knew everything that happened in the village, and the friends started thinking that her story was reasonable and believable. Nevertheless, deep in their thoughts they knew that something strange happened that night, and no explanation would say what was the thing that they saw and if Cathy's legend was true or not. However, one thing was clear: they would never forget that first night of the summer, and now they would be less reluctant concerning

ancient legends.