

The worst adventure

“Tom, wake up! It’s time to go to school!”

“Ugh! Shut up! I want to sleep!” SLAP! Her big, fat, old hand slapped my cheek.

“Ouch! Why did you slap my cheek?!”

“Because of how you replied! When I was your age, if I didn’t listen immediately to my parents, your grandma and grandpa, I had to work in fields for all day long under the sun, or even under the snow or the rain!

“Yes auntie, but it’s been fifty years and society has drastically changed!”

I didn’t have to say that, since aunt Polly gave me another slap. At that point, I was finally awake. I dressed up, ate breakfast and walked to school, as every normal day. On the way, I met my best friend, Huckleberry Finn. “Hi Tom! Good morning! Where are you going?” He probably already knew it. “As usual... to school.” I answered sadly. “Boring! You should know how fun it is to just have fun all day long! Hey, why don’t we plan to have an escape? We can go to Jackson Island and build a little shelter. Oh Tom, it’s going to be so beautiful!” His voice was a bit...mechanical? I trusted him anyway, though. He’s my best friend, isn’t he? “I don’t know... aunt Polly will be so angry! What if she doesn’t let me play anymore?” I remembered that morning’s slap and how much it hurt. I really didn’t want to have another slap like that, ouch! “Well, that’s what will happen if you come back to her! If you won’t, she’s not going to do that.” He had a shrewd expression on his face. He’s definitely different than usual. “But we need food... And we don’t have any!” I’m wiser than him. I wanted to see how he was going to answer. “I found my dad’s old shotgun... we can hunt some ducks and drink river water. Are you in?” He was crazy, but his offer was so fulfilling...and I love ducks too! Okay, I made my mind up. If we stood together we were able to survive. “Yes, I’m looking forward to!” What could go wrong anyway?

“Yay, let’s go!” He started to march his way to Jackson Island, when I realised that both mine and his clothes were a lot classier and more expensive than usual. That was strange because we were both poor, but it wasn’t a bad thing, and I needed some new clothes, anyway. I followed him and started looking around and I saw that the sun was... smiling at me? It had a pleasant ‘face’ and it started talking to me: “Hi, Tom. It’s a really beautiful day, isn’t it?” His voice was vibrant but low. “Yes... I guess so...” I was really scared: what was happening? The clouds started laughing and scribbling down something. Then they kept those pieces of paper and small droplets came down holding those. They dropped them in order, creating a new sentence:

“You look stunning today, Tom!” Then, the drops fell into a pond, reflecting my face. My face looked like a model’s and my hair was a lot shinier and neater than usual. “Woah! Thanks for the compliment. And well, you’re right, I am stunning.” That day was weird and I should have been way more worried. But with those new clothes and appearances... I really couldn’t feel anything except happiness and boldness! Then, cherry on top, Becky walked to me in a slow, romantic stride and violently kissed my whole face. I had my cheeks and forehead marked by her lip tint but before realising that, she stared at me and she kissed me again, but this time directly on my lips. Butterflies in my stomach started flying around and around to the rhythm of her heart beats. Sometimes I just want to steal it from her chest. She’s the prettiest, the nicest, the best girl in St. Petersburg. “Oh, Tom! You’re so gorgeous and it hurts, do you want to marry me?” “Yes! And you’re... really pretty too!” My eyes fell on her blonde, long braid, and on her clean, pink dress, the same colour as her rose lips. “I’ve actually always wanted you to be mine and now my dream became true! Oh, Becky: It’s the best day ever!” She smiled at me. We met not long time ago, and our love was already so strong. Was I blushing then? Yes, I probably had my cheeks looking like a red tomato. Suddenly my head started hurting and the next thing I knew was that we were in a church. She was wearing a beautiful white wedding dress, and I was wearing an elegant blue smoking with a pansy on my breast pocket. It was the same pansy she gave me a lot of time ago. There was a priest, with a Bible in the hands. We were really getting married! That was impossible. I am just eleven years old! I was happy but...we can’t get married at only eleven, that felt extremely wrong even to me! I didn’t even know if I really loved her anymore. After making this thought, I teleported back to Jackson Island and there was Huck in front of me. Everything was back normal: the sun and clouds weren’t... *alive*, our clothes were the habitual ones, exactly like my face. Phew! I didn’t like that sinister dream...

But then something strange happened: some snakes came out from Huck’s mouth! “Huck, what the hell!” “This is ssssssssstrange, don’t you tttttthink sssssso?” “Yes, I obviously do!” “Wellsssssss...” He came towards me, and I was terrified. At that precise moment, the snakes went away, and I calmed down. “Tom, how about taking a boat and starting travel the world?” “Yeah, Jackson Island is getting me crazy!” We jumped on the boat and started navigating on the Mississippi. I saw an ocean blue aura coming from far away, and it was coming towards us quickly, and it kind of hugged all the surfaces it touched. And then... I was flying! Huck wasn’t with me, and I was in the middle of the universe! I saw lots of gigantic and colourful clouds around me and, when I tried to touch them, a portal opened. I could see something azure inside of it... but I couldn’t see it really well. I starting sort of ‘swimming’ in

the universe and I started touching as many “clouds” as I could and new, different portals opened. I decided to get inside of the first one I opened. After entering it, and I teleported in the same boat as before with Huck, but this time it wasn’t on the Mississippi. It was in the Pacific Ocean! It was crazy and impossible! I started to be suspicious, but I ignored that feeling again. We kept rowing with energy and after a few hours we were in the Indian Ocean. I was resigned about all that strangers. We went down the boat and a group of Indians came towards us. They took me and Huck disappeared. They blinded me and put me on a wagon to a hidden building inside the woods. Then, they put some sleeping pills in a glass of water and made me drink it. When I woke up I was hung on a pole, and they started asking me questions, but I didn’t understand them as I don’t know Indian. Suddenly aunt Polly arrived, and I wasn’t surprised anymore. “Go away!” She said angrily to those men. Frightened, the Indians ran away. “Oh Tom, you thought you could escape from me, didn’t you? You will pay for what you did!” Then I heard a boy laughing from behind me. “Yes! And we’ll make sure that you’ll feel really guilty!” Huck! He just betrayed me!

“What a traitor! I thought you were my best friend!” Becky arrived too, I honestly didn’t know what to expect anymore. “And you thought that I was your girl too? I hate you, and after kissing you I got diarrhoea!” Eww... I thought girls were too sophisticated to go potty. Or at least her! “Yeah honey, and tell Tom what you did afterwards!” Becky started laughing.

“I got divorce papers and married Huck. And we kissed ten times more than I did with you!”...And I also thought she was too loyal to cheat on somebody! “What?! Why would anybody do that to me? I’m just a poor boy!” Then some men took my arms and legs. They were walking away in the same direction the wagon walked in...they were getting back to the beach! “I expected more from you, Tom” said Aunt Polly, with grudge.

Then those men threw me in the huge, blue, Indian Ocean.

WOAH! It felt like choking. So is that what death was like? No, luckily not. I heard aunt Polly screaming: “Tom, wake up dear!”. I woke up in my bed. I was sweating, my pants were wet, and my heart was beating faster than it ever did. I immediately realized that it was all a dream. Thanks God! I calmed down, I dressed up and I went downstairs. Aunt Polly was there, making breakfast, and she was smiling. “Did you sleep well?” It felt strange hearing her happy voice, after she almost killed me. I swore that I still felt sea water in my throat and those men grip on my arms and legs. That was really painful. “Tom, can you hear me? I asked you if you had a good night.” “Y-yes. Well, almost.” “Oookay... But Tom, you look really hungry, here, eat some bread!” I took that piece of bread, and I put some butter on it. It was delicious. “You woke up on time for the first time, you finally achieved that goal! I’m glad of that! You’re

growing up, Tom! What a handsome young man you will be!” “Yes, I hope so too.” Sid entered the kitchen, almost asleep. “Ugh, hi Tom!” He said so really annoyed... as usual. That means that I’m not dreaming! I left the house, and out of the school, I met Huck. Like in the dream, and as usual...“Hi Tom! You’re really going to school? Boring! You should know how fun it is to just have fun all day long! Hey, why don’t we plan to have an esc...” I slapped his face. “No! Now just shut your mouth and let me go to school!” I smiled and walked in.