

## The Worst Cruise Ever

By: Paige E.

The fresh, salty air blew Jenny's brown hair into her face as she watched her twin, Jack, cannonball into the pool. It was in the middle of June, but Jack and Jenny couldn't enjoy their summer. They had no say when their parents decided to leave them alone on this cruise ship that's sailing in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

"Come on, Jenny!" Jack laughed as he splashed around the pool. Jenny rolled her eyes and turned away to watch the sun set. *Ugh.* She thought. *Boys. Why do I have to be here? What're mom and dad doing? Why...?* She was so lost in thought that she didn't see Jack sneaking towards her. "Boo!" Someone yelled in her ear. "Ahh!" She screamed then turned and found Jack slowly backing away with a sly smile on his face. "Jack!!" She yelled then ran after him. "Get back here!" They ran all around the ship until Jack came to a sudden halt. "Woah" Jenny exclaimed almost crashing into him. "Umm...Jack...?" Shh," Jack whispered. "I think I hear something." Jenny gulped. "What?" She asked. Just as Jack was about to answer, a shadow slowly crept close. "Ja..." She started but then there was a sharp pain in her head then the world went black.

Jenny awakens in a small room that she assumes is a closet. *Where am I?* She thought. She looks around and finds a bobby pin lying on the ground. "Huh. This might help." She picks it up then inserts it into the lock. Right when she thought she got it, the whole ship jolted forward. "Whoa!" Jenny cried as she fell on her hands. Water started pouring in the room. Jenny frantically searched for the bobby pin. "Got it." She tried the lock again but this time it clicked. Yes. She sighed with relief. She stood up then splashed out of the room. "Jack!" She cries. "Jack! JACK!" She hears a muffled noise and follows it to a locked door. She uses her bobby pin to unlock it. CLICK. "JACK!" She reached down and yanked him up. "Come on, we HAVE to get out of here!" The water was now up to her knees. After what seems like forever, they get back to main deck. "Now what?" Jenny asks, fear in her eyes. "There's no rafts." Jack starts to reply but stops when he hears something. "Help! Did you hear that?" Jenny nods. "This way." She leads the way to the noise with Jack one step behind her. "Hel..." After a while, they

arrive at the source of the noise, the water now up to their waist. A little girl with pale skin, closed eyes, and dark, black hair was lying on top of a small chest, looking as if she collapsed. Jack picked up the girl and with the help of Jenny, they carried her to the edge of the ship. Jenny glanced around the ship and found a rack with two life vests left. "Look." Jenny ran over to the rack and took them both. She came back and strapped one on to the girl and then handed the other to Jack. "You take it. I can swim without it." Jack reluctantly agreed. He strapped it on then took the girl and hopped off. SPLASH! Jenny took a deep breath then leaped off, as well. SPLASH!

Water. Water was everywhere. Jenny tried to open her eyes but it stung. Her lungs screamed for air. Jenny searched for somewhere to go but found nothing except the sinking ship. *So much for a nice cruise.* She thought. She swam far away from the ship then looked around again. This time she saw an island. She swam as fast and as hard as she could until she arrived with her muscles burning. She climbed ashore then closed her eyes. She took a deep, shaky breath. Then another. And another. Finally, she opened her eyes. "Jenny!" Jack ran over and gave her a bear hug. Jenny hugged him back. She looked around and saw she was surrounded by people, of all ages, soaking wet. "Look!" Someone from the crowd yelled. They all looked up and saw a helicopter heading towards them. "Yay!" "Wahoo!" "We're being saved!" There were various shouts from the crowd as the helicopter landed. Before they knew it, there were all safe at home.

One year later...

"Breaking news." The news reporter on the TV exclaimed. "A cruise ship in the Pacific Ocean has hit an iceberg! Studies say everyone has survived." "Remember when that happened to us?" Jack asked, collapsing on the couch. "Yes." Jenny sighed. "Yes, I do."