

overmastering element. It was a tremendous task to encounter that surf, rising mountain high, breaking thunderously and encircling them and their craft in showers of feathery foam. It seemed inevitable that the vessel must be swallowed up and dashed to pieces against the shore, since the tide surging strongly inward seemed absolutely dead against the attempts they were making. It appeared a hopeless thing to extend any help to that human waif out there in his isolation.

No one knew who he was. So far as could be ascertained, none of the villagers or the summer visitors were missing, yet the crowd in its entirety hung upon the chance of his rescue. It was a curious thing that no sooner had the boat set out, with its gallant crew strenuously accepting those fearful odds and straining every muscle in the effort they were making, than the multitude upon the beach became convinced that the man was hopelessly doomed and that the life-boat could never by any possibility reach him in time.

Those who watched through the glasses held their breath, for every instant they ex-