

WHERE?



The east coast* of **Australia**. Today, it's part of **Sydney** in the state* of **New South Wales**.

WHEN?

The **"First fleet"*** left* England in May **1787** and arrived in Australia in January **1788**.

WHO?

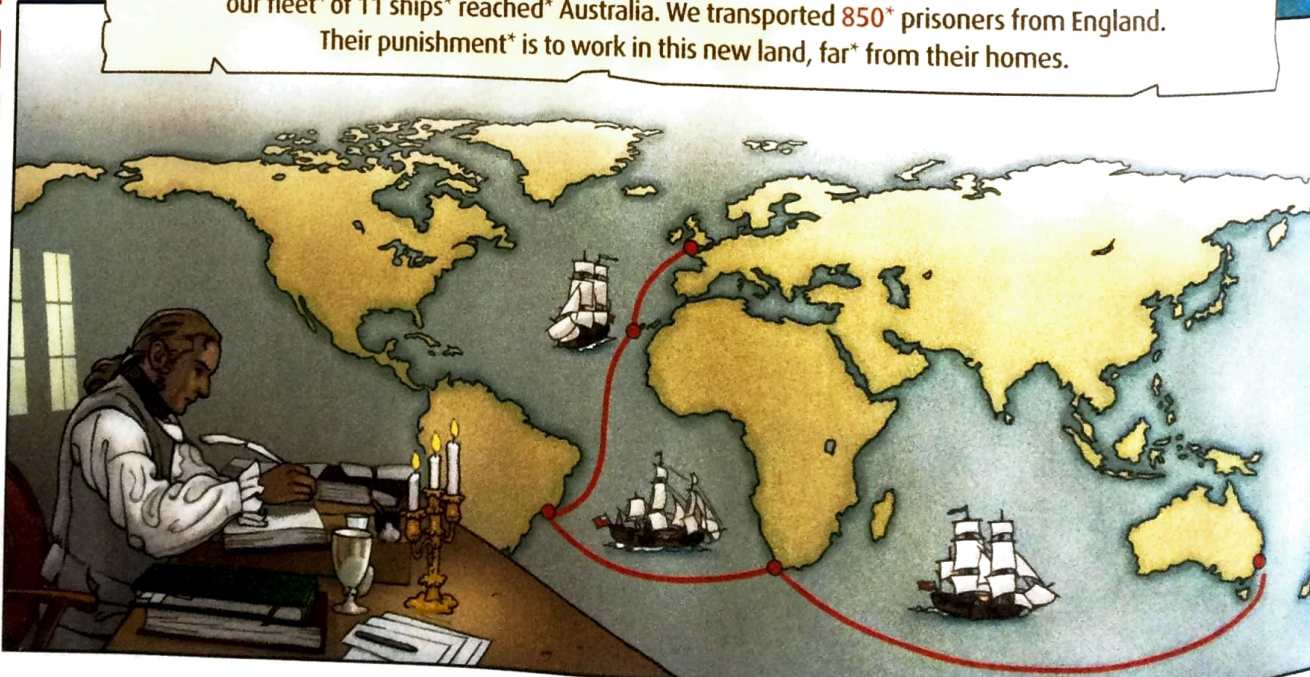
1,500 people (marines, officers, seamen* with their wives* and children) plus at least* **850 convicts***.

HOW THE BRITISH COLONISED Australia

In the 18th century*, colonisation was a political and economic strategy. British military were sent to Australia to form a penal* colony. Here, a British officer named Watkin Tench tells his story ...



January 1788. My name is Watkin Tench and I am an officer in the British Navy. After eight months at sea, our fleet* of 11 ships* reached* Australia. We transported 850* prisoners from England. Their punishment* is to work in this new land, far* from their homes.

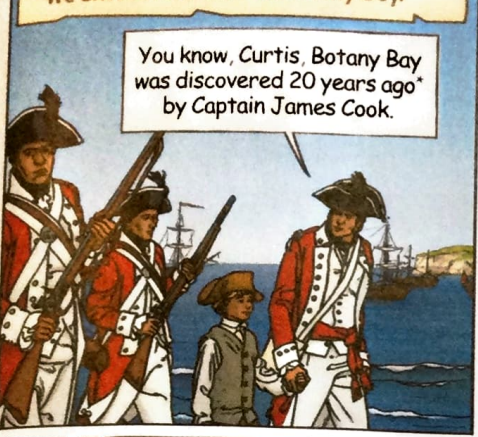


* 850 convicts travelled* in six ships*. There were also two naval* ships and three ships carrying* supplies.

I went ashore* a few days after we arrived. We were in Botany Bay.

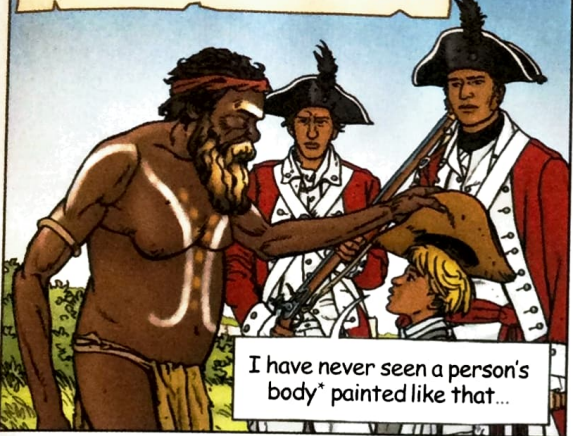
I saw Indians* for the first time.

You know, Curtis, Botany Bay was discovered 20 years ago* by Captain James Cook.



They were fascinated by Curtis, the son of one of the officers who was with me.

They were amazed* by our white skin*.



I have never seen a person's body* painted like that...

We exchanged gifts*.

This first meeting* has gone well, but Curtis is a bit scared*. We should return to the ship*.



Later, I talked to Captain Phillip, our commanding* officer.

I went to Botany Bay, but it's not the paradise that Cook described! There's not much fresh* water. It would be impossible to grow* crops.

I have explored another bay. We will go and settle* there.



HELP!

- ago: il y a
- amazed: étonné
- ashore (go): débarquer
- body painted: corps peint
- carry supplies: transporter des provisions
- century: siècle
- coast: côte
- commanding officer: commandant
- convict: détenu
- far from: loin de
- fleet: flotte
- fresh water: eau potable
- gift: cadeau
- grow crops: cultiver (céréales, légumes)
- least (at): au moins
- left (p) leave (inf): quitter, partir
- meeting: rencontre
- naval ship: navire militaire, de guerre
- penal colony: bague, colonie pénitentiaire
- punishment: punition
- reach: arriver à destination
- scared: effrayé
- seamen: marins
- settle: s'installer
- ship: bateau, navire
- skin: peau
- state: état
- travel: voyager
- wives (pl) wife (sing): épouse

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* The British called the native people living in Australia "Indians". Today, they are known as Aboriginal Peoples.

The 26 January 1788*. The prisoners were put ashore* at Port Jackson. There were 200 women and 13 children among them.

HELP!

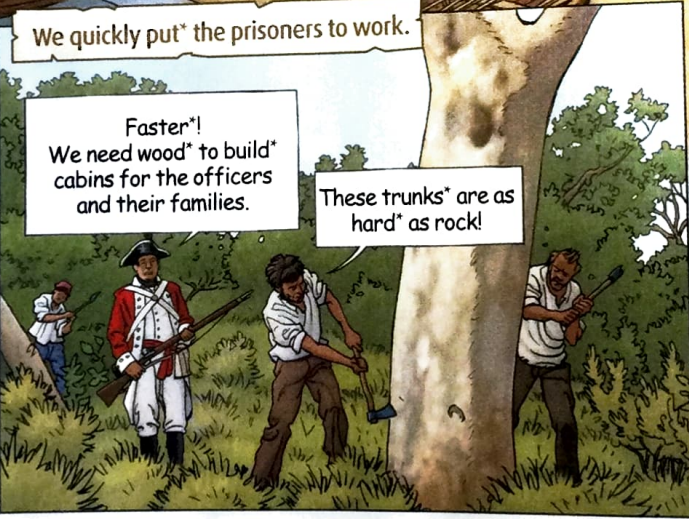
- anywhere (miles from):** si loin de tout
- ashore (put):** débarqué
- breathe:** respirer
- build:** construire
- die:** mourir
- escape:** s'enfuir
- faster:** plus vite
- ground (hard):** sol (dur)
- grow:** pousser
- gunpowder:** poudre à canon
- hard as a rock:** dur comme de la pierre
- heat:** chaleur
- hold:** cale (du navire)
- last (at):** enfin
- put to work:** mettre au travail
- rather (would):** préférer
- tough roots:** racines coriaces
- trunk:** tronc d'arbre
- unbearable:** insoutenable
- wood:** bois



Fresh air at last!
I couldn't breathe
in the ship's hold*.

I would rather*
be here than in
a prison in England.

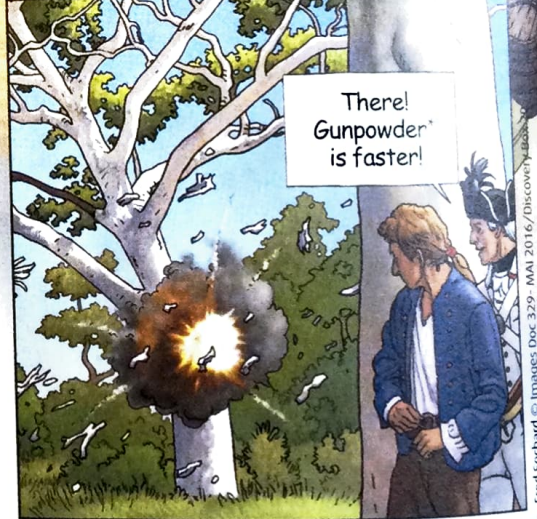
This is our new prison!
We can't escape*, we are
miles from anywhere*.



We quickly put* the prisoners to work.

Faster*!
We need wood* to build*
cabins for the officers
and their families.

These trunks* are as
hard* as rock!



There!
Gunpowder*
is faster!



We are going to die*.
This heat*
is unbearable*!



I have
never seen such
tough* roots...

The ground* is hard.
Nothing will
grow* here!

* Today, the 26th of January is known as "Australia Day".

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I observed the prisoners. They spoke* bad English and I sometimes had trouble* understanding them.



How long did you get?

Ten years. I killed* me 'usband 'cos he beat* me.

Me 'usband snuffed* it on the voyage. Now the men who don't have wives 'ere keep bothering* me all the time...

HELP!

beat: frapper

bother: harceler

death (sentenced to): condamné à mort

drop that gun: laissez tomber cette arme (imp)

gunpowder: poudre à canon

hanging: pendaison

kill: tuer

snuff it (fam.): mourir (crever, clamser)

spoke (p) speak (inf): parler

stealing: vols

stole (p) steal (inf): voler

trouble understanding: avoir du mal à comprendre

'usband (husband): mari

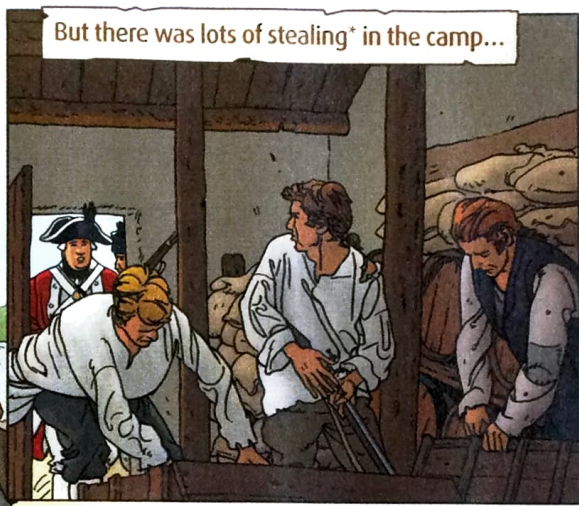
wedding: mariage

We organised weddings* so that the women would not be attacked.



In the name of the King of England, I pronounce you man and wife.

But there was lots of stealing* in the camp...

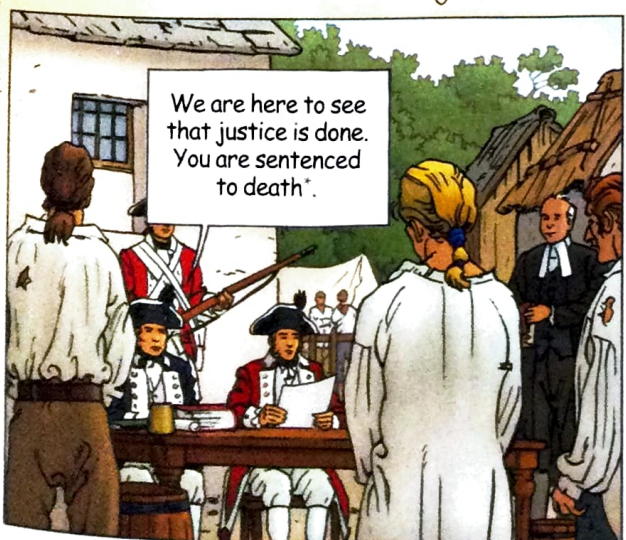


Drop* that gun!

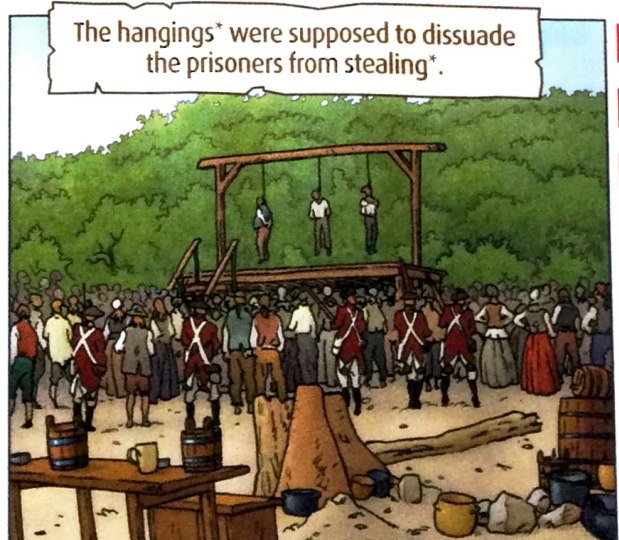
That one stole* gunpowder*!



We are here to see that justice is done. You are sentenced to death*.



The hangings* were supposed to dissuade the prisoners from stealing*.



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HELP!

already: déjà

anymore: plus

anyone (guilty of murder will be hanged): qui que ce soit qui se rende coupable de meurtre sera pendu

hunt: chasser

keep away: garder leurs distances

leave: laisser

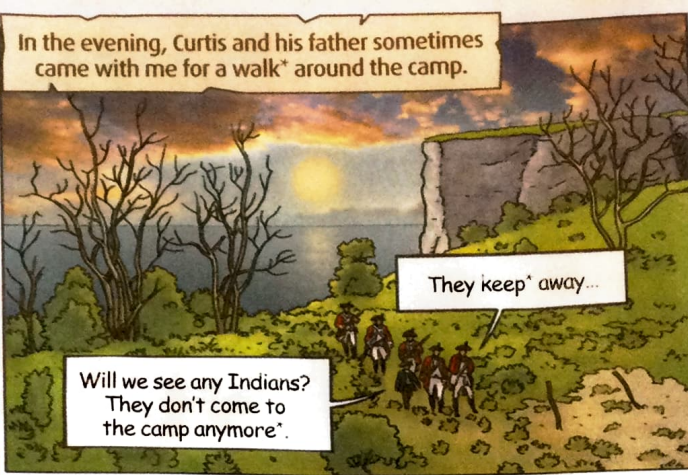
make sure (none are killed): assurez-vous qu'aucun d'entre eux ne soit tué

meat: viande

stealing: vol (être accusé de vol), voler

walk around: promenade autour

In the evening, Curtis and his father sometimes came with me for a walk* around the camp.



They keep* away...

Will we see any Indians?
They don't come to the camp anymore*.

Some prisoners have accused them of stealing*. But it's probably the prisoners who are stealing!



Look! The Indians!

Let's leave* them to hunt*.

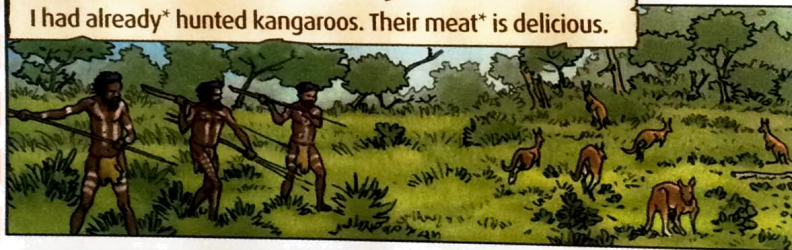


What are those big animals?

The Indians call them kangaroos.



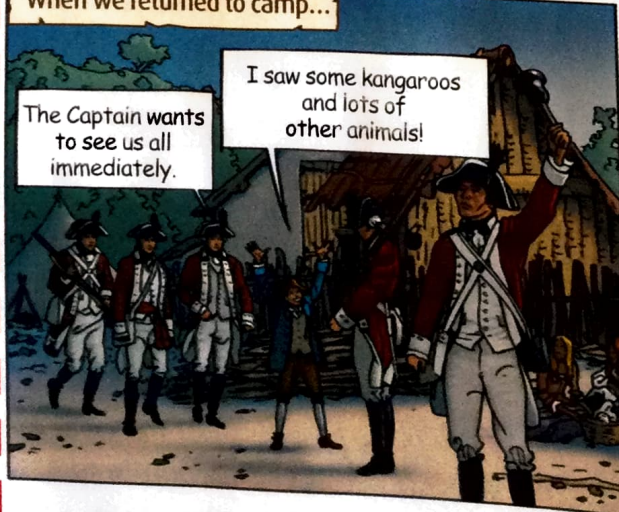
I had already* hunted kangaroos. Their meat* is delicious.



When we returned to camp...

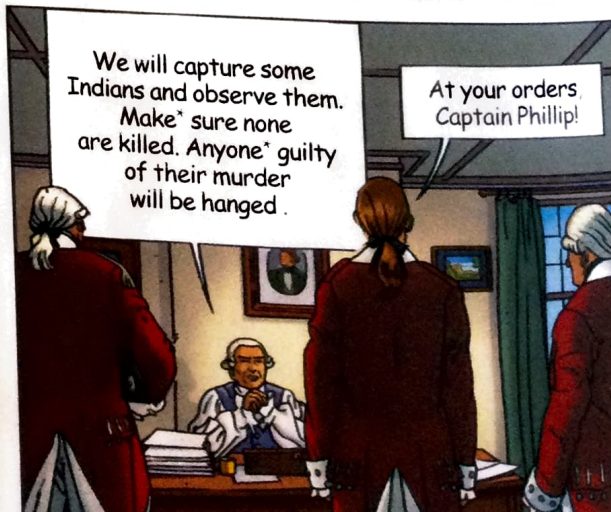
The Captain wants to see us all immediately.

I saw some kangaroos and lots of other animals!



We will capture some Indians and observe them. Make* sure none are killed. Anyone* guilty of their murder will be hanged.

At your orders, Captain Phillip!



A few days later*, some men went on a mission far* from the camp.

We got one!



It was not easy to capture the man. Other Indians threw* stones*, spears* and flaming* sticks at our soldiers.



It was my job to look* after the man. I tried* to get* to know him and learn his language.



I'm Curtis. And you?



Arabanoo...

One day, he tried to escape*.

He's an excellent swimmer* but we will catch* him.



He was always very kind* to the children.

Many English people would keep the best* bits for themselves...

Thanks, Arabanoo.



Arabanoo died* of smallpox* in May 1789. He was the first Indian we had captured.

He was kind to me and we were not afraid* of one another.



We soon ran* out of rice*. Crops* didn't grow in the hot sun. We rationed food. Ships were supposed to arrive from England with provisions. But would they ever come?



HELP!

afraid of one another: avoir peur l'un de l'autre

best bits: meilleurs morceaux

catch: attraper

crops didn't grow: les récoltes étaient désastreuses

die: mourir

escape: s'échapper

far from: loin

flaming stick: bâton en feu, torche

get to know him: faire connaissance avec lui

got one (we): on en a attrapé un

kind: gentil

later: plus tard

look after: s'occuper de

ran out of (p) run out of (inf): se trouver à court de

rice: riz

smallpox: variole (maladie très contagieuse)

spear: lance

stone: pierre

swimmer: nageur

threw (p) throw (inf): lancer, jeter

try: essayer

HELP!

back home (go):
rentrer chez moi

be off (that ship):
ne plus être sur ce navire

brought diseases (p)
bring (inf): apporter des maladies

build: construire

carry: transporter

chains (put in):
être enchaîné

clear the land:
déboiser, défricher le terrain

destroy: détruire

escape (n, v):
évasion, s'évader

faster: plus vite

finally: enfin

freed (p) free (inf):
libérer

freedom: la liberté

hard: difficile

hope: espoir

hurry up:
dépêchez-vous

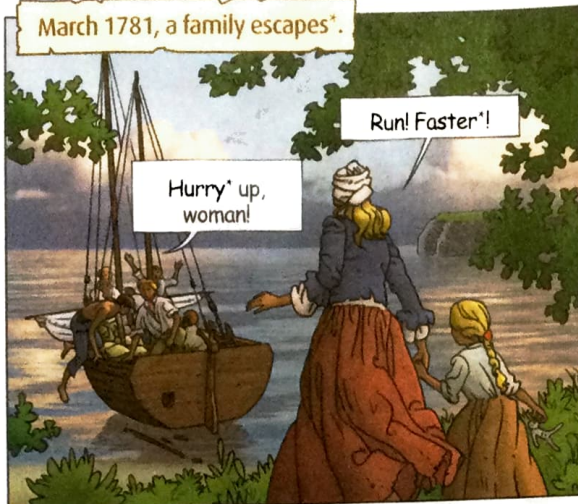
last (at): enfin

plant crops:
semmer des récoltes

sacred lands:
terres sacrées

serve a prison sentence:
purger une peine de prison

March 1781, a family escapes*.



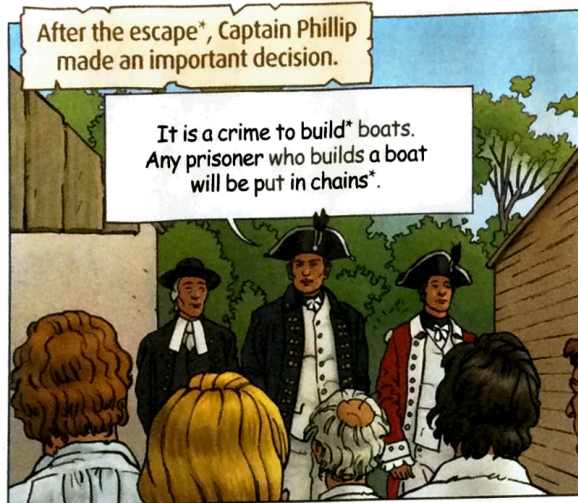
Hurry* up, woman!

Run! Faster*!

Freedom* at last!

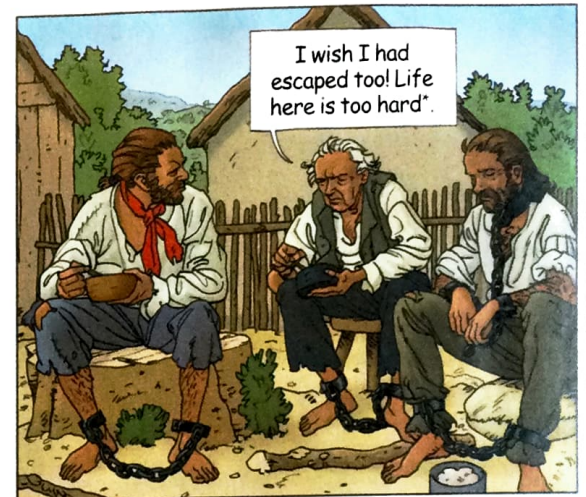


After the escape*, Captain Phillip made an important decision.



It is a crime to build* boats. Any prisoner who builds a boat will be put in chains*.

I wish I had escaped too! Life here is too hard*.



Captain Phillip also freed* some prisoners.



You have served* your prison sentence. You can leave the camp!

In July 1791, an English ship finally* arrived carrying* provisions. It gave us new hope*. But I wanted to go back* home to England.



These new prisoners will help us to clear* the land and plant* crops. England will succeed in colonising Australia!

You are here to work!

We captured some other Indians. One woman learned our language ...



Abaroo, do you like being with us?

How can she ask me that? These people have brought* diseases from their country... and destroyed* our sacred* lands.

I am so happy to be off* that ship!



THE END