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Class-XII

English

Flamingo

Chapter-3

Deep Water

Part - 1



William Douglas

Neha Rajvanshi

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opportunity: अवसर
treacherous: भयानक

It had happened when I was ten or eleven years old. I had decided to learn to swim. There was a pool at the Y.M.C.A. in Yakima that offered exactly the opportunity. The Yakima River was treacherous. Mother continually warned against it, and kept fresh in my mind the details of each drowning in the river.

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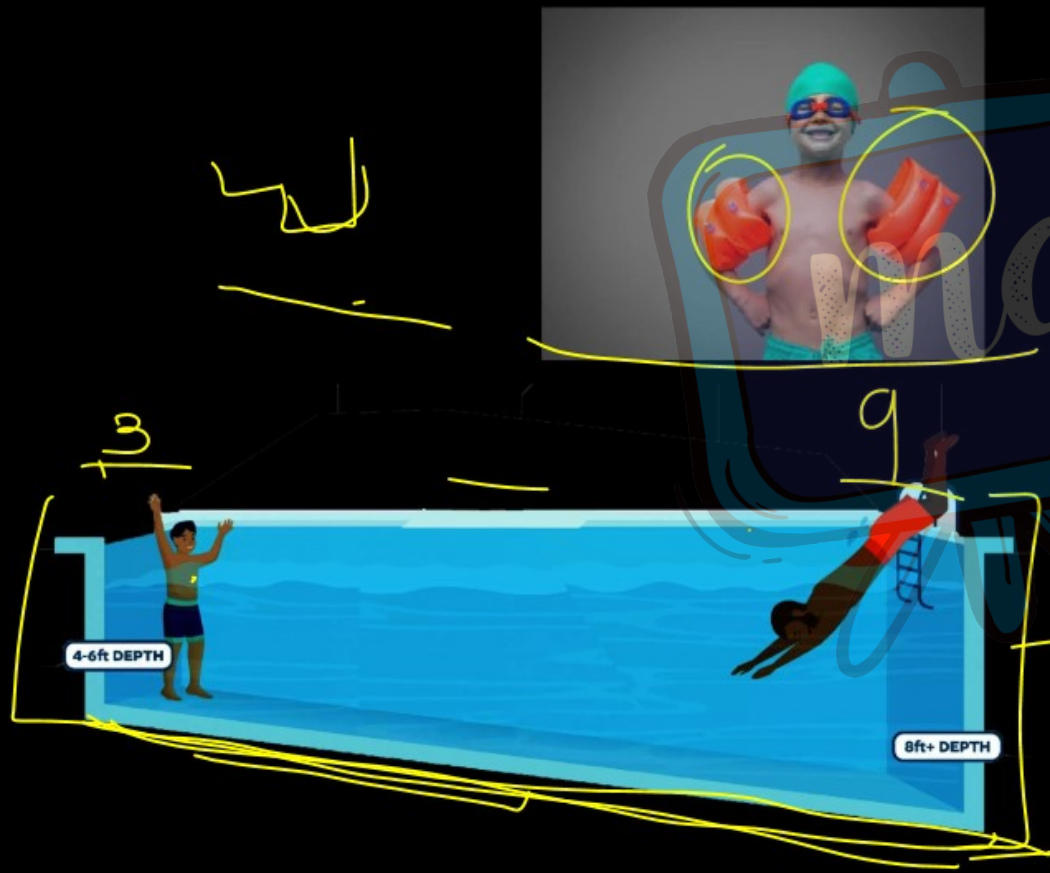

But the Y.M.C.A. pool was safe. It was only two or three feet deep at the shallow end; and while it was nine feet deep at the other, the drop was gradual. I got a pair of water wings and went to the pool. I hated to walk naked into it and show my skinny legs. But I subdued my pride and did it.

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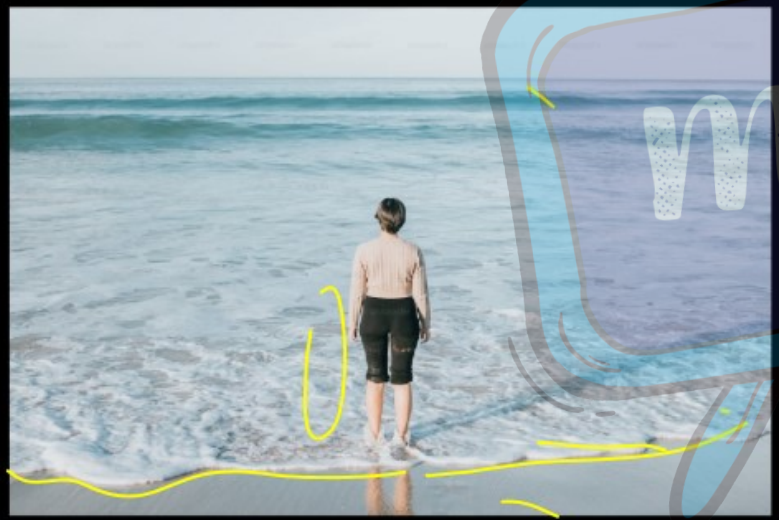
aversion : अरूचि



From the beginning, however, I had an aversion to the water when I was in it. This started when I was three or four years old and father took me to the beach in California. He and I stood together in the surf. I hung on to him, yet the waves knocked me down and swept over me. I was buried in water.

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stirred : हिलाके वापस लाना

My breath was gone. I was frightened. Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart at the overpowering force of the waves. My introduction to the Y.M.CA. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence.

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aping : नकल करना
misadventure : दुर्घटना

I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days and was just beginning to feel at ease in the water when the misadventure happened.

I went to the pool when no one else was there.

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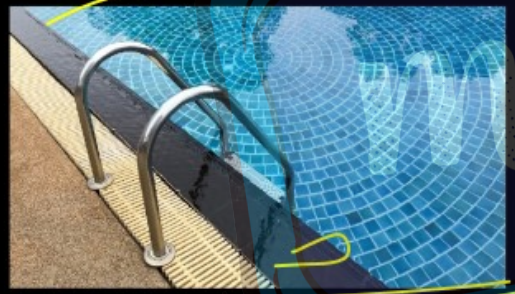
timid : डरपोक

bruiser : बलशाली / बॉक्सर



The place was quiet. The water was still, and the tiled bottom was as white and clean as a bathtub. I was timid about going in alone, so I sat on the side of the pool to wait for others.

I had not been there long when in came a big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen years old.

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specimen: उदाहरण
ducked: डुबना
tossed : फेंकना
swallowed : निगलना



He had thick hair on his chest. He was a beautiful physical specimen, with legs and arms that showed rippling muscles. He yelled, "Hi, Skinny! How'd you like to be ducked?"

With that he picked me up and tossed me into the deep end. I landed in a sitting position, swallowed water, and went at once to the bottom.

wits: बुद्धि
surface: सतह



I was frightened, but not yet frightened out of my wits. On the way down I planned: When my feet hit the bottom, I would make a big jump, come to the surface, lie flat on it, and paddle to the edge of the pool.

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summoned : इकट्ठा करना
bob : ऊपर आना



It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork.

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tinge : हलका रंग
clutched : मजबूती से पकड़ना
suffocating: दम घुटना



Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water — water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it. I grew panicky. I reached up as if to grab a rope and my hands clutched only at water. I was suffocating. I tried to yell but no sound came out. Then my eyes and nose came out of the water — but not my mouth.

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flailed : हाथ पैर मारना
rigid: कठोर



I flailed at the surface of the wa
swallowed and choked. I trie
bring my legs up, but they hun
dead weights, paralysed and r
A great force was pulling me un
I screamed, but only the wa
heard me. I had started on the
journey back to the bottom of
pool.