

# ALEGREYA SANS SC

CONTENT USED FROM “THE BOY SCOUTS TO THE RESCUE”  
CHAPTER 10: THE IRON BOX.

BY GEORGE DURSTON

14 PT MEDIUM

14 PT REGULAR

**14 PT BOLD ITALIC**

**16 PT EXTRABOLD ITALIC**

24PT MEDIUM ITALIC

**48PT EXTRABOLD ITALIC**

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SILENCE NOW. THE BOYS HEARD A STUMBLE AS THOUGH SOMEONE HAD CRASHED OVER SOME OBSTRUCTION. THE DOOR BEHIND THEM WAS FLUNG OPEN. SWIFT FEET PURSUED THEM.

**“HOPE THE DOOR'S OPEN!”** GASPED PORKY, AS HE RAN FLEETLY ON UP THE UNEVEN, WINDING PASSAGE.

IN THE OFFICE ABOVE THERE HAD BEEN AN ANXIOUS PERIOD. TWO MEMBERS OF A STAFF, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ONLY BOYS, CANNOT DISAPPEAR AS THOUGH THE EARTH HAD SWALLOWED THEM WITHOUT A SUSPICION OF FOUL PLAY. WHEN GENERAL PERSHING RECEIVED THE REPORT, HE AT ONCE SENT COURIERS AND SCOUTS TO EVERY STATION WHERE THE BOYS MIGHT HAVE GONE. ON BEING QUESTIONED, THE SENTRIES ONE AND ALL DECLARED THAT THE TWO BOYS HAD NOT BEEN SEEN OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING. THIS RESULTED IN A COMBING OUT OF EVERY CRANNY THAT COULD POSSIBLY HOLD A BOY ALIVE OR DEAD.

**THE HOURS DRAGGED ON.** THERE WAS A CONTINUAL PASSING TO AND FRO FOR HOURS UNTIL AT LAST THERE SEEMED TO BE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING MORE TO DO UNTIL MORNING. THE TIRED STAFF THREW THEMSELVES INTO THE OFFICE CHAIRS, WHILE THE GENERAL, AT THE TYPEWRITER, COMMENCED A LETTER. OUT OF RESPECT TO HIM, THERE WAS A COMPLETE SILENCE IN THE ROOM.

ON AND ON CLICKED THE TYPEWRITER WHILE THE WAITING MEN DOZED OR SMOKED OR THOUGHT OF HOME.

**“WHAT'S THAT?”** SAID ONE OF THEM SUDDENLY, LISTENING INTENTLY.

12 PT BLACK

16 PT LIGHT ITALIC

10PT EXTRABOLD ITALIC

THE GENERAL  
STOPPED WRIT-  
ING AND LOOKED  
AT THE SPEAKER.  
"WHAT'S WHAT?"

QUESTIONED A CAP-  
TAIN, FROWNING.  
"THAT TAPPING," SAID THE FIRST  
SPEAKER. "SOUNDS LIKE CODE."  
"YOU HAVE BEEN ASLEEP,"  
SAID THE CAPTAIN, GRINNING.

"I HEAR IT," SAID THE GENERAL.  
THERE WAS A GENERAL GATHERING UP  
OF FORCES, AS THE WHOLE ROOM TRIED TO  
PLACE THE FAINT, MONOTONOUS TAPPING.  
"THE CALL FOR HELP!" SAID THE FIRST SPEAKER  
TRIUMPHANTLY. "I KNEW I HEARD IT. THE CODE IS  
MY NATIVE LANGUAGE ALMOST. IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH  
SOME ONE WAS CALLING FROM BELOW THE FLOOR."

"SEND AN ANSWER, LIEUTENANT  
REED!" ORDERED THE GENERAL.

THE YOUNG OFFICER OBEYED, WHILE HIS HEARERS LIS-  
TENED BREATHLESSLY. TAP-TAP WENT THE SPURRED HEEL,  
DASH AND DOT, DASH AND DOT IN MANY COMBINATIONS.  
THE REPLY FOLLOWED SWIFTLY. THE LIEUTENANT, RATHER  
PALE, TURNED TO THE GENERAL. "IT'S THE BOYS!" HE REPORT-  
ED. "THEY ARE TOGETHER, IN A CLOSED CHAMBER,—A DUNGEON, I  
TAKE IT—RIGHT BELOW US. THEY ARE IN DANGER. DON'T SAY WHAT  
SOMETHING ABOUT SPIES AND DYNAMITE. WANT HELP INSTANTLY."

"HOW?" ASKED THE GENERAL  
"THERE'S A SECRET DOOR IN THE OAK PAN-  
EL IN THE HALL. THEY GAVE DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING IT."

"GO AT ONCE, SIX OF YOU—YOU SIX NEAREST THE DOOR!" THE OFFICERS DESIGNATED ROSE.

"RUSH!" SAID LIEUTENANT REED CRISPLY. FOR THE MOMENT HE WAS IN COM-  
MAND. HE ALONE KNEW HOW TO OPEN THE PANEL. THEY HURRIED OUTSIDE,  
WHERE REED FELT SWIFTLY BUT CAREFULLY IN THE PLACE DESCRIBED BY POR-  
KY. TWICE HE WENT OVER THE HEAVY CARVING, PUSHING HERE AND THERE UN-  
AVAILABLELY. THEN WITHOUT A SOUND THE SECRET DOOR OPENED AND BEFORE ANY  
ONE COULD ENTER THE PASSAGE THAT YAWNED IN INKY BLACKNESS BEFORE THEM,  
THERE WAS A RUSH OF RUNNING FEET AND THE TWO BOYS, CARRYING BEANY'S COAT BE-  
TWEEN THEM, BOLTED INTO THE HALL. PORKY MADE A MOTION FOR SILENCE, AND LISTENED.

THERE WAS NO SOUND.

"SOMEBODY CHASED US!" HE PANTED. "SOMEBODY WAS CLOSE BEHIND US IN THE DARK!"

"MEN?" ASKED AN OFFICER IN AN EXCITED WHISPER.

PORKY WANTED TO SAY "NO, SIR, RABBITS!" BUT HE KNEW THAT EVERY ONE FELT NERVOUS AND  
EDGY AND, BESIDES, HE DID NOT WANT TO BE DISRESPECTFUL TO THE OFFICER WHO HAD SPOKEN.

"THEY CAME IN THROUGH THE OTHER DOOR," HE SAID. "A DOOR AT THE OTHER END OF  
THE PASSAGE THAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TWO BIG ROOMS DOWN BELOW THERE."

"LET'S GO DOWN," SAID ONE OF THE MEN, LOOSENING HIS REVOLVER.



**AND SHE WAS WHITE.... I NEVER SAW ANYBODY SO WHITE. IT WAS AS THOUGH ALL HER BLOOD HAD BEEN DRAINED OUT OF HER."**

**"WAS SHE WOUNDED?" ASKED THE GENERAL.**

**"SHE MUST HAVE BEEN, SIR," ANSWERED BEANY. "I SAW BLOOD, JUST A LITTLE OF IT RUNNING DOWN HER WRIST UNDER HER SLEEVE. SHE HAD NICE CLOTHES ON, AND I HAD A HUNCH ALL THE TIME THAT I OUGHT TO KNOW WHO SHE WAS; BUT I COULDN'T TELL. WISH WE KNEW WHAT THEY DID WITH THEM. WHEN IT COMES LIGHT, GENERAL, I CAN SHOW YOU JUST WHERE THE DOOR IS. I AM SURE I KNOW WHERE IT OPENS."**

*"IT IS LIGHT NOW," SAID THE GENERAL, POINTING TO THE WINDOW. EVERY ONE LOOKED. SURE ENOUGH, THE WHOLE SKY WAS A MASS OF PALE GOLD AND PINK AND GREENISH BLUE, AS LOVELY AND SOFT AND JOYOUS AS THOUGH THE DISTANT RUMBLE OF THE BIG GUNS WAS NOT SHAKING THE CASEMENT AS THEY SPOKE. IT WAS LIGHT; MORNING HAD COME. THE GENERAL ORDERED COFFEE AND ROLLS AND INSISTED ON BOTH BOYS EATING SOMETHING. THEY WERE TIRED AND HEAVY EYED BUT EXCITED AT THE THOUGHT OF UNRAVELING PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE OF THE MYSTERY OF THE PAST NIGHT.*

*WHEN AT LAST THE GENERAL DISMISSED THEM WITH A FEW TERSE ORDERS, THEY SPED AHEAD OF THEIR ESCORT THROUGH THE SILENT GARDEN, FEARLESS AND CURIOUS AND UNCONSCIOUS OF THE CAREFUL MARKSMEN WHO FOLLOWED, PROTECTING EACH FOOT OF THEIR ADVANCE.*

**BEANY HAD SPOKEN THE TRUTH. WITH THE SURENESS OF A YOUNG HOUND HE TOOK HIS WAY THROUGH A WILDERNESS OF STONES AND BRICKS AND BEAMS AND PLASTER THROUGH THE TANGLED, TORN OLD GARDEN, AND ROUND TO A SPOT MARKED BY WHAT SEEMED TO BE A CLUMP OF DENSE BUSHES LIKE LOW GROWING LILACS. APPROACHING THIS, BEANY PARTED THE BRANCHES AND PEERED IN. THEN HE DREW BACK WITH A CRY OF HORROR.**

**14PT BLACK**

16PT MEDIUM ITALIC

16PT REGULAR