

My Dearest Elaine,

This week has been tremendously hard, and although this expedition has had its highs and lows, we currently seem to be having more of the latter. Sailing across the blue crystal ocean, I experienced an overwhelming sense of pride and victory. The Endurance was able to withstand the harsh groaning of the bitter winds which lashed against her sides; she was able to withstand the ominous presence of the blizzards, which rained down endlessly, yet the time has come when the construction of the Endurance is facing severe challenges. I am perplexed as to whether I should continue to repair the never-ending damage, or admit defeat- knowing that I, the carpenter, Jonathan Lowe, was not skilled enough to overcome these challenges.

To begin with, I have worked so hard since qualifying as a carpenter and if I were to give up now, many people would doubt my true skills. I assured them that I was a worthy candidate, which is why I must continue to repair the damage. It is quite possible that I would be seen as a failure, and I can assure you that that is the last name I want to be described as.

Despite this, when I look at the state of the ship right now, it saddens me to confess that it could possibly be beyond repair. The sides of the boat are battered; the pressure of the ice has caused numerous cracks, and water has begun to flood it. I know I am a very skilled craftsman but it will be an extremely tiresome -and potentially non-beneficial- daily task (one of which I am unsure how much I can withstand). Could it be that The Endurance has lost its potential, and perhaps this is the end?

Though I know many of the crew agree with the above, and believe that the ship has come to an end, a fraction of me still refuses to give up on it. So many years of labour, craftsmanship and creativity went into the design of this boat, and I just cannot, and should not let that be in vain. Would you give up on something that had taken so many years to build, and was so unique in its nature? There is nothing more I would love than to sail home, knowing that the endurance had fulfilled its purpose: to preserve through the most challenging of journeys.

So there you see my Dearest Elaine, I have been perplexed about my next course action. After much deliberation however, I have come to the conclusion that the beautiful Endurance is beyond repair. The amazing adventure we have had with this masterpiece will be a distant memory in the future, as it just cannot overcome the damage that has been sustained.