

## THE OBLONG BOX

### ❖ Complete the story with the correct verb in the PAST FORM:

The main character of the story, the narrator .....(be) in Charleston, South Carolina, and he .....(want) to travel to New York City aboard the ship Independence. The narrator .....(find) that his old college friend Cornelius Wyatt .....(be) aboard with his wife and two sisters, but surprisingly he.....(book) three cabins. The strange thing was that when the narrator .....(meet) his friend, he .....(be/ not) friendly at all.

After some time, the narrator ..... (learn) his friend .....(have) an oblong pine box in the extra room. Cornelius .....(become) an artist and probably he .....(take) some paintings into the box.

The narrator had never met Wyatt's wife but .....(hear) she was a charming beautiful young woman. However, when he .....(see) her she .....(be not) like that and she .....(wear) a veil. She also .....(speak) with a different accent.

Later in the story, something terrible .....(happen). There was a storm. Unfortunately, the ship .....(hit) some sharp black rocks and .....(start) to sink. Immediately, the passengers .....(go) to the rowboats except one. It was Cornelius who .....(not want) to leave the ship without his oblong box. The narrator and the Captain .....(try) to convince him to leave the box but they .....(can not) do it. Finally, both the man and the box .....(go) straight down into the water and .....(die).

About a month after the incident, the narrator .....(meet) the captain. He .....(explain) that the box .....(have), in fact, the body of Wyatt's recently deceased young wife and that it was a servant who pretended to be his wife so as not to become suspicious. Anyway, it was a mistake to bring that box onto the ship. The box .....(bring) bad luck to the ship and everyone.