

TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-BOAT

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Tom Swift and his motor- boat by Victor Appleton

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VICTOR APPLETON

**TOM SWIFT AND
HIS MOTOR-BOAT**



WITH A SWIRL OF THE SCREW THE ARROW SHOT OUT OF
THE WAY, CARRYING THE AERONAUT WITH HER.

Tom Swift and his Motor-Boat.

Page 187.

TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-BOAT

BY
VICTOR APPLETON

AUTHOR OF "TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-CYCLE," "TOM SWIFT AND HIS AIR-SHIP," "TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBMARINE BOAT," ETC.

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I A MOTOR-BOAT AUCTION.....	1
II SOME LIVELY BIDDING.....	12
III A TIMELY WARNING.....	24
IV TOM AND ANDY CLASH.....	32
V A TEST OF SPEED.....	38
VI TOWING SOME GIRLS.....	52
VII A BRUSH WITH ANDY.....	60
VIII OFF ON A TRIP.....	68
IX MR. SWIFT IS ALARMED.....	78
X A CRY FOR HELP.....	87
XI A QUICK RUN.....	94
XII SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS.....	103
XIII TOM IN DANGER.....	111
XIV THE ARROW DISAPPEARS.....	118
XV A DAMAGING STATEMENT.....	125
XVI STILL ON THE SEARCH.....	135
XVII "THERE SHE IS!".....	141
XVIII THE PURSUIT.....	153
XIX A QUIET CRUISE.....	159
XX NEWS OF A ROBBERY.....	167

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXI THE BALLOON ON FIRE.....	173
XXII THE RESCUE.....	179
XXIII PLANS FOR AN AIRSHIP.....	189
XXIV THE MYSTERY SOLVED.....	198
XXV WINNING A RACE.....	206

TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-BOAT

CHAPTER I

A MOTOR-BOAT AUCTION

"WHERE are you going, Tom?" asked Mr. Barton Swift of his son as the young man was slowly pushing his motor-cycle out of the yard toward the country road. "You look as though you had some object in view."

"So I have, dad. I'm going over to Lanton."

"To Lanton? What for?"

"I want to have a look at that motor-boat."

"Which boat is that, Tom? I don't recall your speaking about a boat over at Lanton. What do you want to look at it for?"

"It's the motor-boat those fellows had who tried to get away with your turbine model invention, dad. The one they used at the old General Harkness mansion, in the woods near the lake, and the same boat that fellow used when he got away from me the day I was chasing him here."

"Oh, yes, I remember now. But what is the boat doing over at Lanton?"

"That's where it belongs. It's the property of Mr. Bently Hastings. The thieves stole it from him, and when they ran away from the old mansion, the time Mr. Damon and I raided the place, they left the boat on the lake. I turned it over to the county authorities, and they found out it belonged to Mr. Hastings. He has it back now, but I understand it's somewhat damaged, and he wants to get rid of it. He's going to sell it at auction to-day, and I thought I'd go over and take a look at it. You see——"

"Yes, I see, Tom," exclaimed Mr. Swift with a laugh. "I see what you're aiming at. You want a motor-boat, and you're going all around Robin Hood's barn to get at it."

"No, dad, I only——"

"Oh, I know you, Tom, my lad!" interrupted the inventor, shaking his finger at his son, who seemed somewhat confused. "You have a nice rowing skiff and a sailboat, yet you are hankering for a motor-boat. Come now, own up. Aren't you?"

"Well, dad, a motor-boat certainly would go fine on Lake Carlopa. There's plenty of room to speed her, and I wonder there aren't more of them. I was going to see what Mr. Hastings' boat would