The old man remained standing until Emma got there. And the lady was
smiling. She opened the blue leather folder in front of her and began
writing down a message. Then she turned to the man in the
long coat who had been standing by the wall, and said:

"Thank you, sir. I'll be back in a few minutes."
to do is write a letter of complaint, and they'll be offered a free trip, and be sitting in their cabins writing their names right now.

That may burn out to be the least of our problems said Emma.

You said Chairman, that all but one had been satisfied with a free trip said Ansloot,

looking down at the words on the pad he'd written on the pad in front of him.

Yes, said Emma, one of the American passengers is threatening to sue the company. Says she was shot on the deck during the early hours of the morning and there was no sign of the gunman or any other to look for.

Suddenly, all the board members were speaking at once. Emma walked by them to settle before she said I have an appointment to see Mr. She checked her file, Gimblyt at twelve o'clock this morning.

How many Americans are there on board asked Bingham.

Around a hundred said Emma, why do you ask Mr. Gimblyt?

I don't think there's not too many lawyers, a group were banned in Yorkshire as an unnecessary expense, laughter broke out around the table for the first time this morning. Just assure me, Gimblyt isn't a lawyer. Emma bray Mr.

The Chairman rechecked his file, worse, she said he's a politician. Local congressmen from Kansas.

Then you'd better leave him to me, said Mr. Dodds, a board member who really offered an opinion.

One moggot in a barrel of apples said Mr.
him not following you said his friend knuckles from the other side of the table.
A local policeman who had an opportunity to make
his name on the national stage.
The board remained silent for some time until Bob Bingham makes a fairly we're going
to have to kill him, our only decision will be, with which weapons we use, who fired the gun.
If going to have to be said girl in by and see him before the story is over, I'm afraid my charming
still had nor used to being addressed as chairman by our brother.
And now much damage did the ship suffer,
Following the explosion asked Mr. Maynard who
hadn't spoken until then.
All eyes turned to the captain who was seated
at the other end of the table.
Captain
not as much as I had originally feared said Louis
Turnbull at the time from air plane. One of the four
main rotor blades was badly damaged, and I
won't be able to replace until we return to
Southampton.
Will it slow us down asked Cuthbert
not really said the captain. The other
three were in good working order, and as I
had always planned to arrive in New York in
the early A.M. at the hour of the twelfth, only the
most astounded passengers will notice a delay.
Like Mr. Curtin said knuckles unlikely.

And on the return journey? asked Dobbs
our engines will be working on the
damaged. During the thirty six hours we were in
New York, so by the time we sail, we should
all be in ship shape and Bristol fashion.
Good show said the Admiral.

"But that would be the least of our problem said Anscomb. Don't let forget we have an IRA cell on board, and Heaven knows what else they have planned, for the rest of the trip.

We have already overthrown three of them, said the captain, who are literally chained in irons, and will be handed over to the authorities, we return to England.

But now many others are there on board, and do they still pose a danger to our party? Colonel I assure me that an IRA cell usually composed of four or five operatives, so it possible that there could possibly more on board, but there likely to be keeping a very low profile now that three of them have been arrested the one who delivered the bowl of flowers is no longer on board, and I suspect that if there are any others, they won't be joining us on the return voyage.

I can think of an even bigger problem than my bintiber or even the IRA says. Life any good politician, and capture the attention of the public, the member for Bristol Dachshund, who or what do you have in mind asked Emma, looking directly at her brother.

The Fourth Estate we're needed. Don't forget that you invited journalists in the hope of getting good copy, now they've got exclusive copy.

Thus, your don't forget no one outside of this room, knows exactly what happened last night, and in any case she added looking down at her file, only three attended our journalists.
Three too many said Knowles. The man from the Express is nearly sober, so Mrs. Knowles never less than two bottles of Johnnie Walker in my room. The Mail are spinning their Twelve Free trips on the next voyage, so are unlikely to be involved in knowing any. However, I contest Derek Hart of the Telegraph, he's already been digging around asking questions.

Newspapers have known in the trade, saw gifts, perhaps no better could fit an exclusive, which will keep me well occupied.

What do you have in mind said Gwenda. The government will announce a 1.1 billion loan from the IMF to wallop the side of sterling. The Telegraph's readers will revel in this. A led hope so said Gwenda.

With so much at stake, chairman, I think we'll have to prepare for a best case with cease schedules altogether. If our politicians decades to go public, or the IRA have a follow up planned, or Mr. Hart of the Telegraph stands away the truth, this could be the Buckingham Fury and last voyage.

[Handwritten note] Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

Mr. Knowles is right said Emma, if any of those three scenarios were to happen, no amount of damage limitation is likely to save us. Our shares would collapse, and our reserves would be quickly drained, and as for the future, the docks are unlikely to sail.
passengers think there is the slightest chance of an IRA cell being on board. With that in mind I suggest we all use the rest of the day, picking up any information we can, while ensuring our passengers all is well. I'll be in my cabin, so if you come up with anything, you'll know where to find me.

Not a good idea said Giles firmly. Emma looked surprised. The chairman should be seen on the sun deck relaxing and enjoying himself, which is far more likely to convince the passengers that they have nothing to worry about.

Good thinking said the admiral.

Emma nodded and was about to rise from her place, to indicate that the meeting was over when Allan Webster, the company secretary said firmly any other business, who was now standing up? I don't think so said Emma, resuming her seat.

Just one other matter chairman said Giles as Emma sat back down. The chairman, she still hadn't got used to her brother. She still had the habit as an only child of addressing her as chairman.

Now that I am a member of the government I am left with no choice but to resign as a member of the board as I am not allowed to hold a position of profit while serving Her Majesty's in any case, I only rejoined the board to make sure Major replied. Don't become chairman.

Thank God he has no longer the board said Admiral, which was the punch line they had all been able to agree on.

Emma smiled at her brother. I like to place on my thanks, born to you and my wife.
who has also sent me a letter of resignation. And as there will now be two vacancies on the board, perhaps you could advise me of any suitable candidates, she said vaguely.

If I might be allowed to make a suggestion said the admiral, everyone turned to face the old salt.

Barrington's is a family company with a long family tradition. Our chairman is a Barrington, so perhaps the time has come, to look to the next generation, and invite Sebastian Cutty to join us on the board, so as to continue the family heritage.

But has any recent fire destroyed anyone, older than our beloved Queen, when she awarded the knighthood the admiral reminded her.

And don't forget that Lenore Hardwick, so highly considered good enough to be his personal assistant at the bank, Bob Bingham recently been appointed as second in command at Farnham property division.

And I can only say in confidence such Giles, that when I join the government, I don't hesitate to put you in charge of the family share portfolio.

Then all that left for me to do said the admiral is to propose that Sebastian Cutty be invited to join the board of Barrington Shipping.

And I am delighted to return that motion said Bingham.

I confess that I'm embarrassed said Bunty, that will be a fair sized gift which he...
lighten the mood.
Then all that is required is for a vote
to take place, said Webster.
Emma nodded and sat back.
Admiral Summer has proposed continued the
company secretary, and Mr. Simon Aum was
soundly that Mr. Sebastian Clifton be
invited to join the board of Barnby Hill. He
paused for a moment before adding, please
in favour. Every hand rose except Emma's
and Giles'.
Most against engendered the company
secretary.
No hands were raised, which was followed
by a round of applause, making Emma feel very proud.
Thereupon, declared that Mr. Sebastian
Clifton has been elected as a member of
the board of Barnby Hill.
Let us pray there will be a board for
Seb to join. Emma whispered to her brother
after the company had declared the meeting
closed.