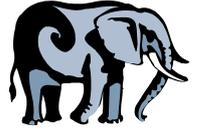


Rewrite this text in present tense



Gerald Durrell

The famous explorer, Gerald Durrell, sometimes collected strange creatures. He told a true story of a journey down river with an electric eel and a porcupine. As the canoe was being paddled along, the electric eel escaped from its wicker basket where it had been held captive.

Gerald Durrell wrote:

I saw the electric eel coming towards me in a very determined manner. It gave me such a fright that I jumped straight up in the air and the eel passed under me, and I landed once more in the canoe, fortunately without overturning it.

The creature meanwhile wriggled towards my friend. I shouted to him to watch out, and he holding the porcupine in his arms, tried to stand up and get out of the way, failed, and fell flat on his back in the bottom of the canoe.

The electric eel slid past my friend's struggling body and headed for the first paddler. He, too, when faced with the eel, was no braver than we; he dropped his paddle and prepared to abandon ship.

The situation was saved by the second paddler. He simply leant forwards and pinned the creature to the bottom of the craft with his paddle.

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