Extract from **Enthralled: A Viking Saga**

by Chris Wright, *Chapter 20.*

*From the point of view of Chester*

I knew it as soon as I saw them. Erik was the one guarding the boat, his hand on

his seax as he stood on the dock.

“We got you here, boy,” he said, “but you’re going to have to find your own

way back. The money we got for our goods isn’t enough to cover what we had

to go through to get here. This boat will cover the gap.”

Just for a second, my hand twitched towards my own seax. Rollo was armed

too, I knew, but all it took was a threatening step forward from the men on the

boat to convince me that it was useless. We were hopelessly outmuscled.

My last hope was Torsten, and I scanned the deck for him. I found him at last,

but though he wasn’t glaring at me like the others, and his hand wasn’t on his

axe, he wouldn’t meet my eye. He just pretended to be busy with the ropes, a

sad but determined look in his eyes.

A sudden surge of anger passed through me, and before I knew what I was

doing, I was striding onto the boat. A hand tried to grab me back, but I shrugged

it off and I marched straight up to Torsten. He jumped back at the sight of me.

His hand darted towards the hilt of his sword – the one he had taken from the

shield-maiden. But he didn’t draw it. Not yet.

**Questions**

1. A seax is a long viking knife. Why do you think Erik has his

hand on his at the start of the extract?

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2. *‘The money we got for our goods isn’t enough to cover what we had to go through to get here. This boat will cover the gap.’* What does Erik mean by this?

 They’re stealing the boat to make up for their trouble.

 The boat will cover the gap between the sea and the dock.

 They’ve sold the boat because they couldn’t sell their goods.

 Chester stole the boat and they’re stealing it back.

3. What did Chester want to do when his hand ‘twitched towards his own seax’?

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4. What does ‘outmuscled’ mean here?

 Knocked out The Vikings are too strong for them

 Wrestled to the ground The Vikings have the ship

5. Who did Chester think was his final hope?

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6. Why won’t Torsten meet Chester’s eyes?

 He’s angry at Chester.

 He doesn’t notice Chester

 The sea water is in his eyes.

 He is ashamed of betraying Chester.

7. Where did Torsten get his seax?

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8. Why did the author write ‘*not yet*’ after saying Torsten didn’t draw his seax?

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**Questions**

1. What do you think Chester knew ‘*as soon as I saw them’?*

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5. Why do the men on the boat take a threatening step forward?

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6. What does ‘outmuscled’ mean here?

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7. Why won’t Torsten meet Chester’s eyes?

 He’s angry at Chester.

 He doesn’t notice Chester

 The sea water is in his eyes.

 He is ashamed of betraying Chester.

8. What does Torsten do at the sight of Chester? Why do you think he does this?

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9. Where did Torsten get his seax?

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10. Why did the author write ‘*not yet*’ after saying Torsten didn’t draw his seax?

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**Answers**

**Lower Question Set**

1. A seax is a long viking knife. Why do you think Erik has his

hand on his at the start of the extract?

*To threaten Chester, as a warning, to protect himself or in case Chester attacks.*

2. *‘The money we got for our goods isn’t enough to cover what we had to go through to get here. This boat will cover the gap.’* What does Erik mean by this?

*They’re stealing the boat to make up for their trouble.*

3. What did Chester want to do when his hand ‘twitched towards his own seax’?

*Attack Erik or steal back the ship.*

4. What does ‘outmuscled’ mean here?

*The Vikings are too strong for them*

5. Who did Chester think was his final hope?

*Torsten*

6. Why won’t Torsten meet Chester’s eyes?

*He is ashamed of betraying Chester.*

7. Where did Torsten get his seax?

*From a shield-maiden.*

8. Why did the author write ‘*not yet*’ after saying Torsten didn’t draw his seax?

*To suggest he might draw it in the future.*

**Answers**

**Higher Question Set**

1. What do you think Chester knew ‘*as soon as I saw them’?*

*That he had been betrayed or that they had stolen the ship.*

2. A seax is a long viking knife. Why do you think Erik has his

hand on his at the start of the extract?

*To threaten Chester, as a warning, to protect himself or in case Chester attacks.*

3. *‘The money we got for our goods isn’t enough to cover what we had to go through to get here. This boat will cover the gap.’* What does Erik mean by this?

*They’re stealing the boat to make up for their trouble.*

4. Why does Chester’s hand ‘twitch towards his own seax’?

*Attack Erik or steal back the ship.*

5. Why do the men on the boat take a threatening step forward?

*To warn Chester against attacking.*

6. What does ‘outmuscled’ mean here?

*The Vikings are too strong for them*

7. Why won’t Torsten meet Chester’s eyes?

*He is ashamed of betraying Chester.*

8. What does Torsten do at the sight of Chester? Why do you think he does this?

*Jumps. He is startled/shocked/scared. He wasn’t expecting Chester to approach him.*

9. Where did Torsten get his seax?

*From a shield-maiden.*

10. Why did the author write ‘*not yet*’ after saying Torsten didn’t draw his seax?

*To suggest he might draw it in the future.*