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*'Touchdown in a flying boat has to be the most exciting.*

*Levelling out alongside the steamer we hit the water with a thump. Water, that fluid, lapping element: when you meet it flat-on it is hard and granular as granite. We clattered through the surface, spray thrown all over the screen, as though skidding and grating over rubble.*

*For a few instants foam and froth clutched up the window glass like wild foliage, it seemed we were a submarine about to duck under, and then the engines were dinning again to taxi us in.'*

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