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In love with Liberty

1 The Statue of Liberty is an important part of American culture. The statue is on Liberty Island in New York and it has been there for over a
5 hundred years. It was a gift from the French. The statue was built by the French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi. Bartholdi thought that the New York harbour was the perfect place for
10 his masterpiece because that was where the immigrants saw America for the first time. The statue was to be a symbol of welcome for all people coming to America, as well as a
15 symbol of freedom.

The statue attracts around three million visitors each year. Yesterday, the popular tourist attraction had to be closed for over three hours.
20 Visitors usually take the stairs to its crown at the top, but one Frenchman had a different idea. He wanted to parachute on the statue. The stunt was guaranteed to get attention
25 whether it worked or not. Unfortunately, it didn't.

Thierry Devaux's parachute jump onto the statue was supposed to be a big publicity stunt. The statue is
30 his favorite place in the world. The 41-year-old Frenchman told the police he wanted to land on the observation

platform around the torch. As amused tourists watched from below, Devaux
35 missed his landing and the parachute got caught in the torch. As he held on to the parachute lines, rescue workers pulled him to safety. Devaux spent about half an hour dangling more
40 than 90 metres above the harbour.

This was not the first time Devaux had been involved in mischief to do with the statue. He was once caught hiding in it overnight and he once
45 flew around the statue with a large propeller on his back, to name just two examples. Maybe it's because the statue is French like him, or maybe he has a more personal reason. Still
50 his fascination with the statue is more than understandable. For many people around the world it is *the* symbol of freedom.

Adapted from: kidzworld.com, french-at-a-touch.com, chicagotribune.com



torch
dangling
mischief

fakkel
bungelend
kattenkwaad