

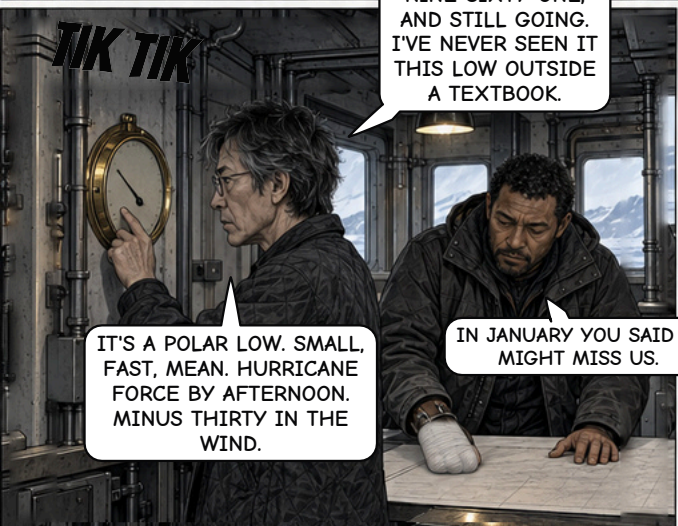
THE LAST WARM PLACE

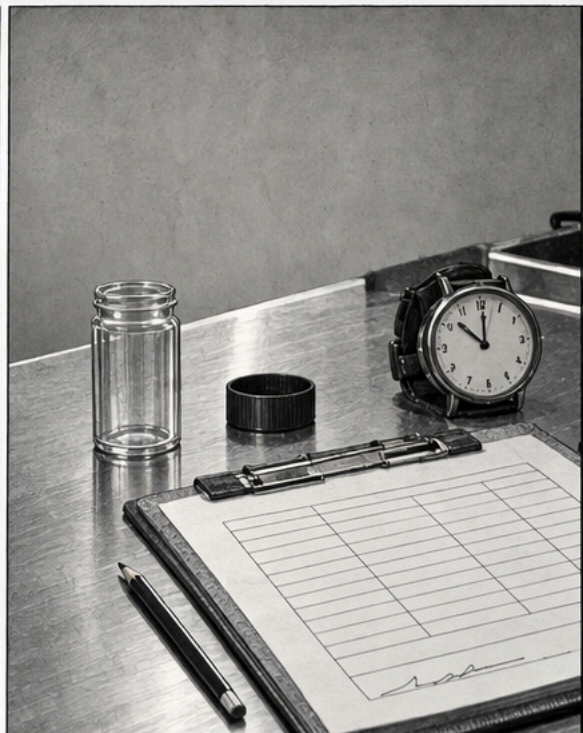
CHAPTER THIRTEEN · WHITEOUT



CHAPTER THIRTEEN.
WHITEOUT.

2 FEBRUARY 2035. DAY 141. ELEVEN
IN THE MORNING, AND THE
NEAREST THING TO DAYLIGHT THE
VALLEY HAD SEEN SINCE OCTOBER.









ONE CABLE. DOWN THE SHIP'S SIDE, ACROSS THE ICE FOOT, ALONG THE QUAY, UP INTO TOWN. EVERYTHING WARM IN THE VALLEY HUNG ON IT.



13:20. THE WIND CAME FIRST. THE SNOW WAS AN HOUR BEHIND IT.



13:40.



BACKUP'S NOT
COMING ON.

NOT AGAIN. NOT
THIS WARD. SOMEBODY
GET ME A BAG AND A
TORCH --

THE GENERATOR'S
TRYING -- IT'S
TRYING --



HEATERS FIRST.
EVERYTHING ELSE
OFF. LIGHTS, PUMPS,
THE COFFEE. OFF.

TRAIN TWO KEEPS ITS
TEMPERATURE, OR WE
START AGAIN IN
MARCH.

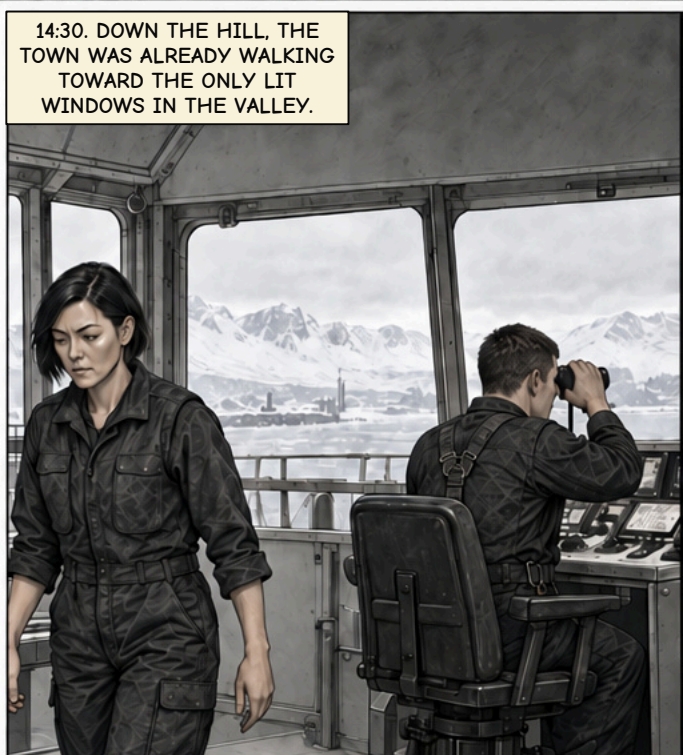
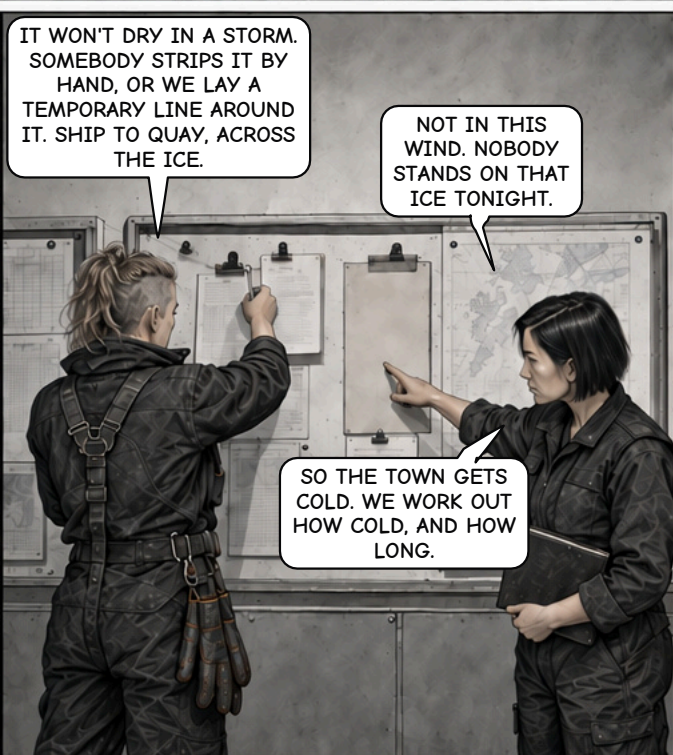
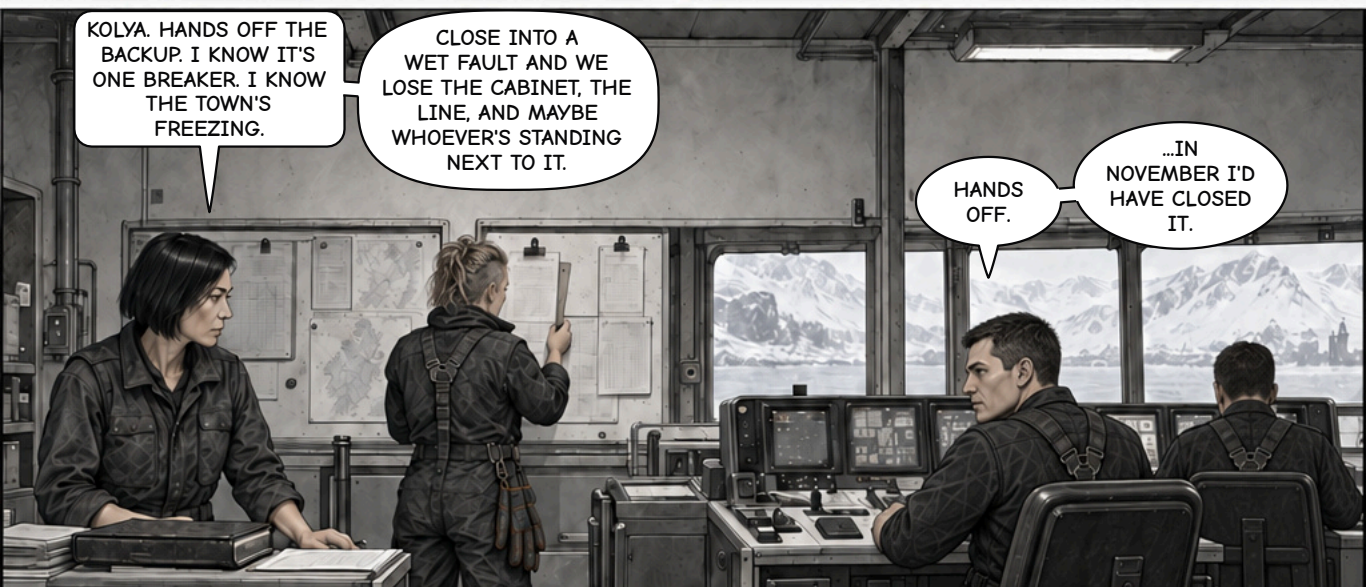
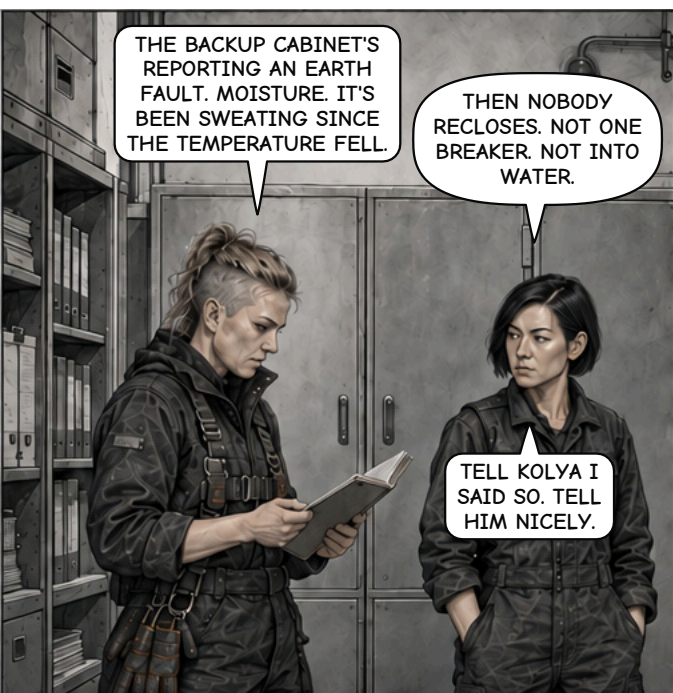
GENERATOR'S
UP. HEATERS
ONLY.



SHORE EXPORT'S
GONE. BOTH
SECTIONS.

...AND THE BACKUP
LINE'S TRIPPED. EARTH
FAULT. SOMETHING
OVER THERE IS WET.

RECLOSE THE
BACKUP, DASHA? IT'S
ONE BREAKER --



15:10. THE
GANGWAY.

HHHOOOOOOOM

OPEN THE DOOR! I'VE GOT A BOY HERE!

THERE'S FOUR HUNDRED OF YOU! WE'VE GOT BERTHS
FOR A HUNDRED AND EIGHTY!

WHERE DO I PUT YOU? IN THE REACTOR?

THIS SHIP SAILED OFF ONCE
WITH OUR LIGHTS IN HER POCKET!

WE REMEMBER THAT NIGHT TOO!

AND THE TOILETS,
PYOTR. TYPHUS IN A
WEEK. I'VE SEEN IT ON
A SHIP. YOU HAVEN'T.

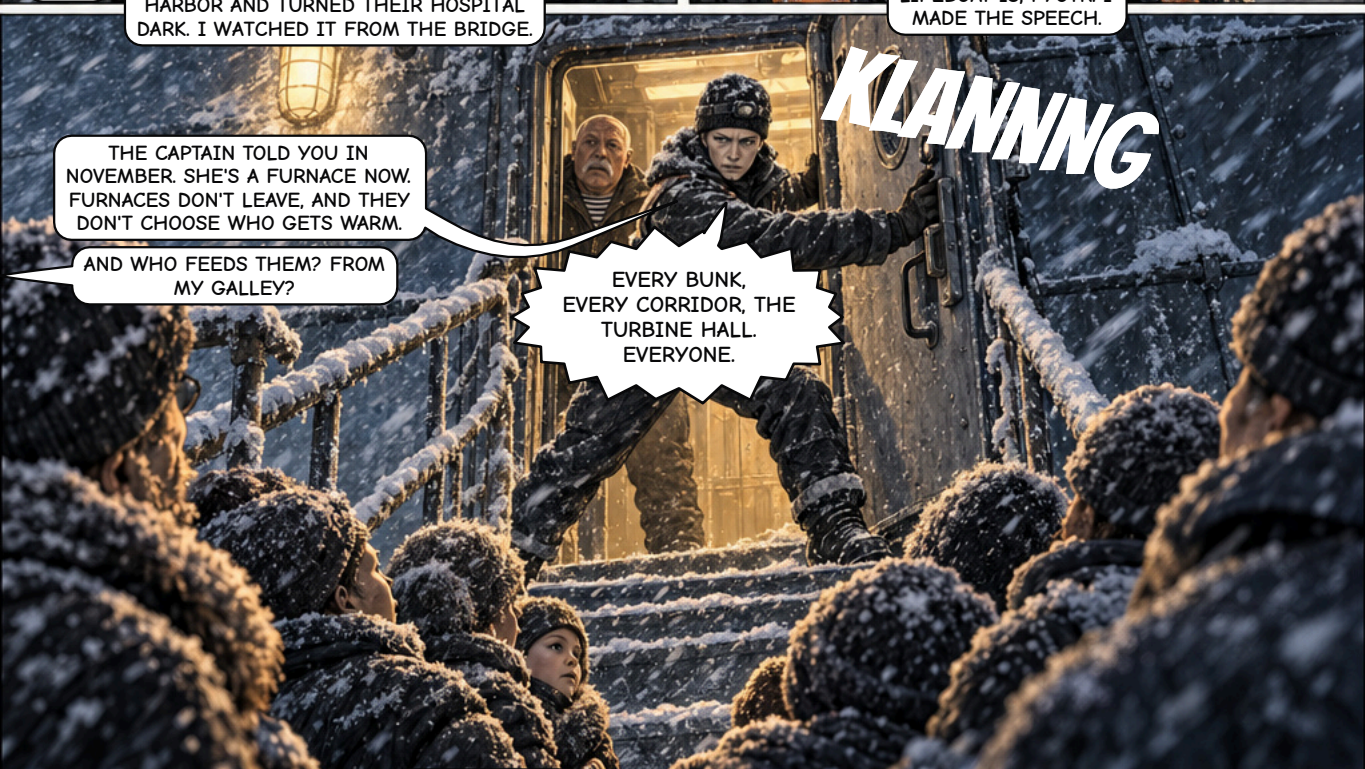
FOUR HUNDRED IN
STEEL CORRIDORS. ONE
STOVE FIRE AND WE ALL
BURN TOGETHER.

WE GAVE THEM THE
CABLE. WE GAVE THEM
THE SHAFTS. WE GAVE
THEM HOME.

NOW THE
BUNKS?

MY FATHER CAN'T CLIMB THAT! HE CAN'T
CLIMB ANYTHING!

...BELOVA.



15:40. THE COUNCIL HOUSE.

-- NO. NO, I DON'T KNOW WHICH HOUSES ON LIA HAVE OLD PEOPLE IN THEM. I DON'T KNOW. HOLD.



YOU KNOW HOW. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LEARN.

EVERY HOUSE. EVERY NAME. EVERY VEHICLE. GO.

...WHO'S GOING TO LISTEN TO ME?

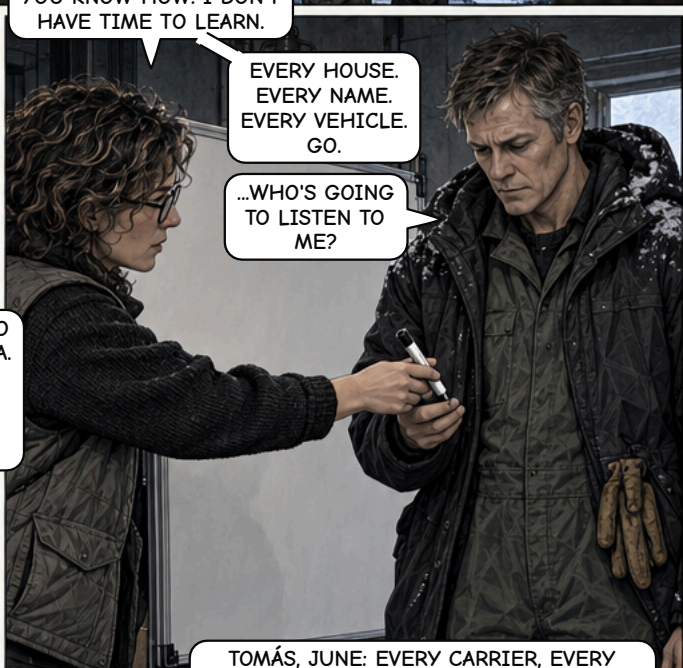


ELIAS THREW ME OUT OF BOREALIS. HE SAYS I BREATHE ON THE CULTURE.

I'VE GOT NO ROLE, NADIA. THE COUNCIL WAS VERY CLEAR.

GRANT. THANK GOD.

NO -- DON'T THANK GOD. COME HERE.



TOMÁS, JUNE: EVERY CARRIER, EVERY SNOWMOBILE, EVERY TRUCK THAT STARTS. KEYS ON THIS TABLE IN TEN MINUTES.



THEY'LL LISTEN TO THIS.

EVERY NAME IN THE VALLEY, BY HOUSE. I KEPT IT. YOU KNOW I KEEP THINGS.

...I KNOW YOU DO.



HOUSES · NAMES
· VEHICLES

FIRST RUN IS PER, KARI'S FATHER. HE CAN'T CLIMB A GANGWAY. FOUR BEARERS AND THE CARGO SLING.

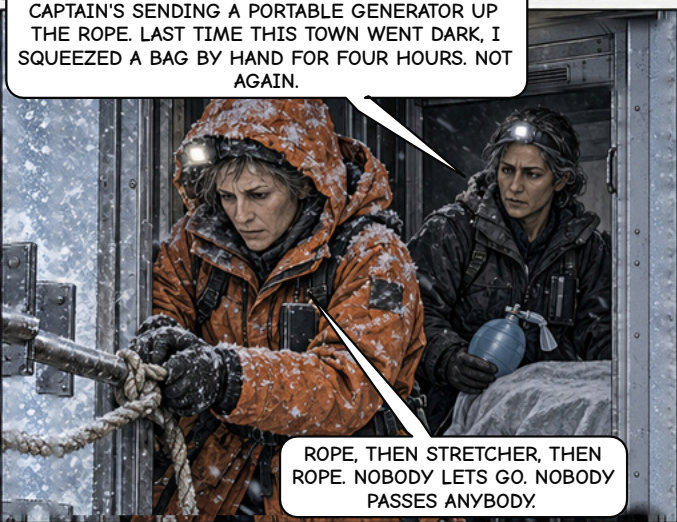
I HAD HIM IN THE WRONG COLUMN ONCE.

17:30.

YOU COULDN'T SEE YOUR OWN HAND. SO THEY TIED THE HOSPITAL TO THE SHIP.



TWO CAN'T BE MOVED. I STAY WITH THEM. THE CAPTAIN'S SENDING A PORTABLE GENERATOR UP THE ROPE. LAST TIME THIS TOWN WENT DARK, I SQUEEZED A BAG BY HAND FOR FOUR HOURS. NOT AGAIN.



ROPE, THEN STRETCHER, THEN ROPE. NOBODY LETS GO. NOBODY PASSES ANYBODY.



THEO. SECOND LINE, FROM THE SCHOOL. KIDS, AND ANYONE WHO CAN WALK.

ME?

YOU'VE TAKEN THE HARD ONES YOURSELF SINCE SEPTEMBER. WHY ME?



BECAUSE YOU VOTED AGAINST ME.

MALIK SAYS THAT'S THE PART TO NOTICE. PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T FOLLOW ME.

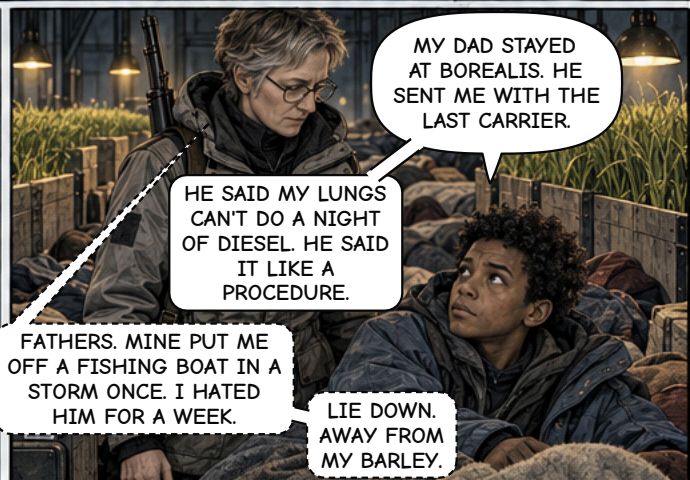
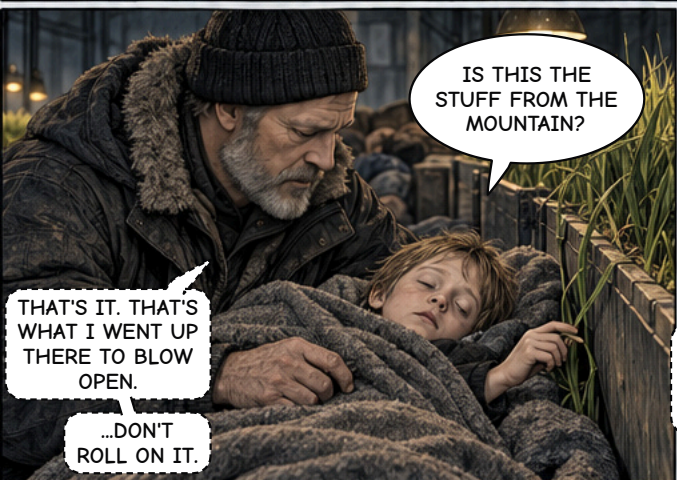
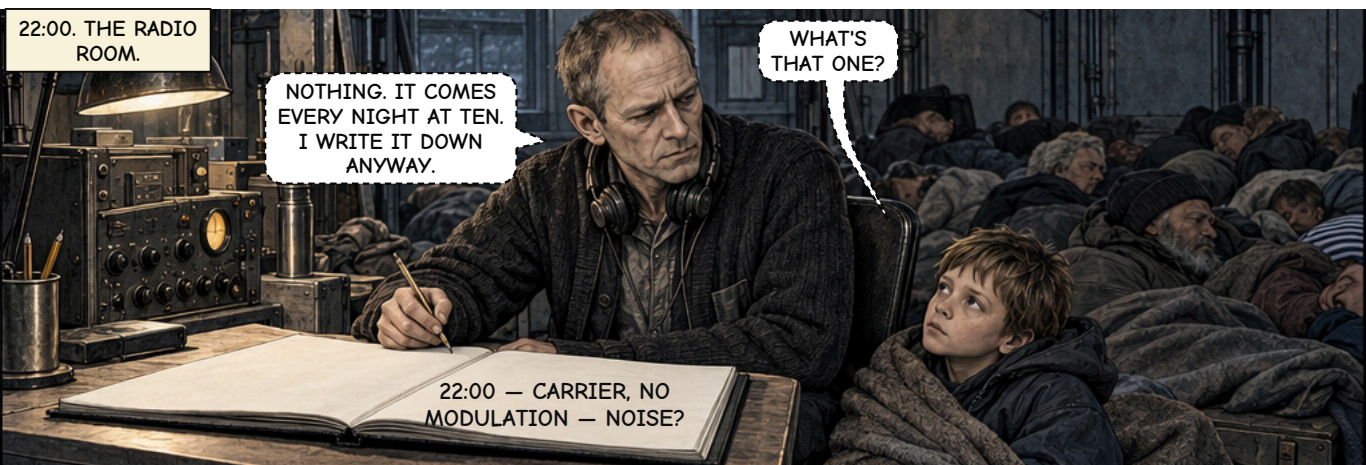
GO.

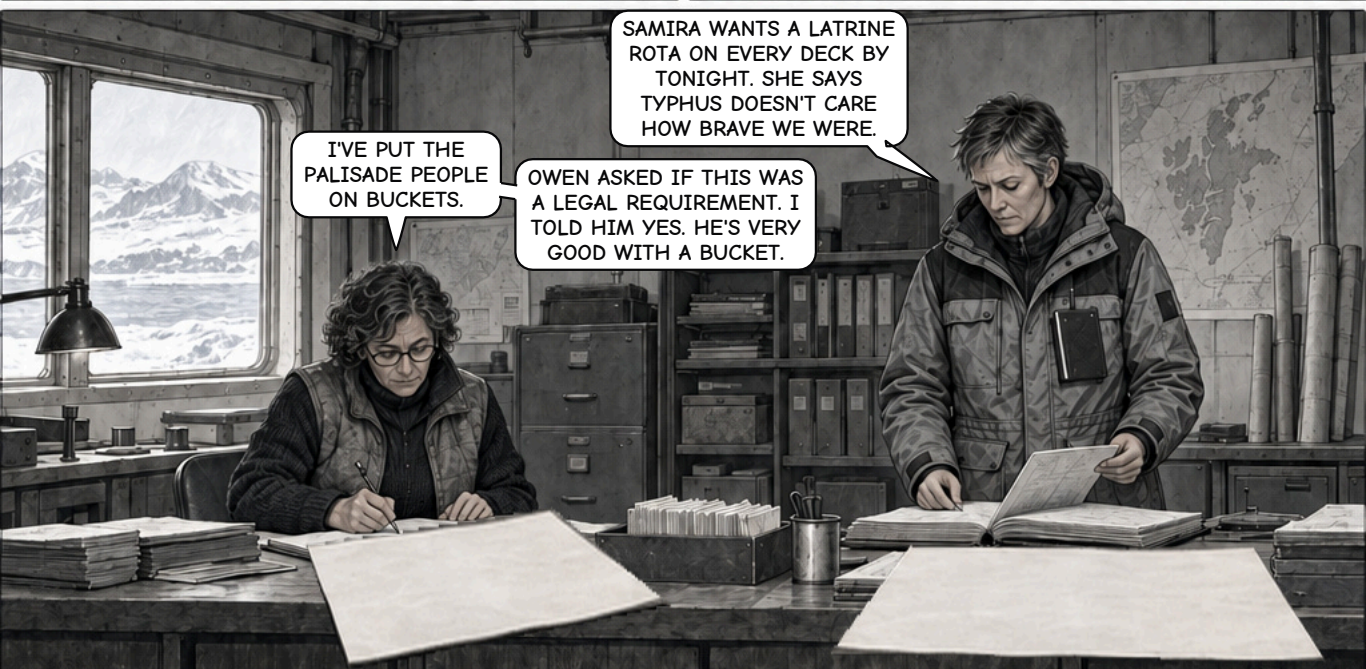
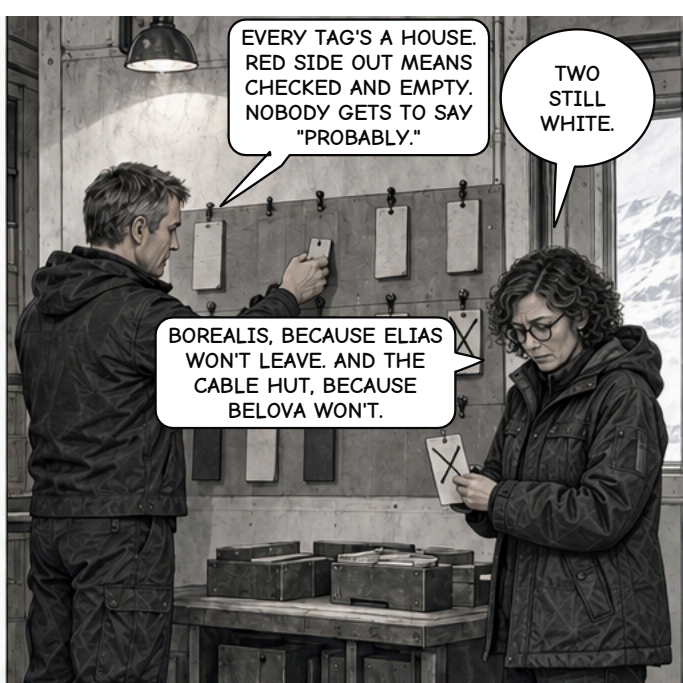


KARI, FROM THE WATER PLANT. AND MY FATHER, PER. HE CAN'T CLIMB --

HE'S ON THE LIST. FOUR BEARERS AND THE CARGO SLING.

GRANT PUT HIM ON TOP. ...I'M TOLD HE INSISTED.







FORTY MINUTES, KENJI HAD SAID. IT WAS EIGHTEEN.



BOREALIS. THE
SECOND NIGHT.

ELIAS HAD SENT NOAH TO THE
SHIP WITH THE LAST CARRIER.
HE STAYED. SOMEBODY HAD TO
CARRY THE FUEL.



DON'T YOU
DARE.

YOU WERE BUILT FOR A FISHING
HUT, AND YOU'RE HOLDING UP THE
FUTURE. ACT LIKE IT.



TRAIN TWO'S HOLDING.
BARELY. IT'S SULKING.

HOW MANY
BARRELS
LEFT?

ENOUGH.

...ENOUGH UNTIL
TOMORROW
NIGHT.



DAD. DID YOU EAT?
MARA SAYS I HAVE TO
ASK. SHE SAYS YOU
WON'T SAY UNLESS
SOMEBODY ASKS.

I ATE.

...DIESEL FUMES,
MOSTLY. GO TO SLEEP.
WHEN THIS WORKS, WE SIT
DOWN. BOTH OF US. A
WHOLE MEAL.



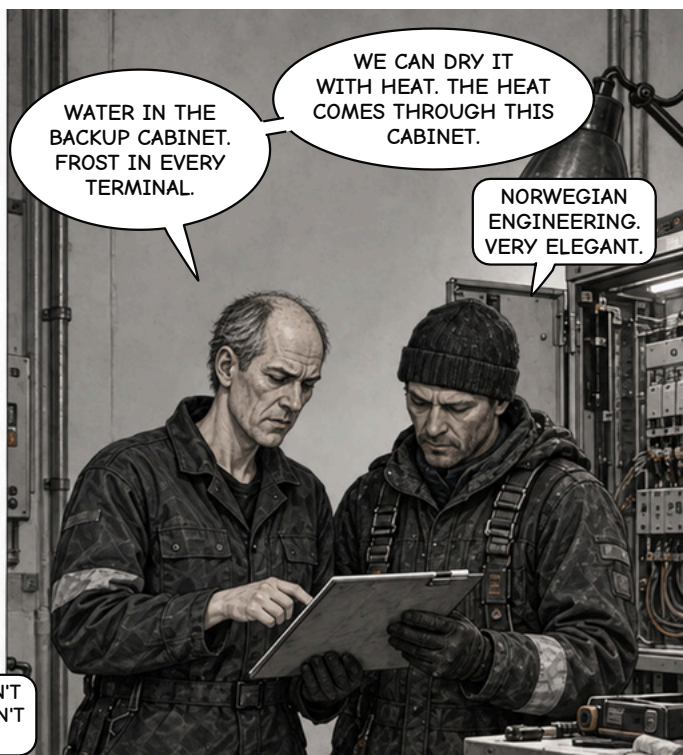
FIVE MONTHS I'VE
BEEN THE ONE THEY
NEARLY DIDN'T
CARRY.

I'D LIKE TO
BE THE REASON
THEY EAT.

THEN HOLD IT.
I'LL CARRY.



4 FEBRUARY. DAY
143.



5 FEBRUARY.
01:20. DAY 144.

ONE HAND ON THE
ROPE, ONE ON THE
CABLE! NOBODY PUTS
TWO HANDS ON THE
CABLE!

IT'S BREATHING. EVERY MINUTE
OR SO IT LIFTS, AND LETS GO.

MOVE WHEN
IT'S DOWN.
STOP WHEN
IT'S UP. LIKE
WALKING ON
A SLEEPING
ANIMAL.

LESS POETRY,
SØRENSEN.
MORE READING.

SPLICE IS MADE. IT ISN'T PRETTY.
IT'LL CARRY TILL SPRING IF
NOBODY STEPS ON IT.

NOBODY
STEPS ON IT.

LAST SPAN. MALIK READS, I
LEAD, EVERYBODY ELSE
COUNTS. TWENTY METERS.

BELOVA. MY HAND'S
GONE STUPID. THE
GRIP'S ICING.

THEN HOOK
YOUR ELBOW
OVER.

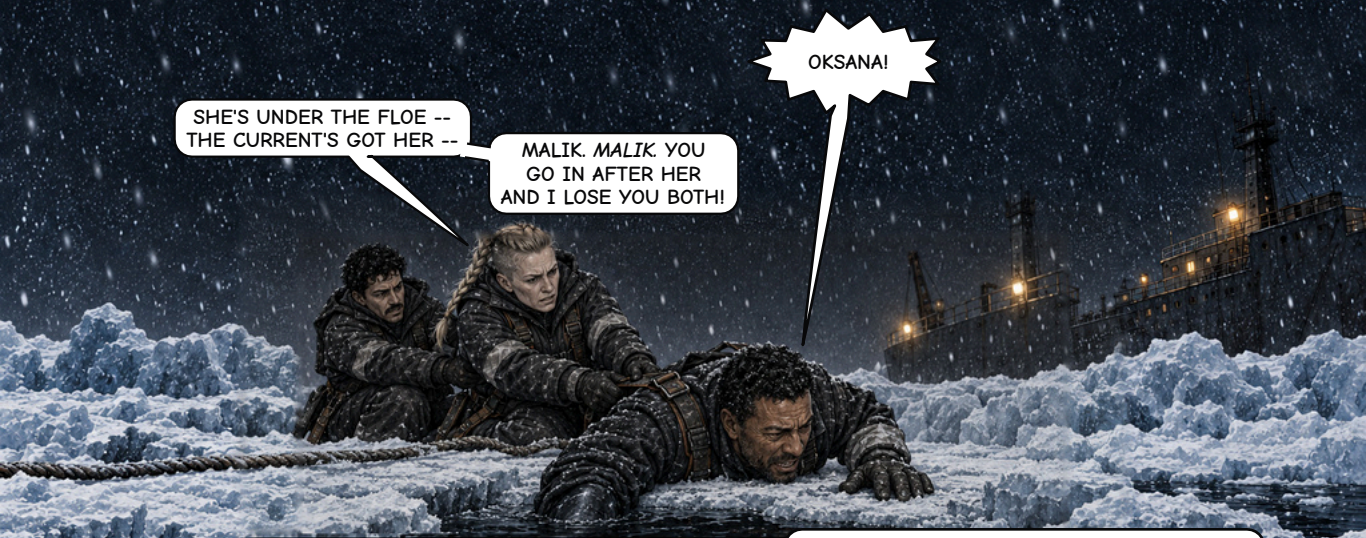
TWENTY METERS.
THEN YOU CAN
COMPLAIN FOR A
YEAR.

IT'S
LIFTING
--

KRRRRRAKK



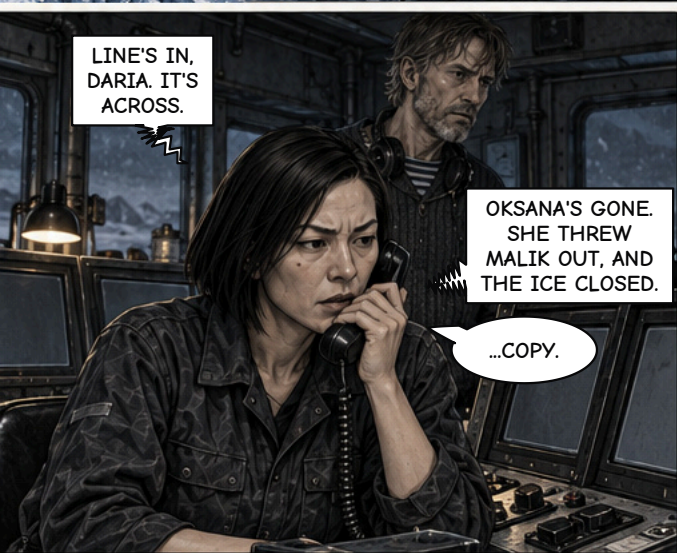
THE SAME BLACK WATER.



SHE'S UNDER THE FLOE --
THE CURRENT'S GOT HER --

MALIK. MALIK. YOU
GO IN AFTER HER
AND I LOSE YOU BOTH!

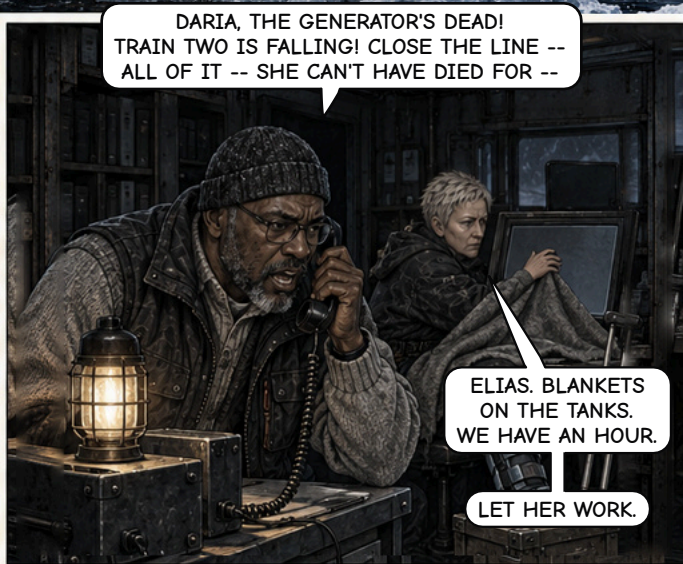
OKSANA!



LINE'S IN,
DARIA. IT'S
ACROSS.

OKSANA'S GONE.
SHE THREW
MALIK OUT, AND
THE ICE CLOSED.

...COPY.



DARIA, THE GENERATOR'S DEAD!
TRAIN TWO IS FALLING! CLOSE THE LINE --
ALL OF IT -- SHE CAN'T HAVE DIED FOR --

ELIAS. BLANKETS
ON THE TANKS.
WE HAVE AN HOUR.

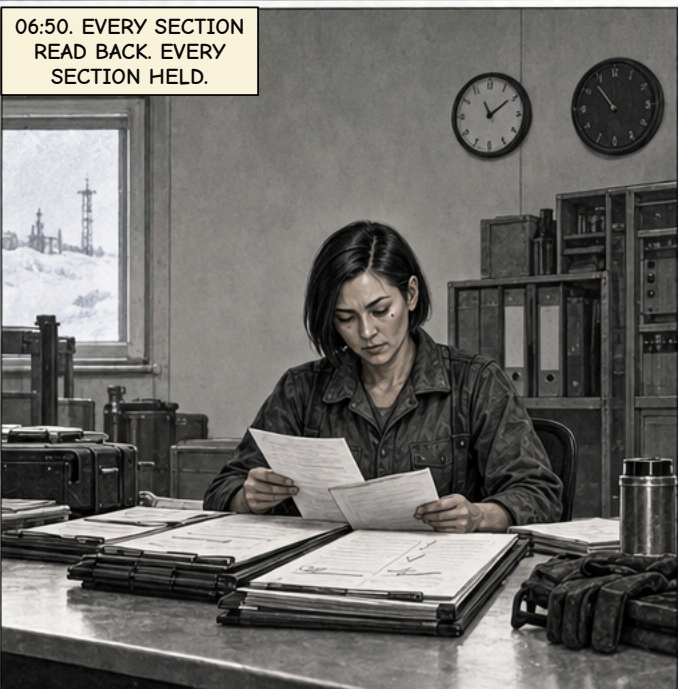
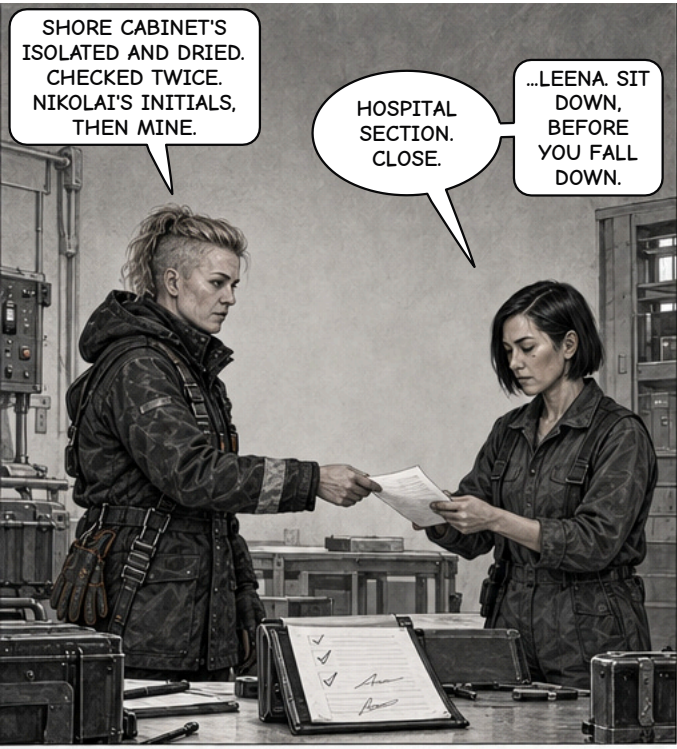
LET HER WORK.



DARIA, DON'T. THE
SHORE CABINET'S WET
TOO. CLOSE IT ALL AT
ONCE AND IT FLASHES
OVER. LIKE SERGEI.

THEN SECTION BY
SECTION. THE
HOSPITAL. THEN
BOREALIS.

KOLYA. READ ME
BACK EVERY ONE.



THE LIGHTS CAME BACK
ACROSS THE VALLEY ONE
SECTION AT A TIME. EACH ONE
READ BACK TWICE.

