

CHAPTER FOURTEEN · ANSWER



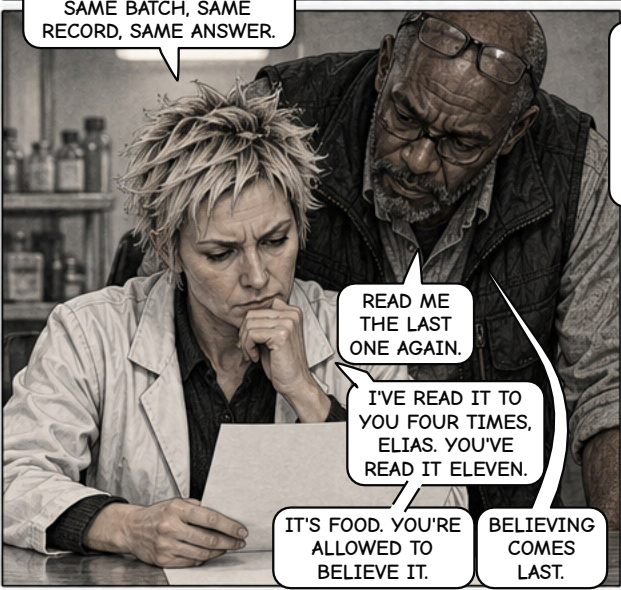
CHAPTER
FOURTEEN. ANSWER.

13 FEBRUARY 2035.
DAY 152. BOREALIS.



SIX RESULTS. SIX CLEAN.
SAME BATCH, SAME
RECORD, SAME ANSWER.

YOU'RE
STARING.



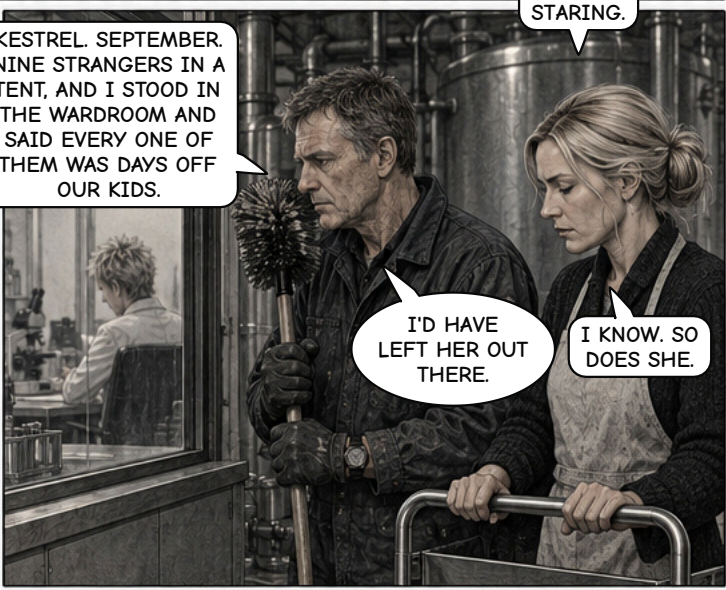
READ ME
THE LAST
ONE AGAIN.

I'VE READ IT TO
YOU FOUR TIMES,
ELIAS. YOU'VE
READ IT ELEVEN.

IT'S FOOD. YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO
BELIEVE IT.

BELIEVING
COMES
LAST.

KESTREL. SEPTEMBER.
NINE STRANGERS IN A
TENT, AND I STOOD IN
THE WARDROOM AND
SAID EVERY ONE OF
THEM WAS DAYS OFF
OUR KIDS.



I'D HAVE
LEFT HER OUT
THERE.

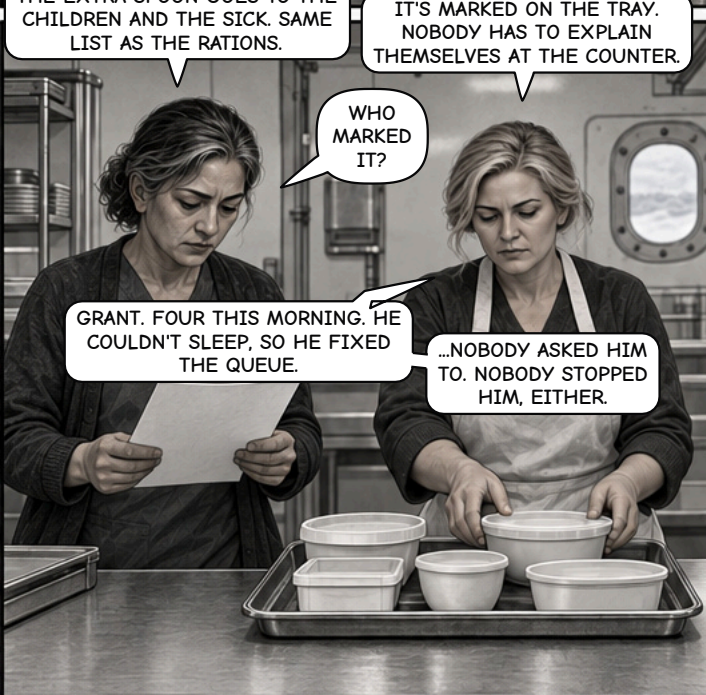
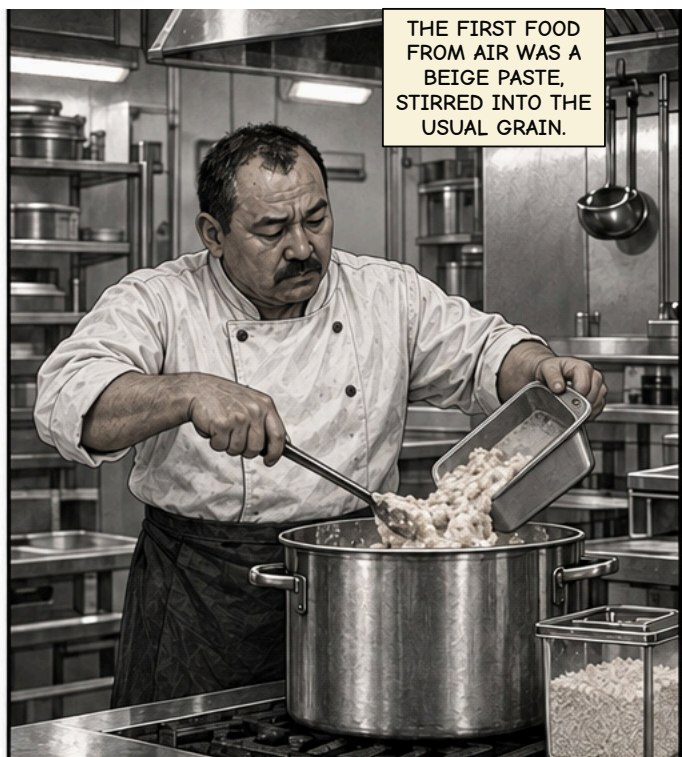
I KNOW. SO
DOES SHE.

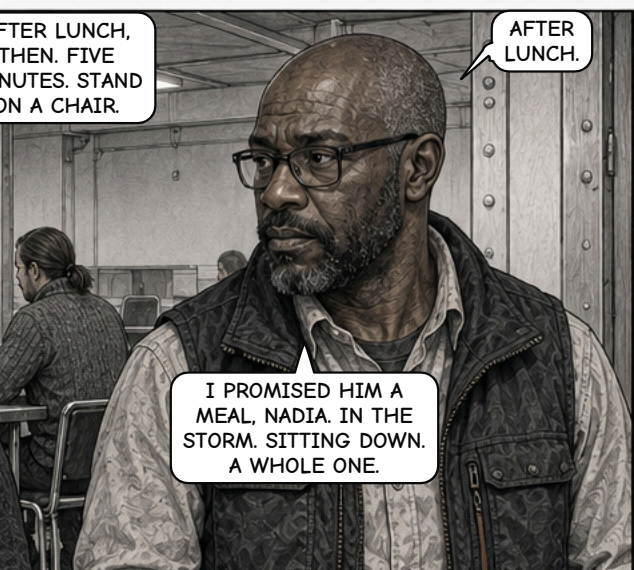
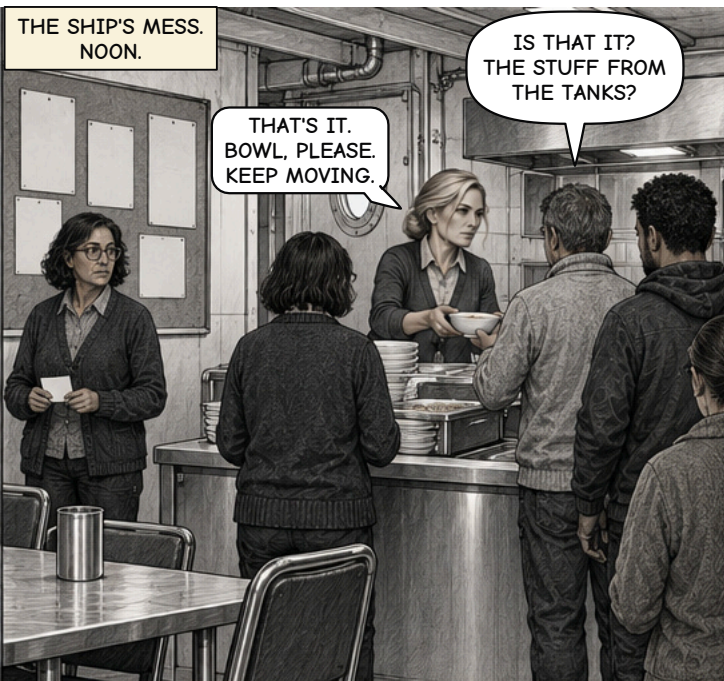


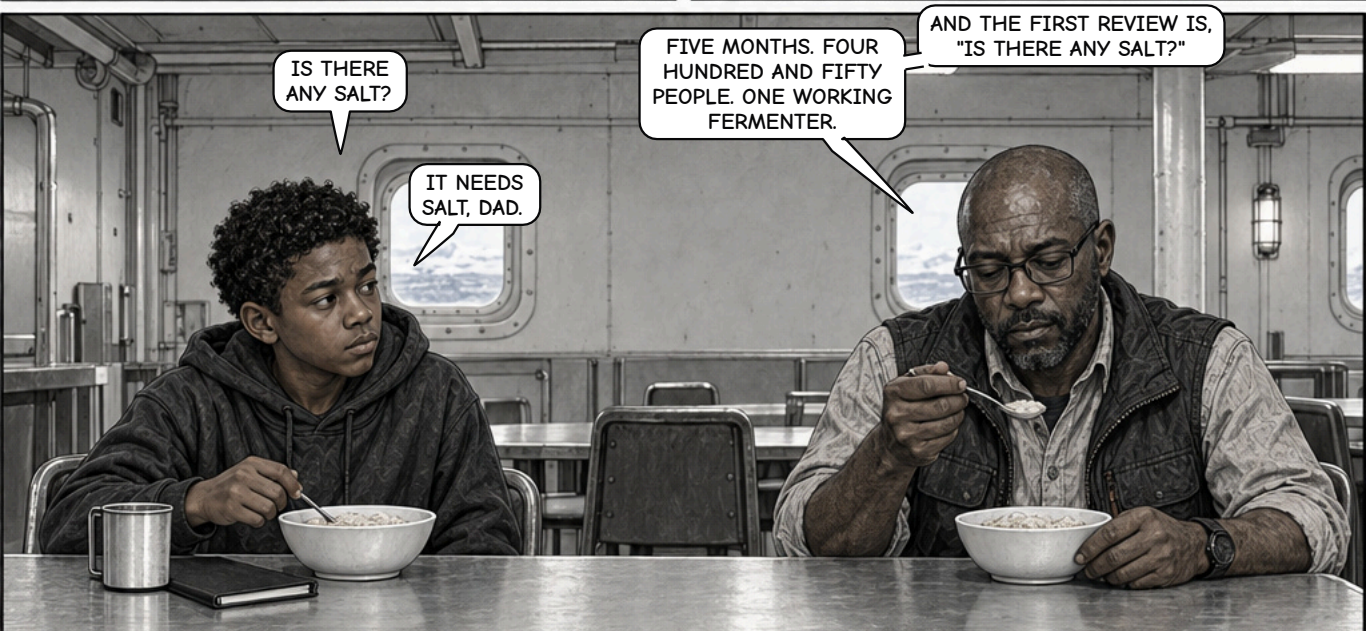
THERE.

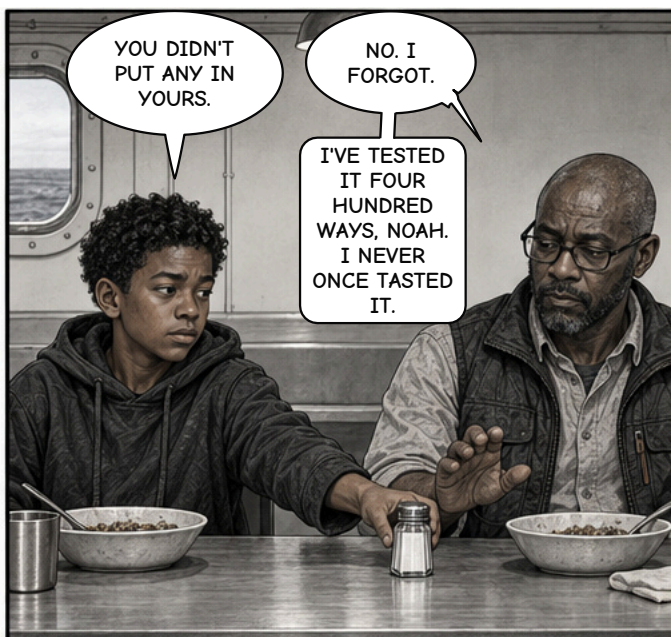
GO AND
FEED THEM.

TRAIN 2 — CERTIFIED
SAFE FOR FOOD — 13
FEB 2035 — A. KALLIO

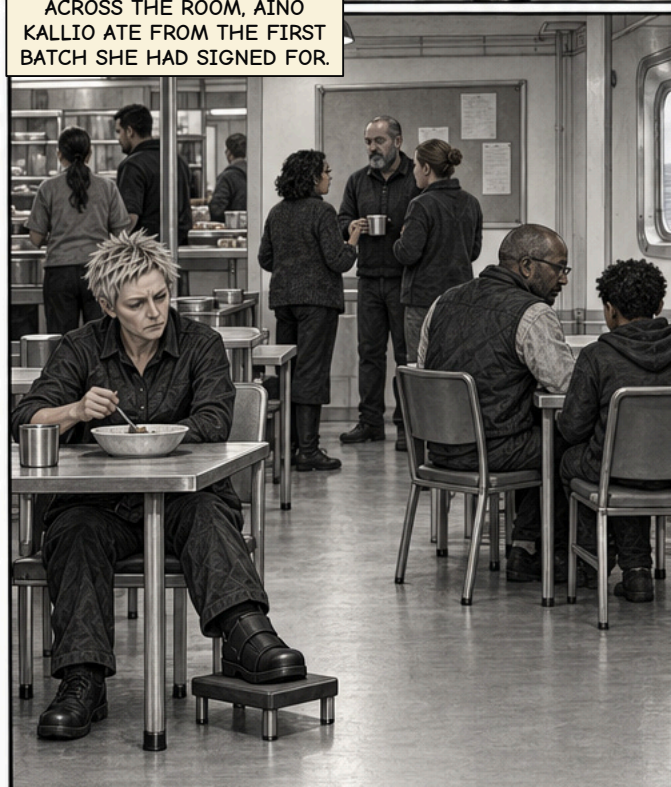








ACROSS THE ROOM, AINO KALLIO ATE FROM THE FIRST BATCH SHE HAD SIGNED FOR.



THAT EVENING.
THE QUAY.

THE TOWN HAD GONE BACK
ASHORE AFTER THE STORM.
SOMEBODY STILL WALKED THE
CABLE EVERY THREE HOURS.

SAMIRA SAYS YOU'RE NOT TO BE
OUT HERE WITH THAT HAND.

SAMIRA SAYS A GREAT
MANY THINGS. SHE'S
USUALLY RIGHT.

PATROL COUNTS
THEM OUT AND
COUNTS THEM
IN. SOMEBODY
HAS TO COUNT.

I'M KEEPING
IT WARM.

THAT WAS
HER LINE.



I'LL SAY
IT ONCE.

THEN I'LL WALK HER
CABLE TILL I'M TOO
OLD TO FIND IT.

SHE WENT BACK FOR
ME, CAPTAIN. TWENTY
METERS. I'M THE ONE
WHO SHOULD BE
UNDER THERE.

MALIK.

SHE CHOSE. DON'T
TAKE THAT FROM
HER.

BELOVA

WHO DID
IT?

PAINT
WON'T LAST
A WINTER
OUT HERE.

EVERYBODY,
I EXPECT.

THEN WE PAINT
IT AGAIN EVERY
SPRING.

8 MARCH.
DAY 175.
12:50.

LONGYEARBYEN HAD ALWAYS
SAID HELLO TO THE SUN
FROM THE STEPS OF THE OLD
HOSPITAL.

THAT'S THE SMALLEST
CAKE I'VE EVER SEEN.

PASTE, THE LAST SPOON
OF SUGAR IN THE VALLEY,
AND GALINA'S OVEN. DON'T
ASK WHAT IT TASTES LIKE.

HANNE SAID IF
THE SUN CAME
BACK DIMMER,
WE'D BRING
SMALLER CAKE.

WHAT DOES IT
TASTE LIKE?

LIKE
HANNE
SAID TO
BRING IT.

IT'S UP. FORTY
MINUTES, SOOT
PERMITTING. IT
IS NOT WARMER.
NOBODY IS TO
SAY WARMER.

WELL,
KENJI?

NOBODY SAID
WARMER.

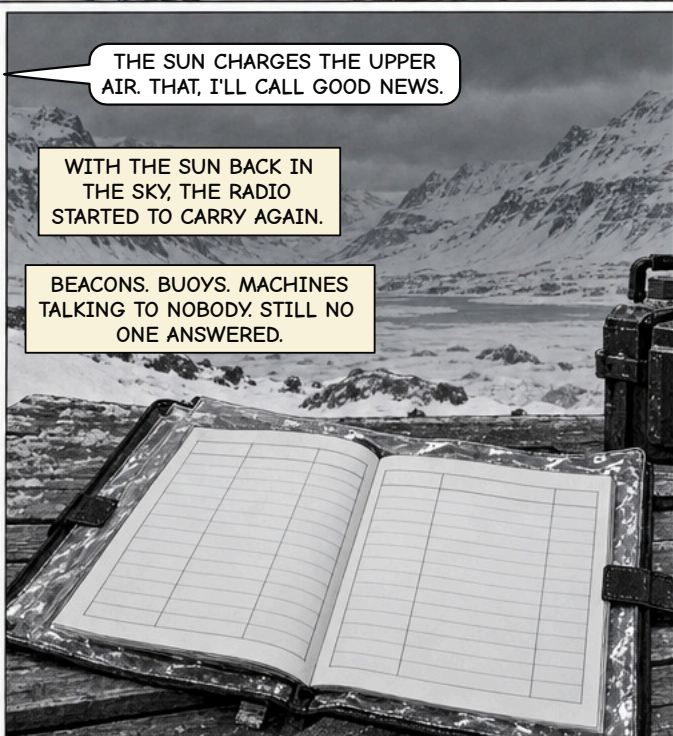
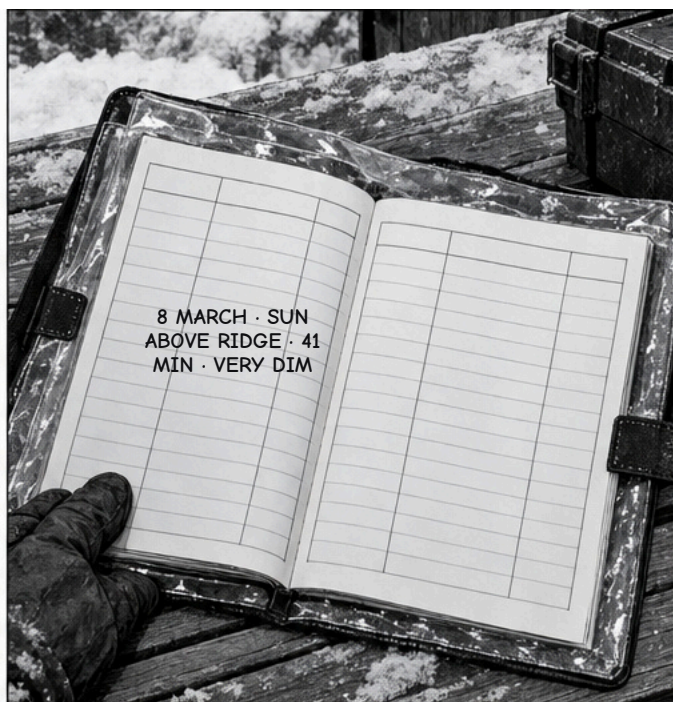
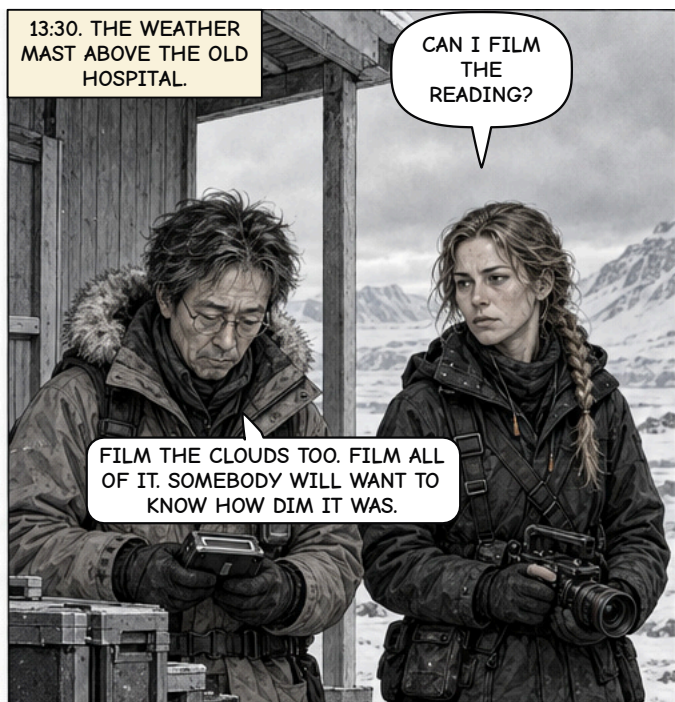
YOU LIT
IT.

I'VE BEEN SAVING
ONE PIPE SINCE
OCTOBER. FOR THIS.

A CAPTAIN
PLANS AHEAD,
SØRENSEN.

SINCE
OCTOBER?







20 MARCH
2035. THE
EQUINOX.
DAY 187.

THIRTEEN
WEEKS AFTER
THE LONGEST
NIGHT.



...TWENTY-FOUR.
TWENTY-FIVE.

TWENTY-SIX.
TWENTY-SIX TO ONE.

TWENTY-SIX.



BETTER ODDS THAN THE CAPTAIN EVER GAVE US.

I NEVER GAVE YOU
ODDS, SØRENSEN.



CAN WE EAT
IT NOW?

NOT THIS.
THIS IS
NEXT YEAR.

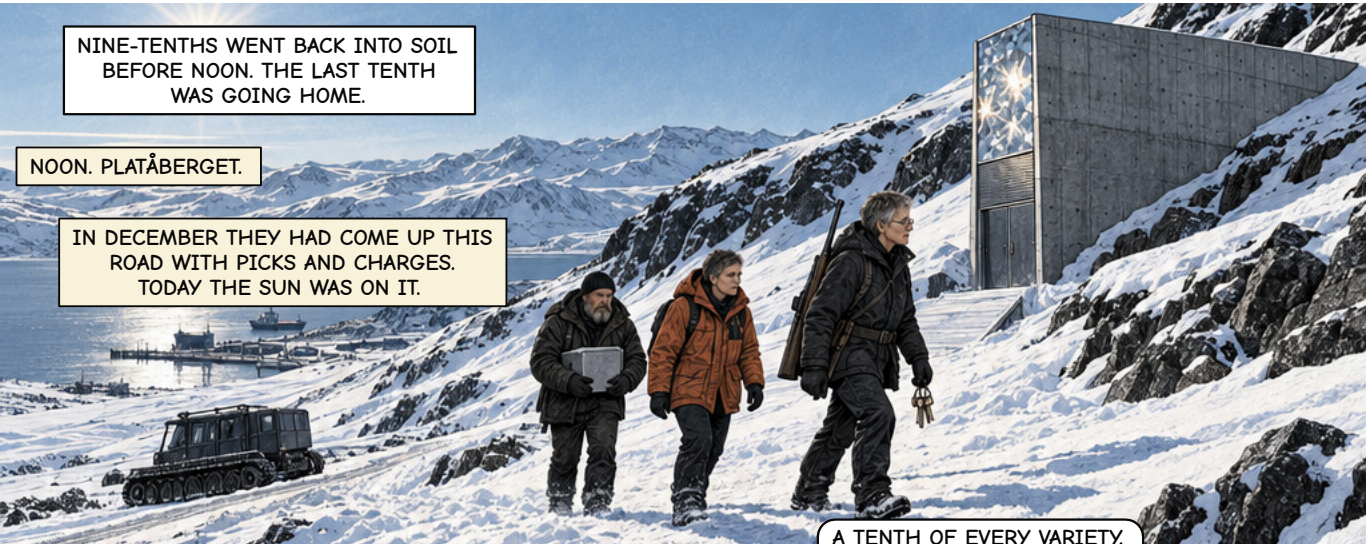
"EAT MINE, PLANT
THEIRS." ISN'T THAT HOW
IT GOES, CALDER?

THAT'S HOW IT
GOES. I GOT THE
EASY HALF.

NINE-TENTHS WENT BACK INTO SOIL
BEFORE NOON. THE LAST TENTH
WAS GOING HOME.

NOON. PLATÅBERGET.

IN DECEMBER THEY HAD COME UP THIS
ROAD WITH PICKS AND CHARGES.
TODAY THE SUN WAS ON IT.



A TENTH OF EVERY VARIETY.
TWO HUNDRED OF THEM,
WRITTEN DOWN BY NUMBER.



LAST TIME I CAME
UP HERE, I HAD A
CHARGE IN MY
PACK AND MY
SON'S NAME IN
MY MOUTH.

I
REMEMBER.
I HAD THE
RIFLE.

WOULD YOU
HAVE USED
IT?

I'D HAVE FOUND OUT.
GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO.

YOUR CONDITION.
I WROTE IT DOWN.



MY CONDITION. I
DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY
WOULD KEEP IT.



SOME OF THE
PLACES ON THESE
BOXES AREN'T
THERE ANYMORE.

HOW LONG
CAN IT WAIT?

THE SEED
DOESN'T
KNOW
THAT.

LONGER
THAN US.
THAT'S THE
POINT OF IT.



14:00. THE
COUNCIL HOUSE.

THE LAST TIME I WROTE A
MESSAGE TO THE WORLD, I
CHOSE THE SENTENCE
THAT WOULD BRING YOU.

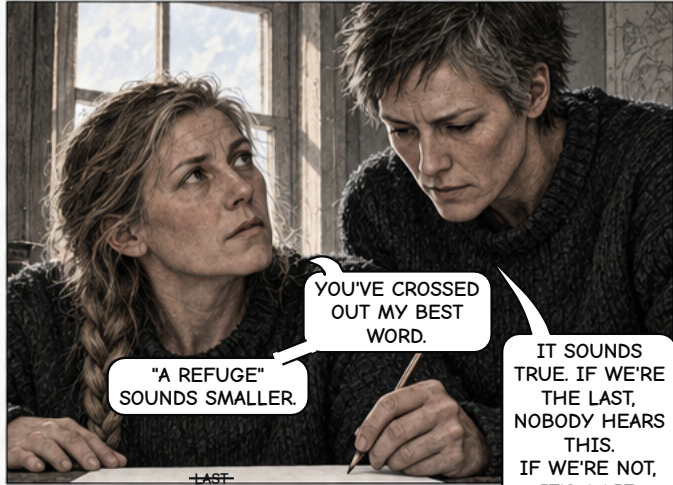
"FORTY-THREE
AT BOREALIS."

THIS TIME I PUT IN
EVERY NUMBER. EVEN
THE ONES THAT MAKE
US LOOK POOR.

THAT LINE'S
NEW.

TRUE SINCE SIX THIS MORNING.

454 AT CONTACT. 441
LIVING.
ONE REACTOR RUNNING,
ONE IN RESERVE.
PROTEIN WORKING; FAT AND MEDICINE SHORT.
CONTACT US BEFORE YOU TRAVEL — WE CAN'T
PROMISE A BERTH.
WE HAVE SEED THAT GROWS IN THE COLD.



THE CREW'S
INQUIRIES. PYOTR'S
SISTER. GALINA'S SON.
BELOVA'S WIFE, AND
THE TWINS.

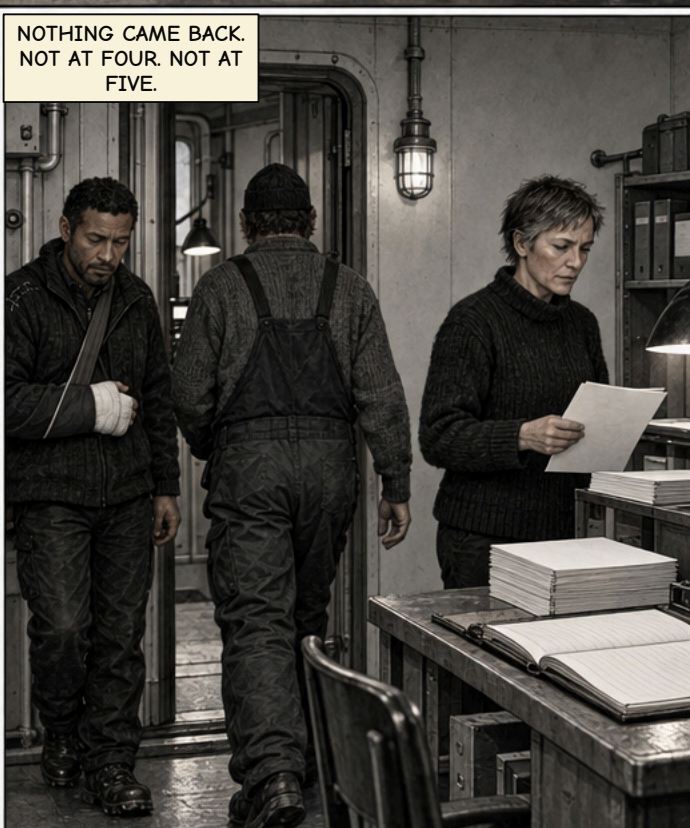
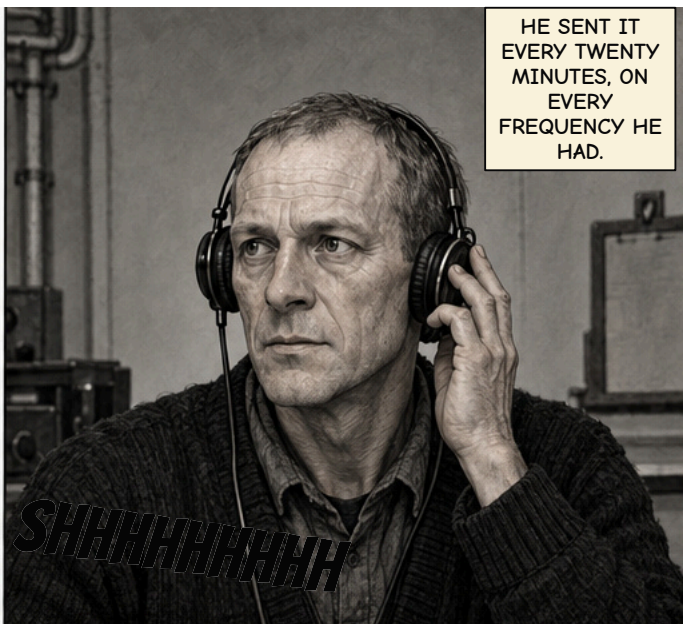
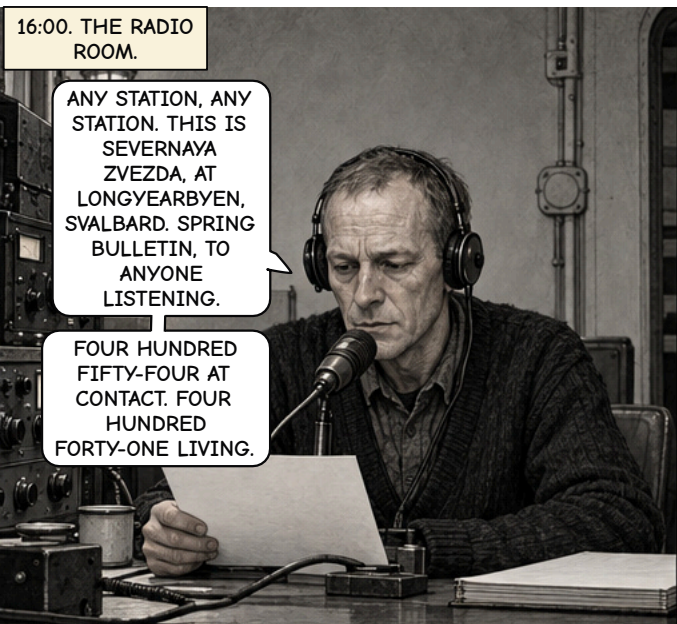
MALKOV'S MOTHER.
LEENA WROTE THAT
ONE.

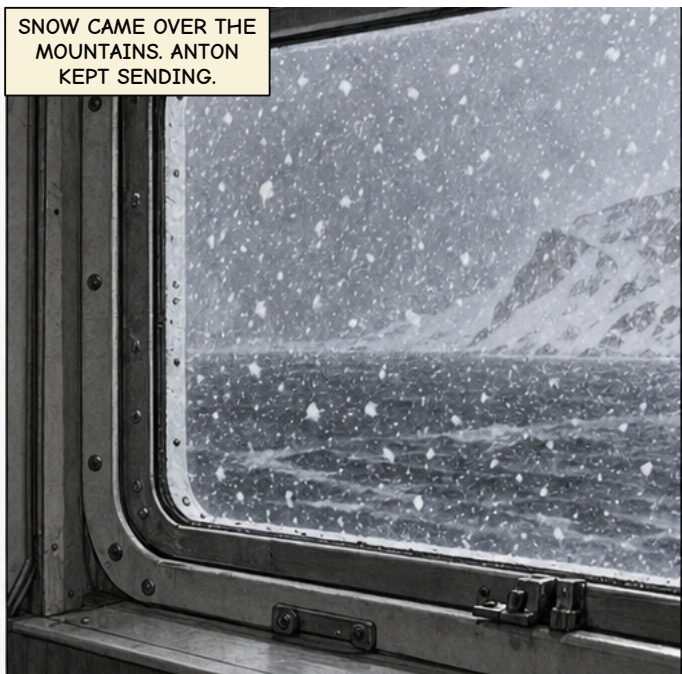
AND YOURS?

YOU'RE IN THE
TOWN, CAPTAIN.
SAME QUEUE AS
EVERYONE.

THE QUEUE IS
FOR THE TOWN,
PROFESSOR.

ANIA WRONA — COASTAL RADIO,
TROMSØ





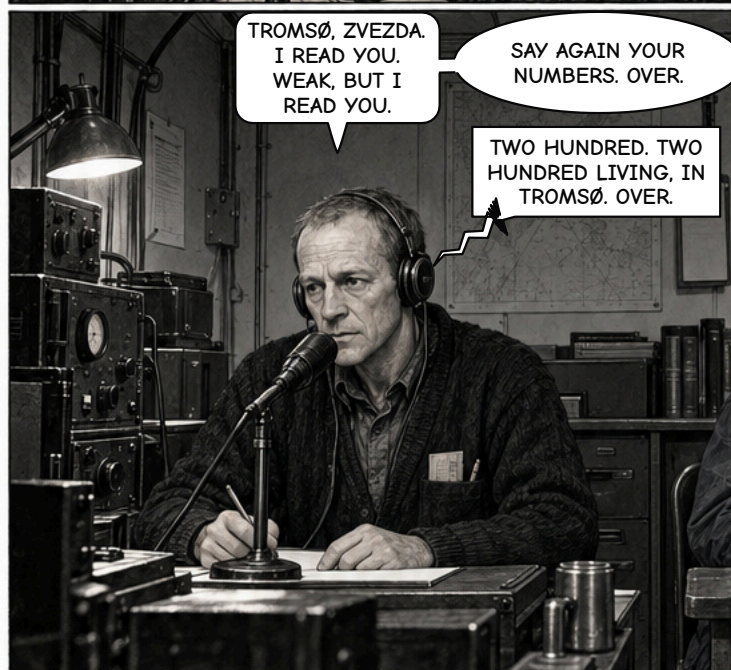




SEVERNAYA ZVEZDA, SEVERNAYA
ZVEZDA. THIS IS TROMSØ. TROMSØ.
HOW DO YOU READ? OVER.



18:52 — TROMSØ



TROMSØ, ZVEZDA.
I READ YOU.
WEAK, BUT I
READ YOU.

SAY AGAIN YOUR
NUMBERS. OVER.

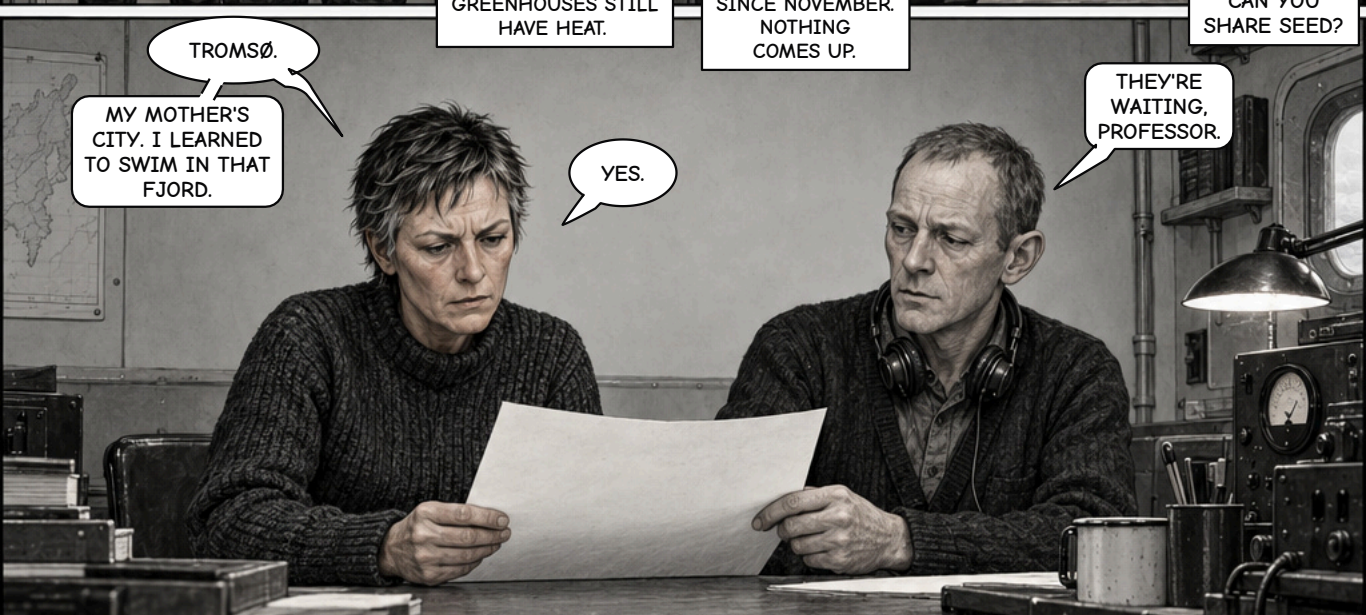
TWO HUNDRED. TWO
HUNDRED LIVING, IN
TROMSØ. OVER.

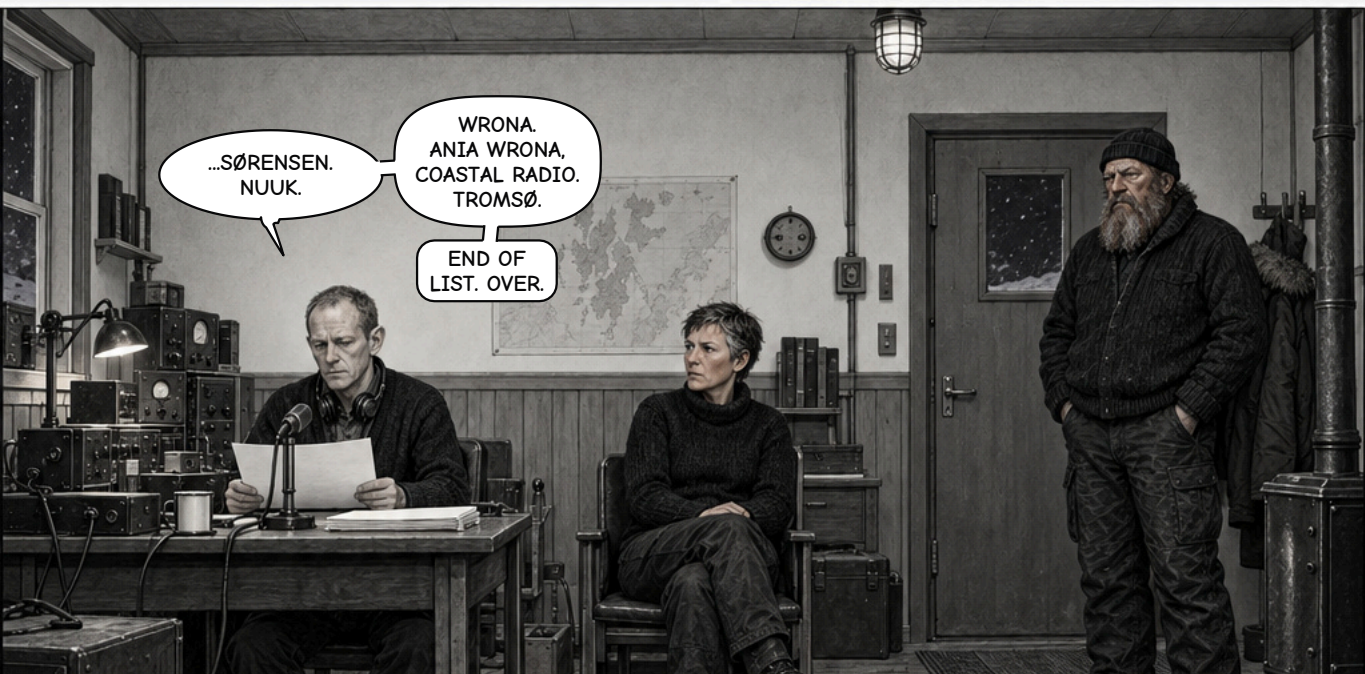
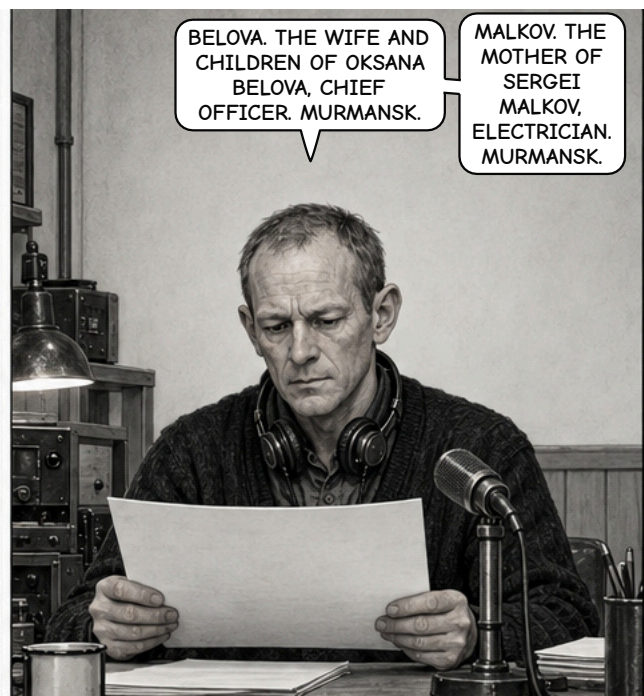
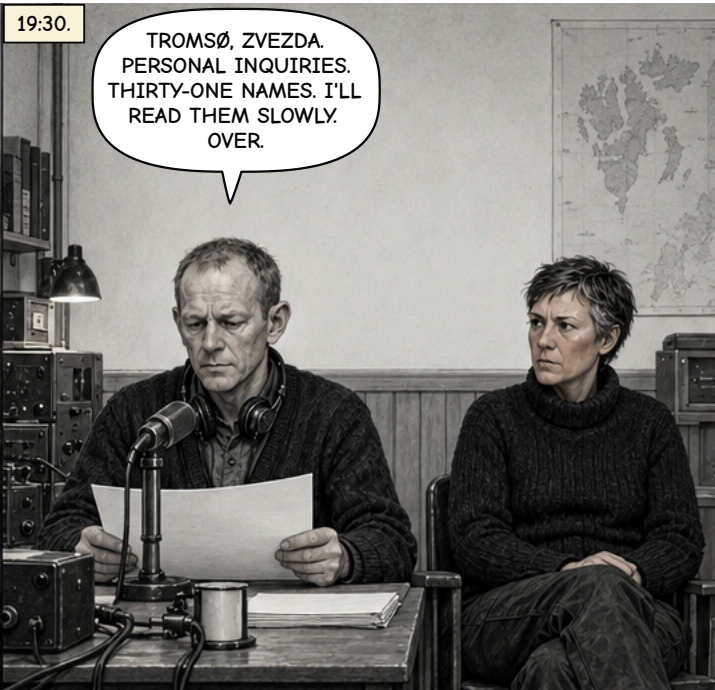


NOAH. GET THE
CAPTAIN. GET THE
PROFESSOR.

RUN.

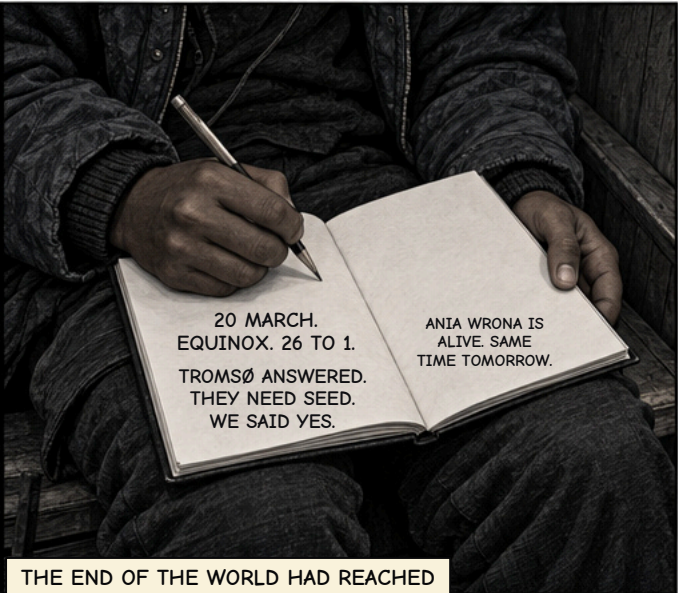
18:58.











END

