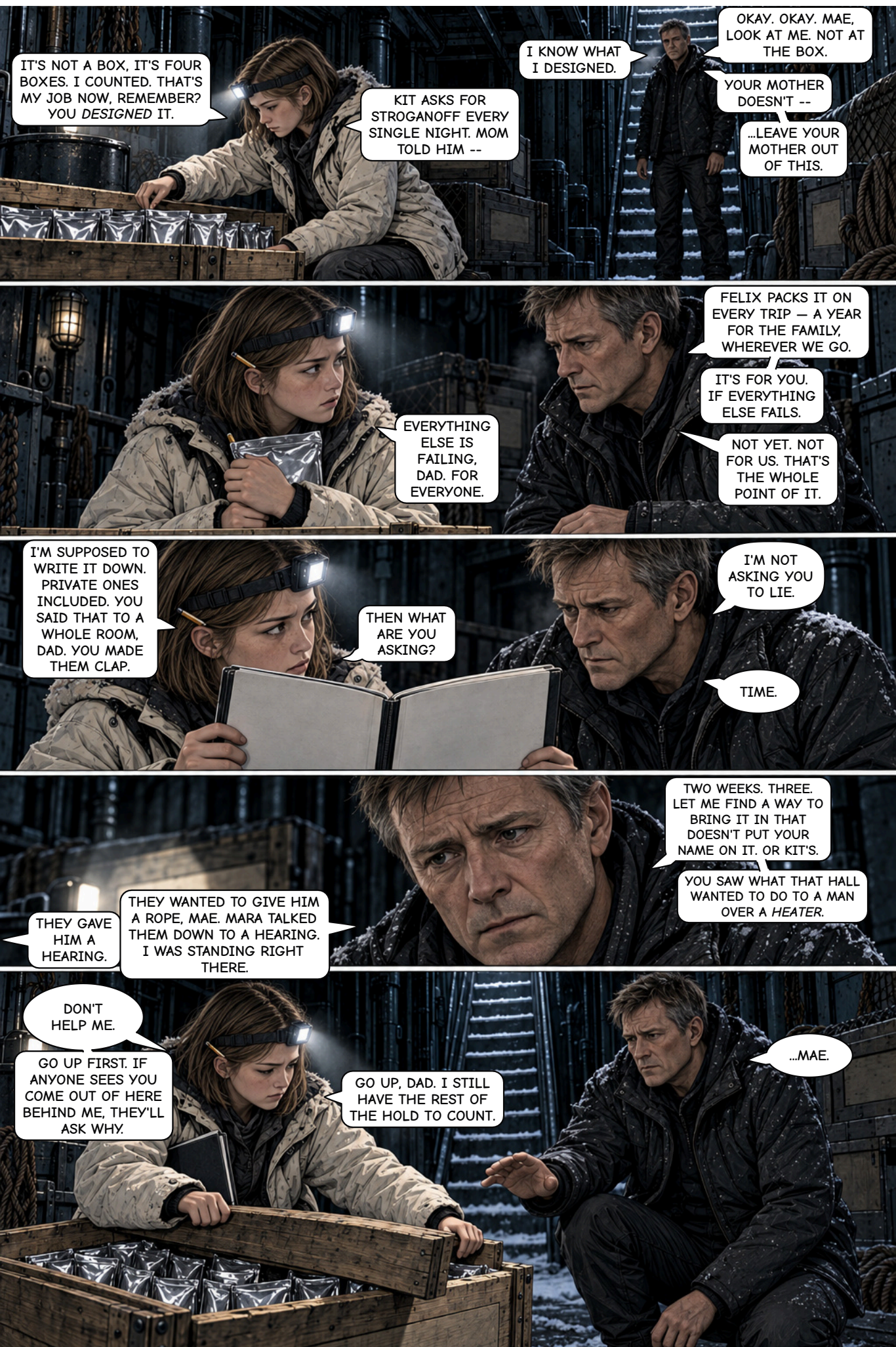


CHAPTER NINE · LOOK BEHIND YOU





IT'S NOT A BOX, IT'S FOUR BOXES. I COUNTED. THAT'S MY JOB NOW, REMEMBER? YOU DESIGNED IT.

KIT ASKS FOR STROGANOFF EVERY SINGLE NIGHT. MOM TOLD HIM --

I KNOW WHAT I DESIGNED.

OKAY. OKAY. MAE, LOOK AT ME. NOT AT THE BOX.

YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T --

...LEAVE YOUR MOTHER OUT OF THIS.

FELIX PACKS IT ON EVERY TRIP -- A YEAR FOR THE FAMILY, WHEREVER WE GO.

IT'S FOR YOU. IF EVERYTHING ELSE FAILS.

NOT YET. NOT FOR US. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF IT.

I'M SUPPOSED TO WRITE IT DOWN. PRIVATE ONES INCLUDED. YOU SAID THAT TO A WHOLE ROOM, DAD. YOU MADE THEM CLAP.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU ASKING?

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO LIE.

TIME.

TWO WEEKS. THREE. LET ME FIND A WAY TO BRING IT IN THAT DOESN'T PUT YOUR NAME ON IT. OR KIT'S.

YOU SAW WHAT THAT HALL WANTED TO DO TO A MAN OVER A HEATER.

THEY GAVE HIM A HEARING.

THEY WANTED TO GIVE HIM A ROPE, MAE. MARA TALKED THEM DOWN TO A HEARING. I WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE.

DON'T HELP ME.

GO UP FIRST. IF ANYONE SEES YOU COME OUT OF HERE BEHIND ME, THEY'LL ASK WHY.

GO UP, DAD. I STILL HAVE THE REST OF THE HOLD TO COUNT.

...MAE.

27 OCTOBER.

FORWARD HOLD.
TWELVE DRUMS OF
OIL. FOUR BOXES OF
FILTERS. ONE
"RUSSIAN
SOMETHING."

AND FOUR CRATES
OF "PERSONAL
EFFECTS." WHAT
EFFECTS?

I TOLD YOU I'D
WRITE
"SOMETHING."

CLOTHES, MOSTLY. MY
MOM PACKS LIKE
WE'RE MOVING HOUSE.

HA! NOBODY
CAN EAT A
SWEATER.

DAD. YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
CHECK, NOT LAUGH.

I CHECKED.
SHE LOOKED
ME IN THE EYE.

THAT'S HOW I CHECKED
YOUR HOMEWORK FOR
TWELVE YEARS.

FWD HOLD — PERSONAL EFFECTS
×4 — NOT FOOD — M.C.

SINCE
WHEN DOES
NOAH NEED
HELP WITH
FRACTIONS?

LET HER GO,
GRANT.

MAEI WE
SAVED YOU
THE END!

I'M EATING
WITH NOAH.
HE'S STUCK ON
FRACTIONS.

SINCE ALWAYS,
APPARENTLY.

IS THIS
ABOUT
FRACTIONS?

SHE KEPT HIS
SECRET. SHE STOPPED
EATING AT HIS TABLE.

HE DOES
THAT.

TEN DAYS LATER, THE SHIP
FOUND SOMETHING IN HER
OWN OIL.

YOU'RE WELCOME AT THIS TABLE, MAE.
ALWAYS. BUT YOUR FATHER IS WATCHING
YOU LIKE A MAN WAITING FOR A BILL.

6 NOVEMBER. DAY
FIFTY-THREE.

WATCH HOW IT SETTLES. BRIGHT.
HEAVY. THAT ISN'T DIRT, DARIA.
THAT'S THE BEARING, TALKING.

GOOD. THEN GO AND
MAKE IT A FACT.

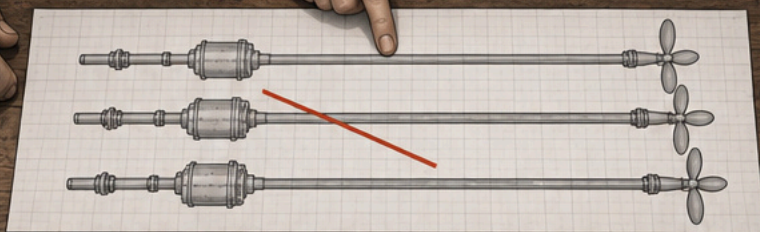
THAT WASN'T IN
THE LAST
SAMPLE.

OR IT'S ONE BAD
JAR. ONE JAR IS A
RUMOR.

DEBRIS, VIBRATION,
HEAT. ALL THREE.
THE CENTER
BEARING.

IT'S BEEN CREEPING
UP A LITTLE EVERY
WATCH. I THOUGHT
IT WAS THE COLD.

ISOLATE THE
SHAFT BEFORE
THE DAMAGE
DECIDES FOR
US.



TWO SHAFTS. ENOUGH FOR A QUAY. NO
PROMISE OF AN OCEAN.

REPAIR THE CENTER SHAFT. SHE'LL CROSS
ANY SEA. EVEN IN WINTER.

REPAIRED WITH WHAT?

CLEAN OIL. THE SPARE COOLING
PUMP. THE POWER CABINET. ALL
OF IT, CAPTAIN.

THE PUMP'S IN THE STORE.
THE OIL'S SEALED. WE
COULD PREPARE HER FOR
PASSAGE TOMORROW.

AT WHAT COST
ASHORE?

...WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
LIKE THAT?

BECAUSE YOU
ALREADY KNOW,
CHIEF. SAY IT OUT
LOUD. IT'S GOOD
PRACTICE.

SAME CLEAN OIL.
SAME PUMP. SAME
CABINET. THEY'RE
WHAT KEEP THE
TOWN LIT AND
BOREALIS COLD.

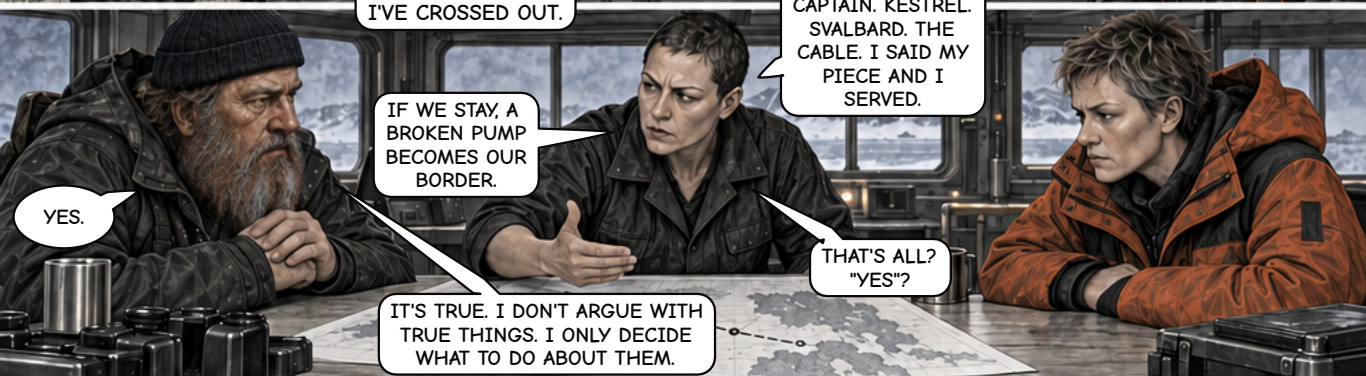
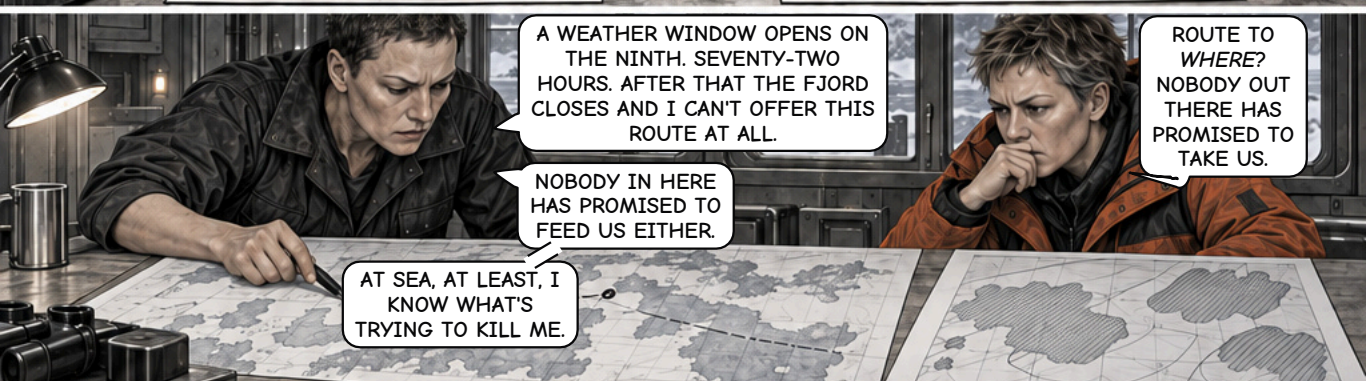
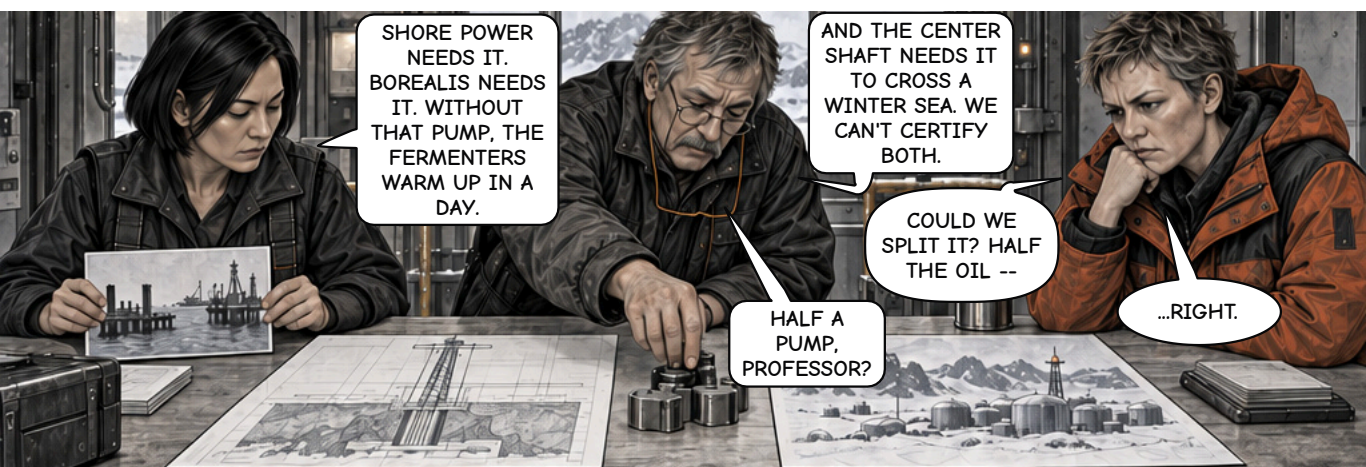
THEN THOSE AREN'T
TWO INVENTORIES.

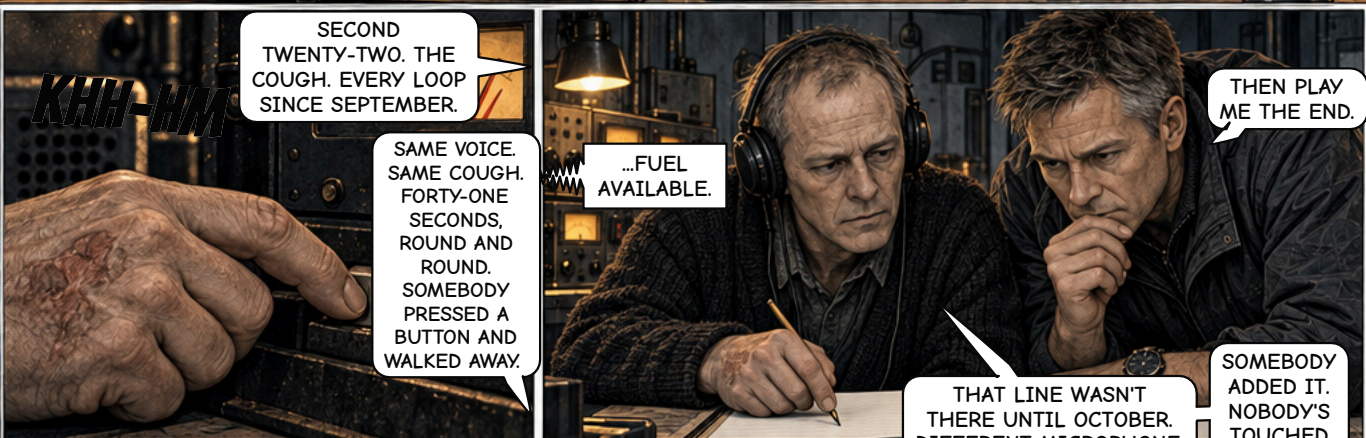
NO, PROFESSOR.
ONE INVENTORY. TWO
FUTURES.

NOT ME. NOT
THIS TIME.

WHO
PICKS?







8 NOVEMBER. THE COUNCIL.

ONE RUN. KEFLAVÍK. FIVE DAYS OUT, FIVE BACK, INSIDE OKSANA'S WINDOW. FOOD. ANTIBIOTICS. DIESEL.

THE TOWN RIDES OUT TWO WEEKS ON ITS OWN GENERATORS. I'VE DONE THE MATH. IT'S ON THE SHEET.

OF COURSE IT IS.

YOUR SHEET SAYS MY WARD RUNS ON THE HOSPITAL GENERATOR FOR TWO WEEKS.

ON THE FUEL THAT'S LEFT, RATIONED. YES.

THEN WE SERVICE IT. TOMÁS CAN --

GONE NOVEMBER TO SPRING. IF SHE COMES BACK.

SHE'S AN ICEBREAKER.

GREENLAND SEA ON THREE SHAFTS, ONE SHEDDING METAL?

THAT GENERATOR COUGHED ALL SEPTEMBER.

AND FIVE DAYS IS A LONG WAY TO GO TO FIND OUT IT'S A TAPE.

GRANT. I RAN YOUR LOGISTICS FOR NINE YEARS. THIS IS THE PLAN YOU'D HAVE FIRED ME FOR.

THIS IS THE PLAN THAT BRINGS FOOD BACK.

IT'S THE PLAN THAT TAKES THE ONLY HEAT IN THIS VALLEY TO SEA ON THE STRENGTH OF ONE COUGH.

THEN WE TURN AROUND, AND WE'VE LOST TEN DAYS. I CAN LIVE WITH TEN DAYS.

AND IF KEFLAVÍK'S A RECORDING, GRANT?

...THE COUNCIL SAYS NO, MR. CALDER. IT'LL STILL SAY NO TOMORROW.

THOSE AGAINST.

TOMORROW IT'LL HAVE LESS TIME TO SAY IT.

8 AND 9 NOVEMBER. THE CREW, THE EXPEDITION AND THE TOWN EACH VOTED THEIR OWN WAY.

AND IF THE VOTE SAYS STAY?

I VOTE TO KEEP PASSAGE. YOU KNOW WHY. MURMANSK IS GONE, AND THIS TOWN IS GOING.

THEN I SERVE IT. I'VE SERVED WORSE.

PAPERS IN THE BOX. IN PRIVATE. EVERY NO RECORDED BY NAME.

NO. KEEP PASSAGE. A SHIP THAT CAN'T LEAVE ISN'T A LIFEBOAT ANYMORE.

YOUR REASON GOES IN THE RECORD. EVERY WORD.

STAY. I OWE THIS TOWN A CABINET THAT WORKS.

STAY.

TELL YOUR DELEGATE BOTH SIDES.

THEN TELL HIM WHICH ONE YOU CAN LIVE WITH.

SHE WON'T GO. WHERE WOULD SHE GO? EVERYTHING OUT THERE'S DEAD.

HOSPITAL POWER, YES. BUT THEN WE'RE TIED TO ONE SHIP. IF SHE GOES, WE GO DARK.

CREW, EXPEDITION, TOWN. ALL THREE SAY STAY. NOT UNANIMOUSLY.

DISSENT ATTACHED.

HOW CLOSE WAS THE CREW?

CLOSE ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE ASKING.

AFTER TOMORROW IT'S BINDING.

YOU COULD STILL TAKE YOUR SHIP, CAPTAIN.

I KNOW.

SO COULD ANYONE WITH THE KEYS, PROFESSOR. THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH SHIPS.

9 NOVEMBER. DAY FIFTY-SIX. THE
JOINT SESSION.

SAFE WINTER PASSAGE ENDS.
I CAN'T PROMISE SAFETY
HERE INSTEAD.

NOBODY'S ASKED YOU
TO PROMISE, CAPTAIN.

SOMEBODY WILL.
IN FEBRUARY.

MOTION: CLEAN OIL, SPARE PUMP
AND CABINET ASHORE. CENTER
SHAFT LAID UP. THE SHIP STAYS.

TRANSFER AT EIGHT TOMORROW
MORNING, UNDER DARIA'S SIGNATURE.

THOSE AGAINST.

NO. THAT
MARGIN COULD
SAVE US.

RECORDED.

IN MY WORDS,
CAPTAIN. NOT
YOURS.

YOURS ARE
THE ONLY
WORDS I'D
USE.

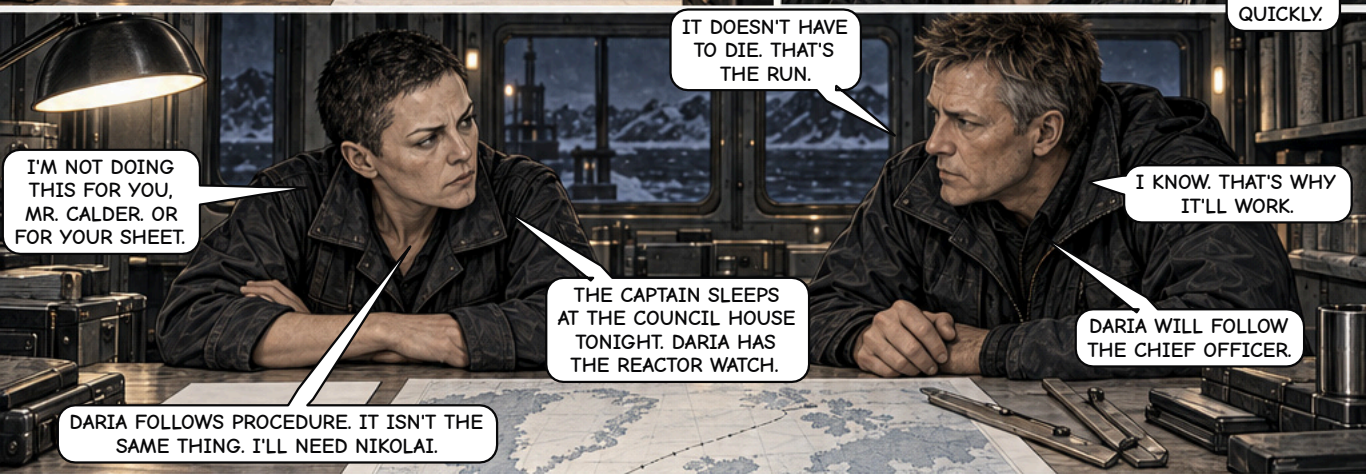
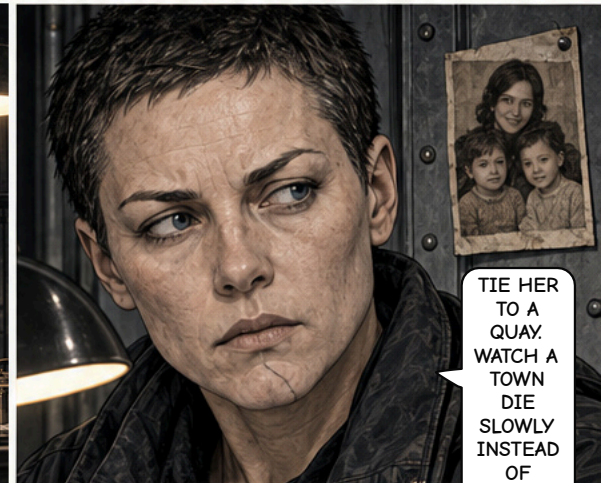
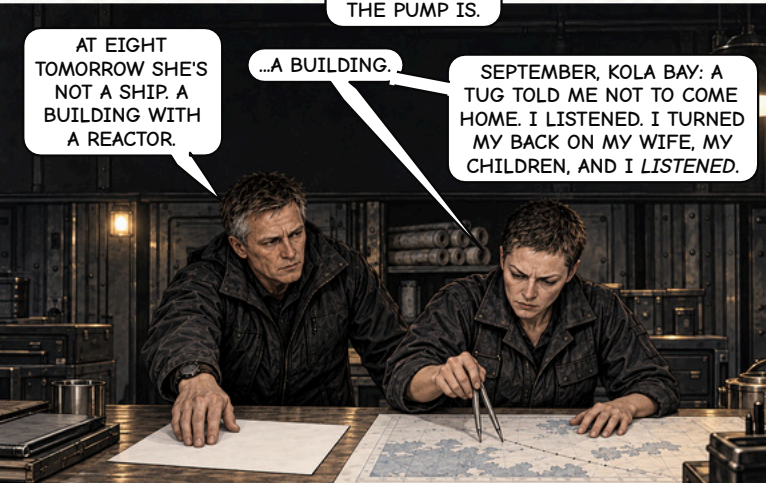
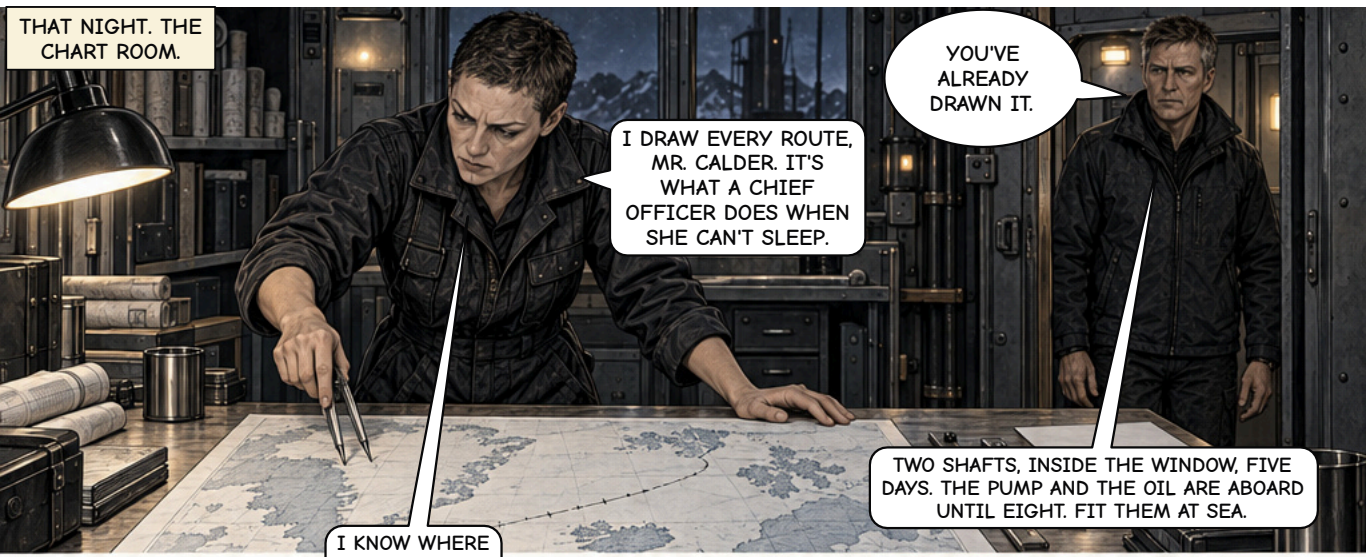
CARRIED.

THE SHIP IS COMMITTED.

TONIGHT I SLEEP ASHORE AND SIGN THE TRANSFER
WITH THE COUNCIL AT FIRST LIGHT. SHE CAN
MANAGE ONE NIGHT WITHOUT ME.

SHE'LL MANAGE.





23:40.



WAITING FOR YOU. YOU WALK FASTER WHEN YOU'VE DECIDED SOMETHING. I COULD HEAR YOU FROM THE CABIN.

CEE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? IT'S MINUS TWENTY.

ARE WE GOING ON A TRIP?

...GO INSIDE, KIT. IT'S COLD.

...ARRIVALS BY SEA ACCEPTED. FOOD. MEDICAL. REPEAT --

KHH-HM



TWENTY-TWO SECONDS. SAME COUGH, EVERY TIME. NOBODY COUGHS THE SAME WAY TWICE.

IF IT'S REAL, IT'LL STILL BE REAL IN SPRING.

I'M NOT TAKING THE GIRLS TO SEA ON A DEAD MAN'S VOICE, AND I'M NOT LEAVING THESE PEOPLE IN THE DARK.

SOMEBODY ADDED A LINE IN OCTOBER. FUEL AVAILABLE. SOMEBODY'S THERE, CELIA.

THEY WON'T BE IN THE DARK. THE GENERATORS --



YOU ALWAYS FIND THE EXIT FIRST. I USED TO LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU.

I THOUGHT IT MEANT YOU'D HOLD THE DOOR.

I AM HOLDING IT. FOR YOU. FOR THEM.

HOLD IT FOR FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE,

GRANT, OR DON'T CALL IT A DOOR.



ROWAN.

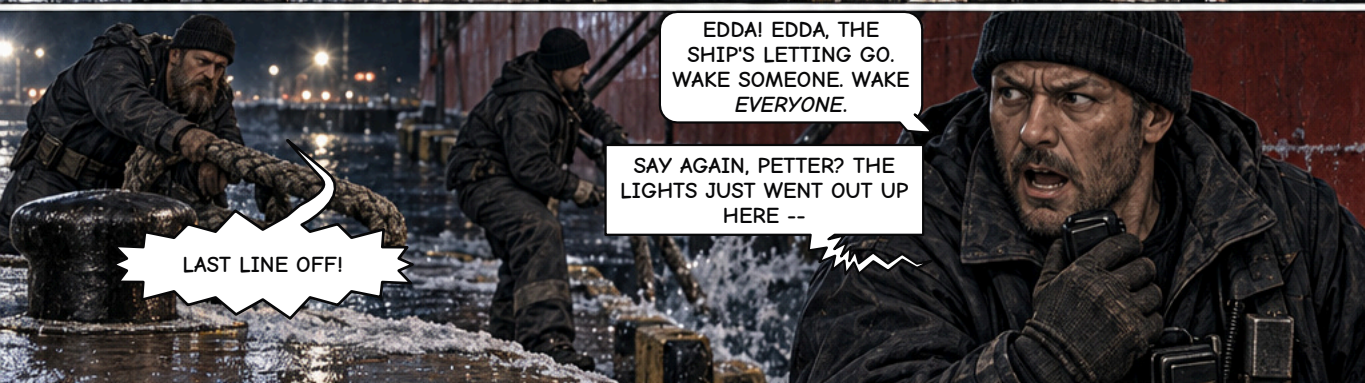
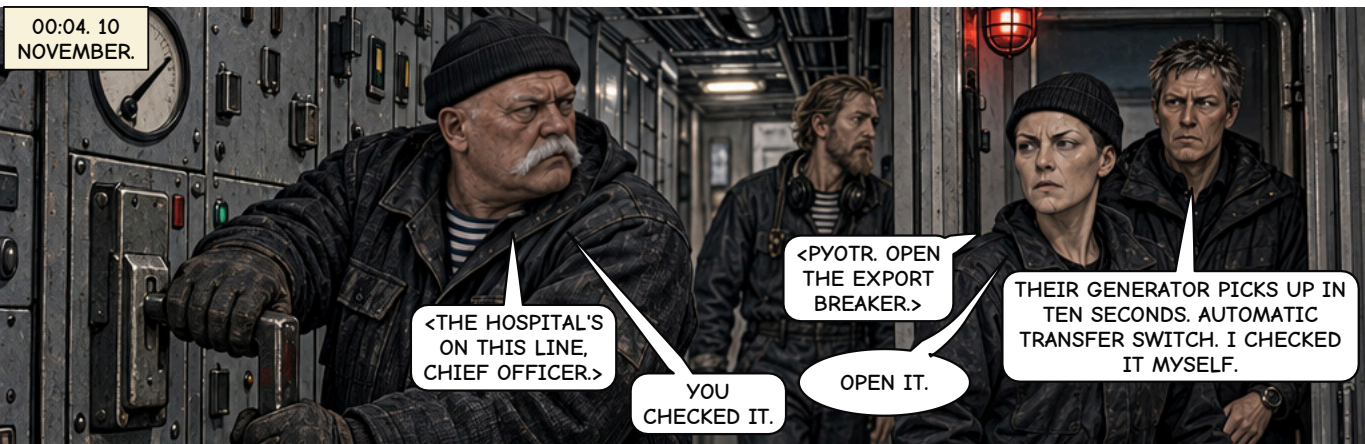
I KNOW YOU ARE.

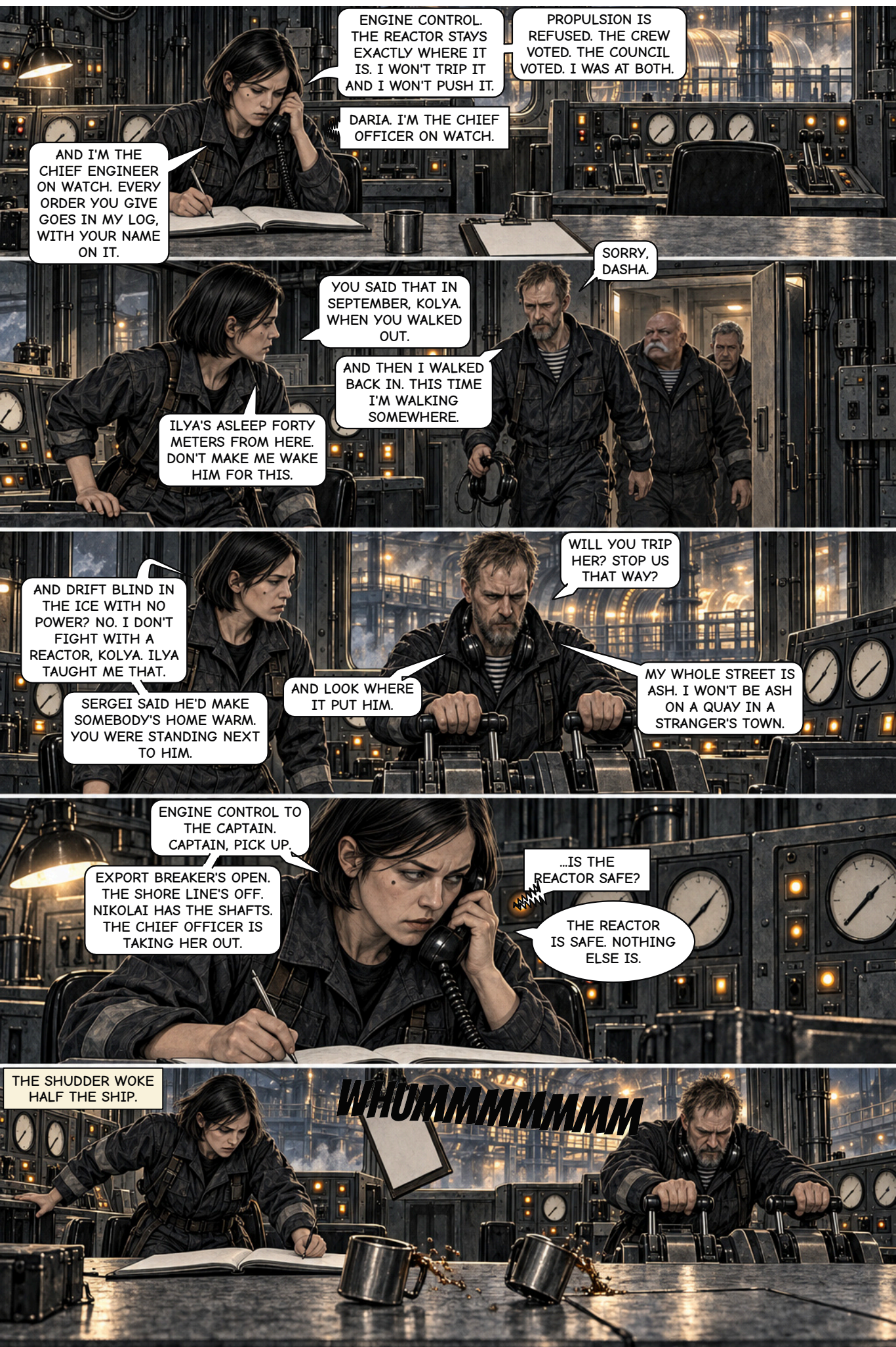
SOMEBODY SHOULD.

I'M STAYING WITH DAD.



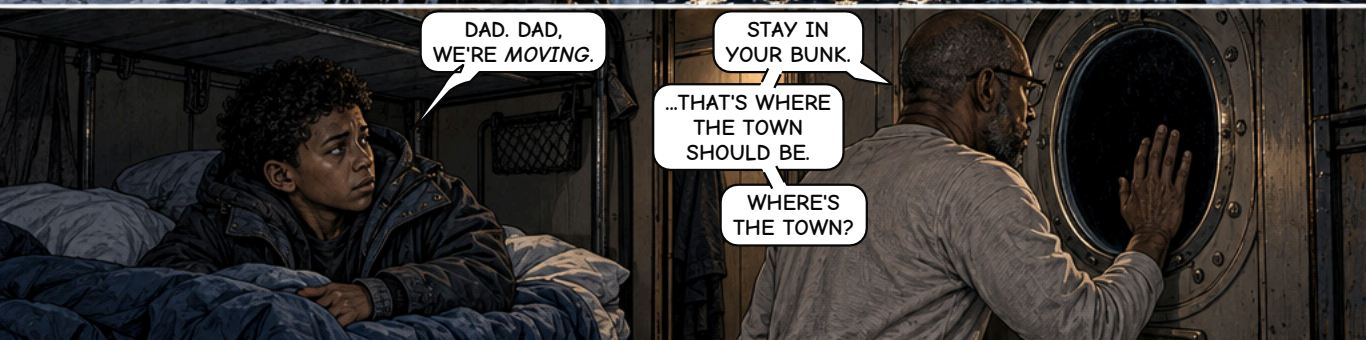


00:04. 10
NOVEMBER.





GRRRRNNNNKKKK

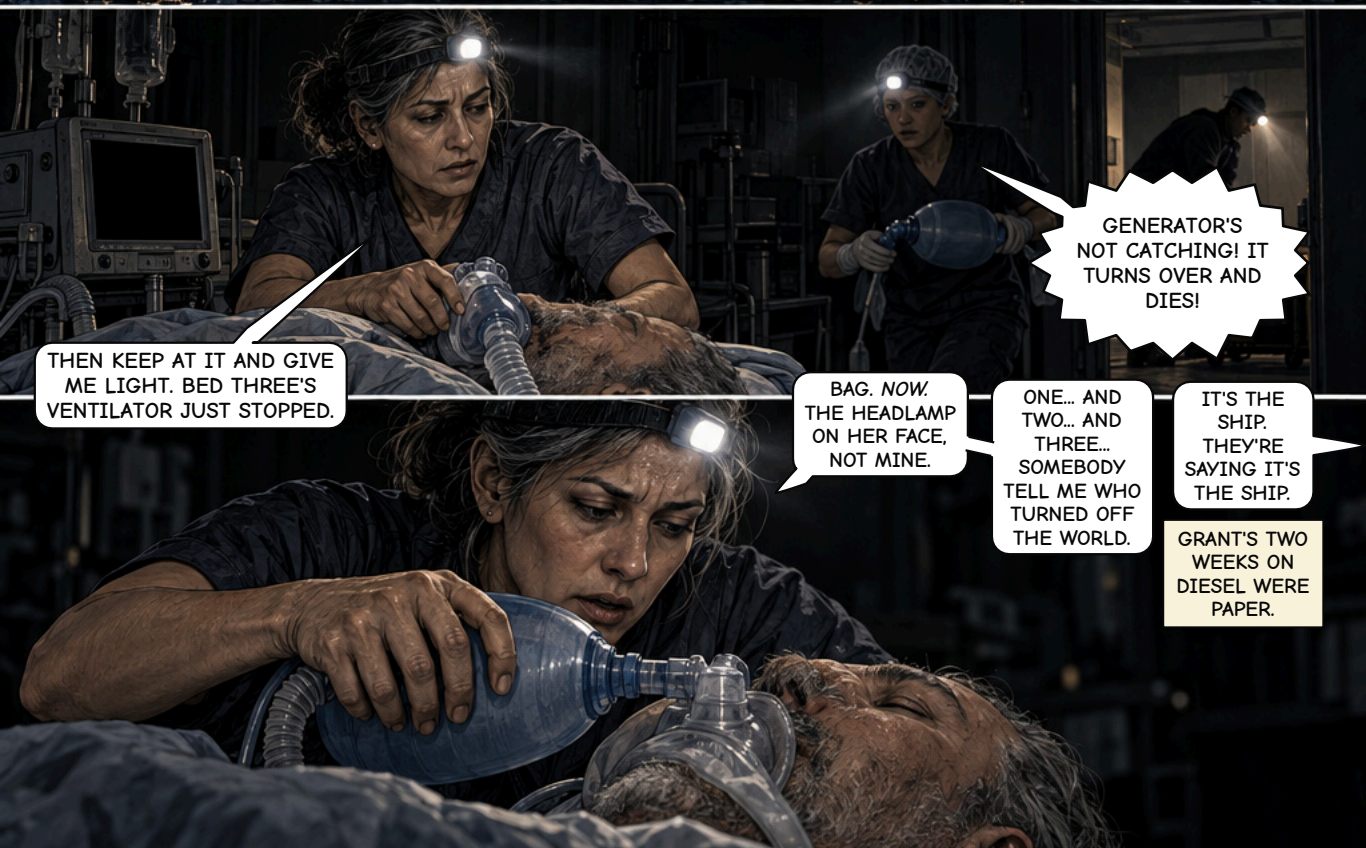
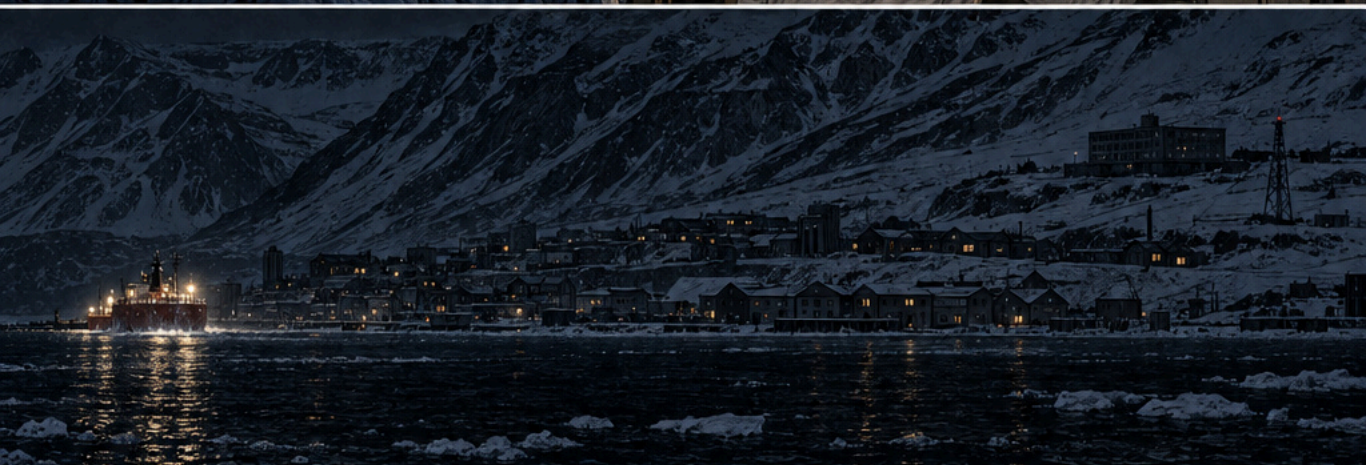


DAD. DAD,
WE'RE MOVING.

STAY IN
YOUR BUNK.

...THAT'S WHERE
THE TOWN
SHOULD BE.

WHERE'S
THE TOWN?



THEN KEEP AT IT AND GIVE
ME LIGHT. BED THREE'S
VENTILATOR JUST STOPPED.

GENERATOR'S
NOT CATCHING! IT
TURNS OVER AND
DIES!

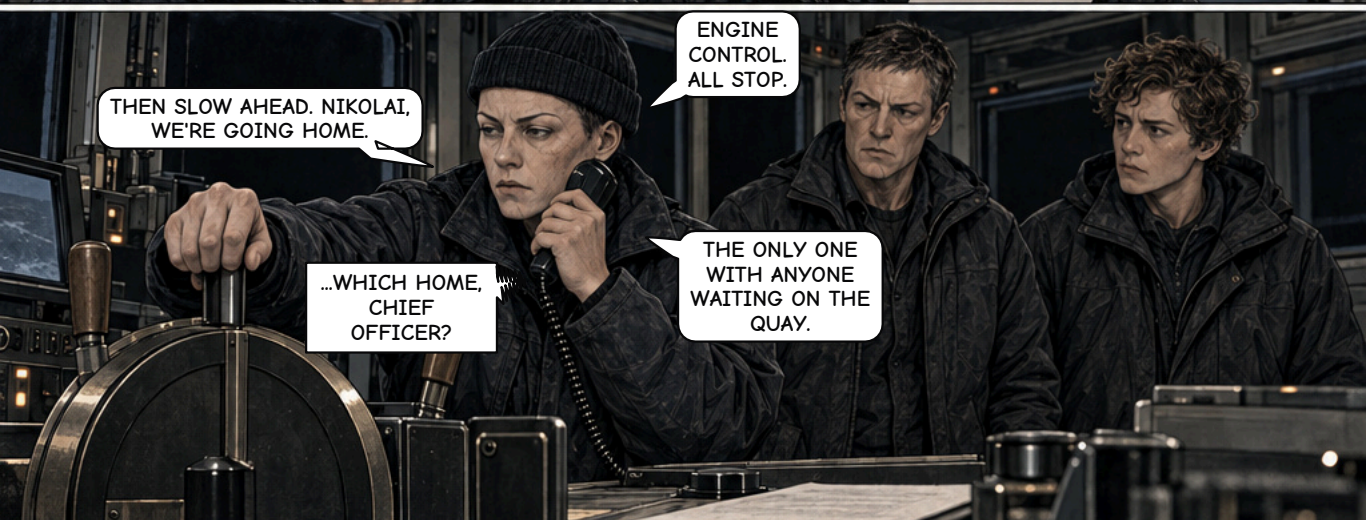
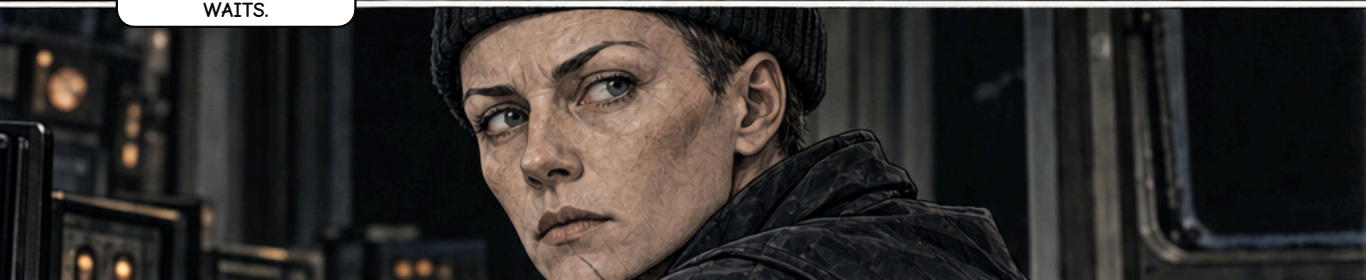
BAG. NOW.
THE HEADLAMP
ON HER FACE,
NOT MINE.

ONE... AND
TWO... AND
THREE...
SOMEBODY
TELL ME WHO
TURNED OFF
THE WORLD.

IT'S THE
SHIP.
THEY'RE
SAYING IT'S
THE SHIP.

GRANT'S TWO
WEEKS ON
DIESEL WERE
PAPER.







10 NOVEMBER.
WRONA DIDN'T
WAIT FOR THE
COUNCIL.

ONE LOAD. ONE
DESTINATION. MIND
YOUR FINGERS.

THIS IS THE CAPTAIN. IN SEPTEMBER I
PROMISED THE CREW MURMANSK IN SPRING.
IF ANYONE THERE EVER ANSWERED. I'M
BREAKING THAT PROMISE. TODAY. MYSELF.
NOBODY VOTED FOR IT. WRITE THAT DOWN.

KEEP THE MAINTENANCE
RECORD. LAID UP IS NOT
ABANDONED.

I KNOW. I'M AN OLD MAN. LET ME USE THE GENTLE WORD.

PUMP'S ASHORE. OIL'S
ASHORE. THE CUTOVER
WAITS FOR SAFETY
CHECKS, SAME AS ALWAYS.

SO THE
SHIP'S
OURS
NOW?

CHECK EACH
CONVERTER
AGAINST MY
LIST.
NOTHING
LEAVES THIS
SHIP WITHOUT
MY
SIGNATURE.

WITHOUT THE CONVERTERS SHE CAN'T TURN A
SHAFT, ILYA. LAID UP IS EXACTLY ABANDONED.

YES. A VOTE DOESN'T
CLOSE A BREAKER.
NEITHER DOES A
CAPTAIN.

THE SHIP IS
HERE NOW. THAT'S
ALL I KNOW.

I SAID IT. I MEANT IT.
THEN I STOPPED
MEANING IT. WRITE
DOWN BOTH.

WHAT ARE
YOU
WRITING?

MY STATEMENT.
EVERY ORDER I
GAVE, IN ORDER.
DARIA WILL CHECK
IT AGAINST HER
LOG. HERS WILL BE
BETTER.

YOU SAID YOU'D SERVE THE
VOTE. EVERYONE HEARD YOU.

ALONE. AGAIN. THEY VOTED
TO KEEP HER. YOU BROKE HER.

THEY VOTED TO KEEP HER HERE.
A VOTE WON'T HOLD HER
TO THE QUAY.

SHE ISN'T A SHIP ANYMORE.
SHE'S A FURNACE.
FURNACES DON'T LEAVE.

TONIGHT I'LL STAND IN FRONT
OF THE COUNCIL AND LET THEM
TELL ME WHAT THAT COSTS.

