

THE LAST WARM PLACE

CHAPTER ONE · SILENCE



THE END OF THE WORLD
REACHED THEM AS
SILENCE.

SIX METERS. ICE IS
BUILDING ON THE
SHEAVE, MARA. I'M NOT
PROMISING YOU SPEED.

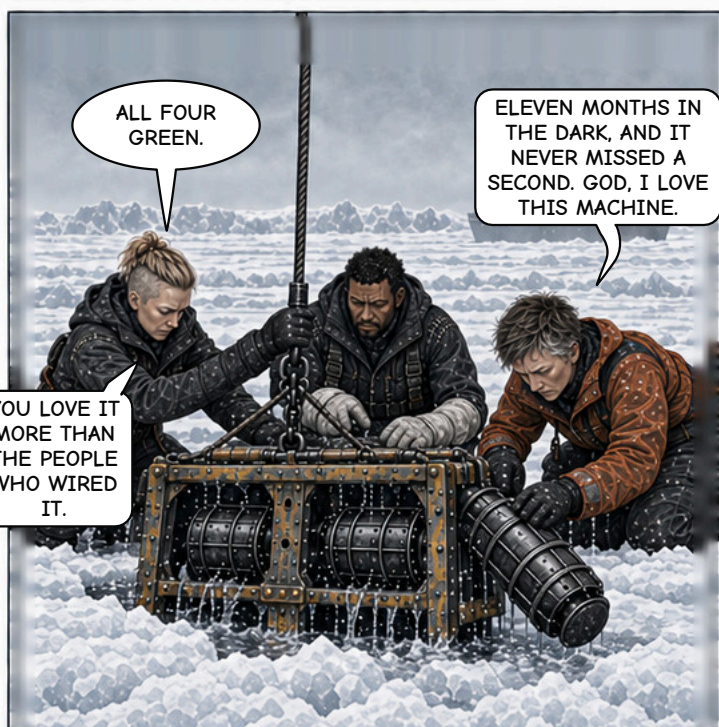
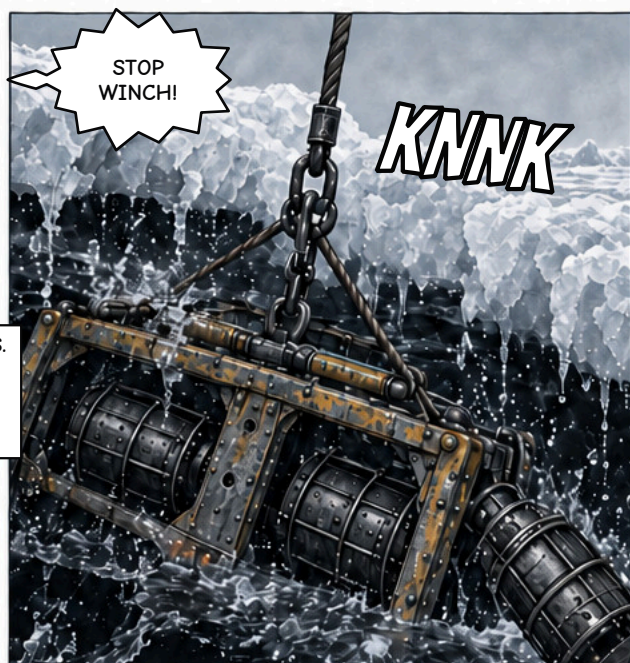
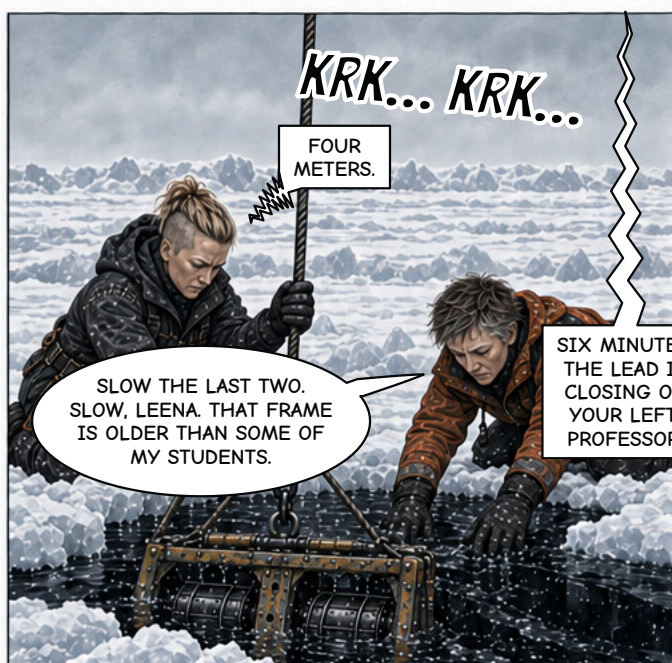
THE RECORDER
HAS ELEVEN MONTHS
UNDER THAT ICE. I'M NOT
LEAVING IT THERE FOR
THE SAKE OF EIGHT
MINUTES.

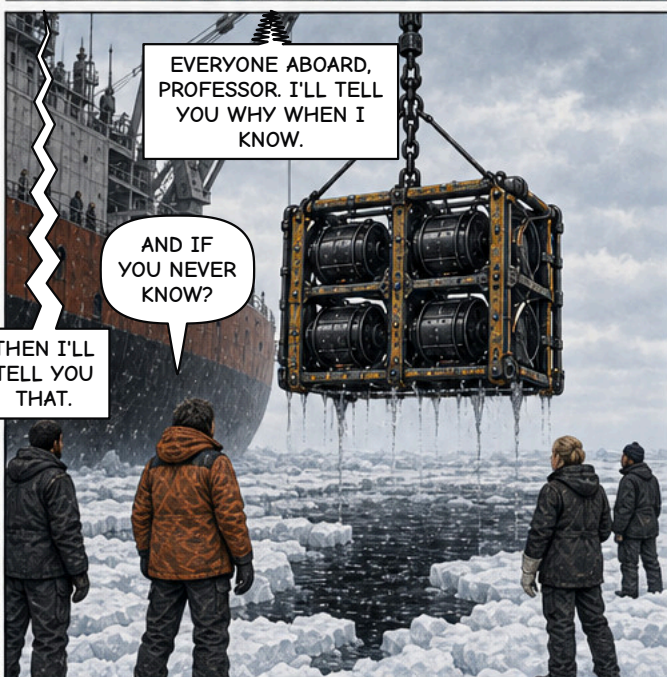
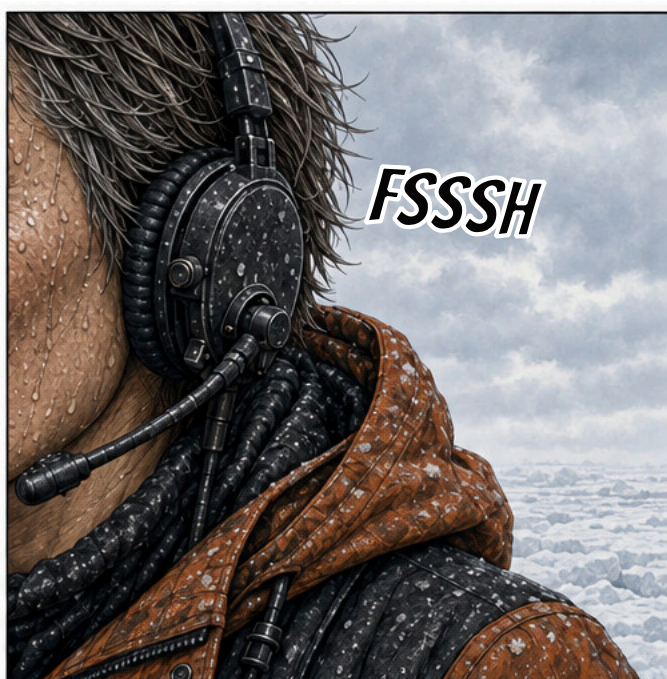
EIGHT MINUTES,
PROFESSOR. THE
SEA HAS ALL
MORNING.

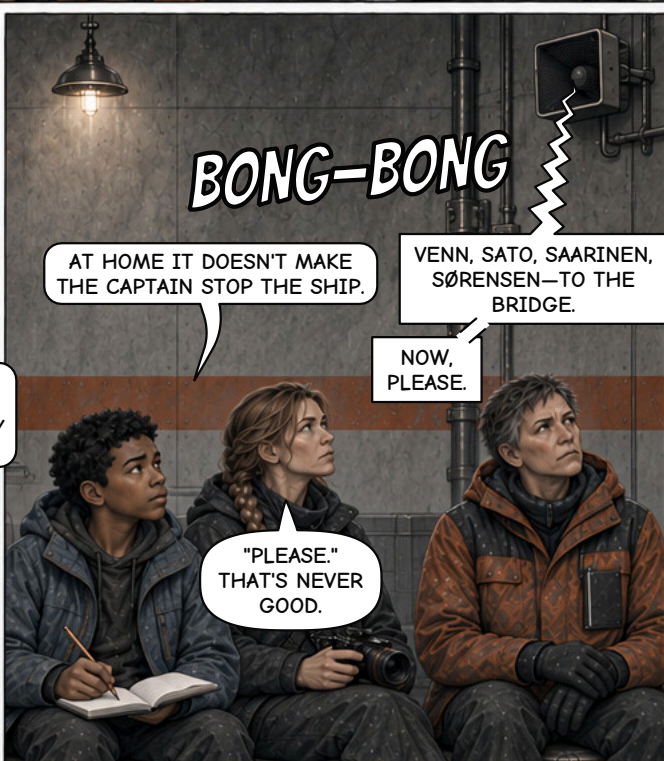
YOU DON'T.

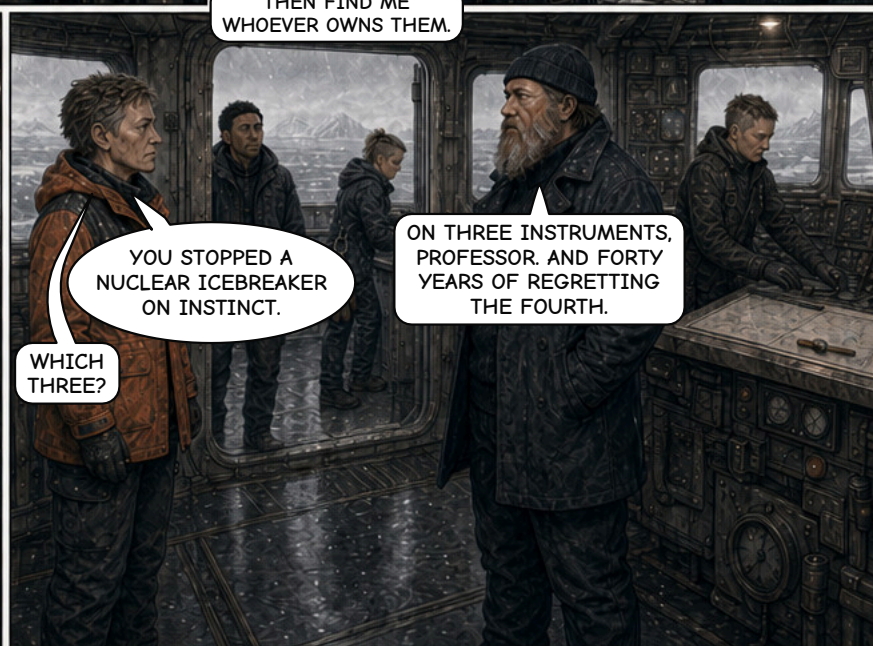
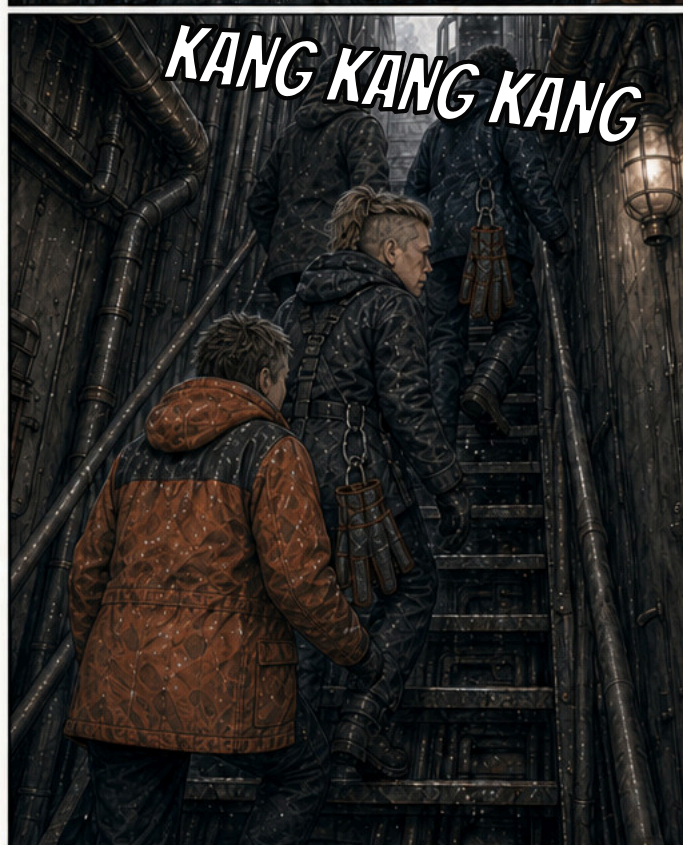
SHE HAS NEVER
RESPECTED OUR
CALENDAR.

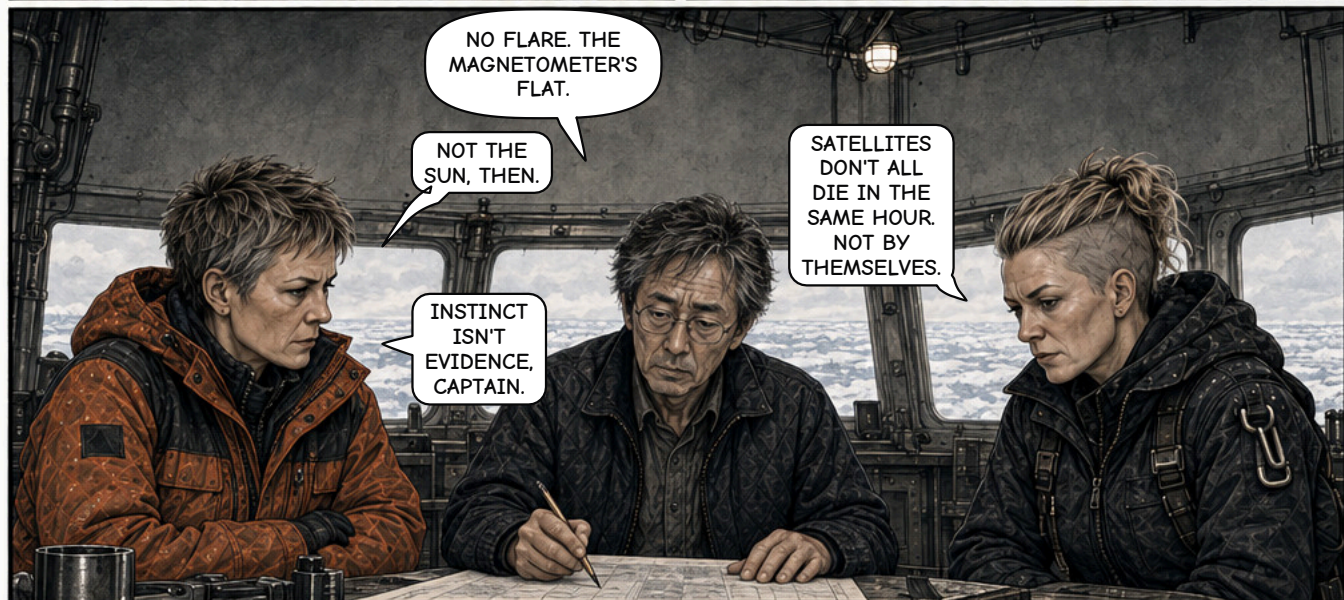
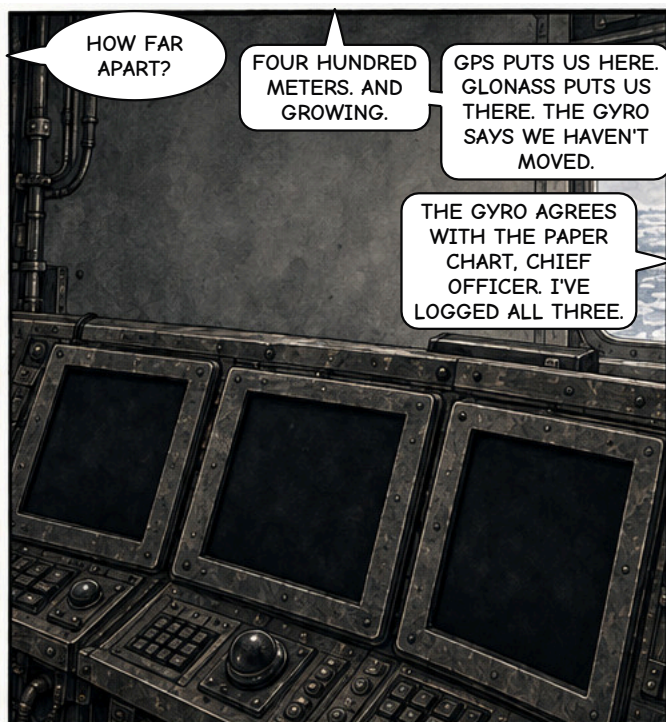
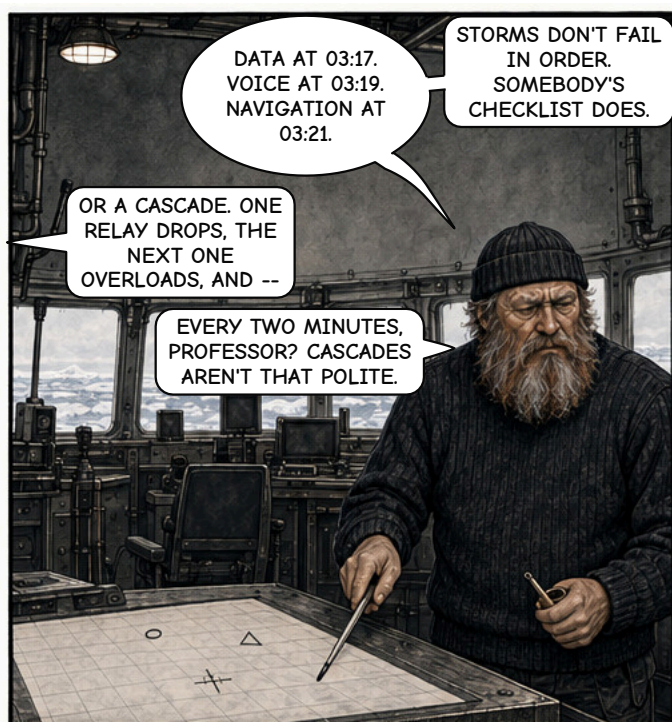
KRK... KRK...











—REPEAT, SHELTER
IMMEDIATELY. THIS
IS NOT AN EXER—

WAA-WAA-WAA-

RECORDING.

KRRR-EEET

THAT'S THE TROMSØ
SIREN. I SPENT MY
SUMMERS UNDER IT.

FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH, AT
NOON. MY
GRANDMOTHER
SET HER BREAD
TIMER BY IT.

RADIATION?

BACKGROUND.
HERE.

CAPTAIN, THAT WAS A PERSON.
SOMEBODY WAS STANDING AT A
MICROPHONE READING THAT --

THEN SHE
WAS DOING
HER JOB.
WE'LL DO
OURS.

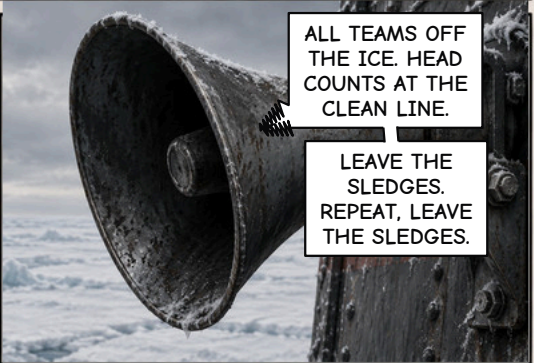




BRING EVERYONE IN. A SHIP COUNTS HER PEOPLE BEFORE HER TROUBLES.

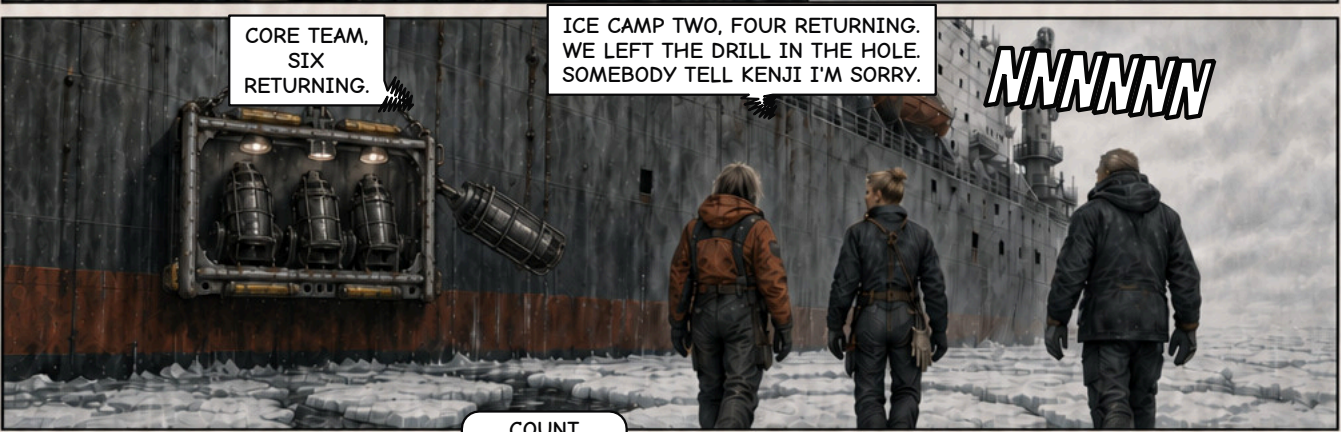
THE ICE TEAMS STILL HAVE TWO HOURS ON THE SURVEY, CAPTAIN --

THEY HAVE EXACTLY AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO WALK HOME.



ALL TEAMS OFF THE ICE. HEAD COUNTS AT THE CLEAN LINE.

LEAVE THE SLEDGES. REPEAT, LEAVE THE SLEDGES.



CORE TEAM, SIX RETURNING.

ICE CAMP TWO, FOUR RETURNING. WE LEFT THE DRILL IN THE HOLE. SOMEBODY TELL KENJI I'M SORRY.

NNNNNN

COUNT TWICE, THEO.

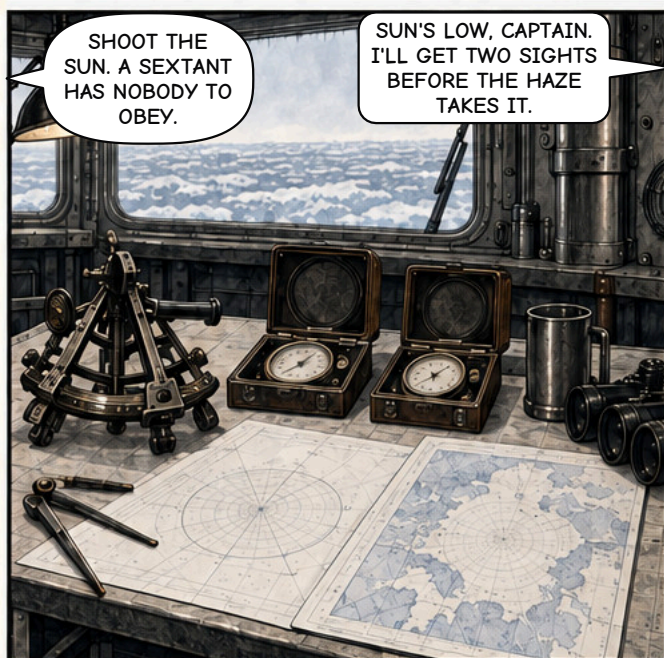
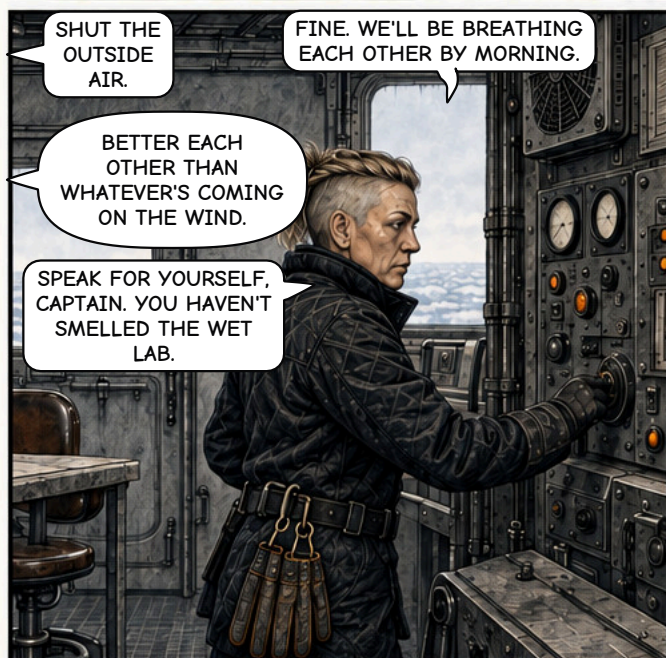
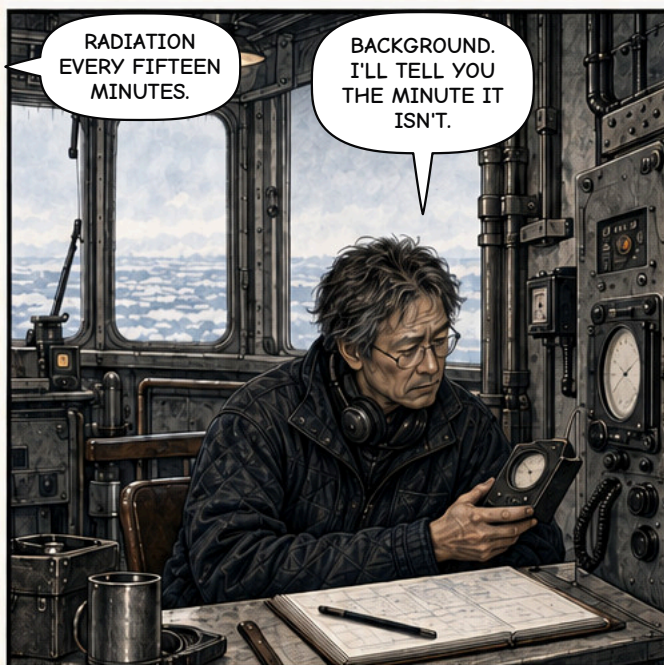


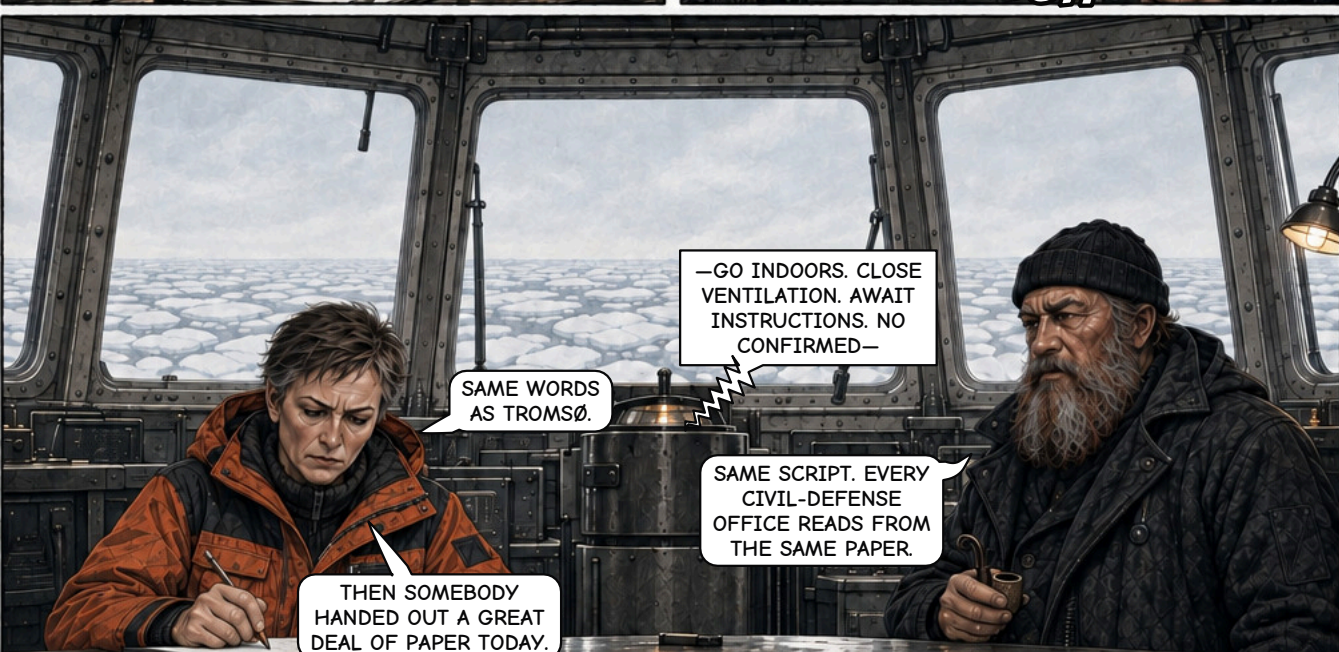
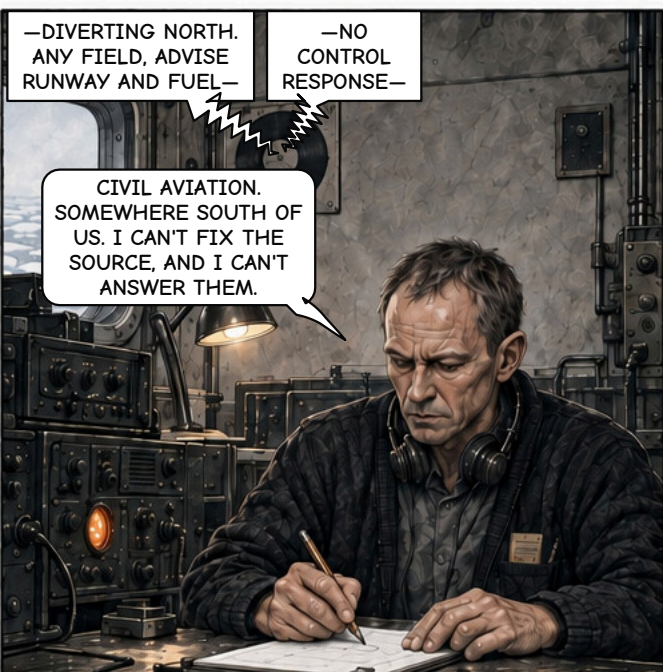
HE HAS. THREE TIMES. YOUR CONGREGATION NEEDS NO TELLING.

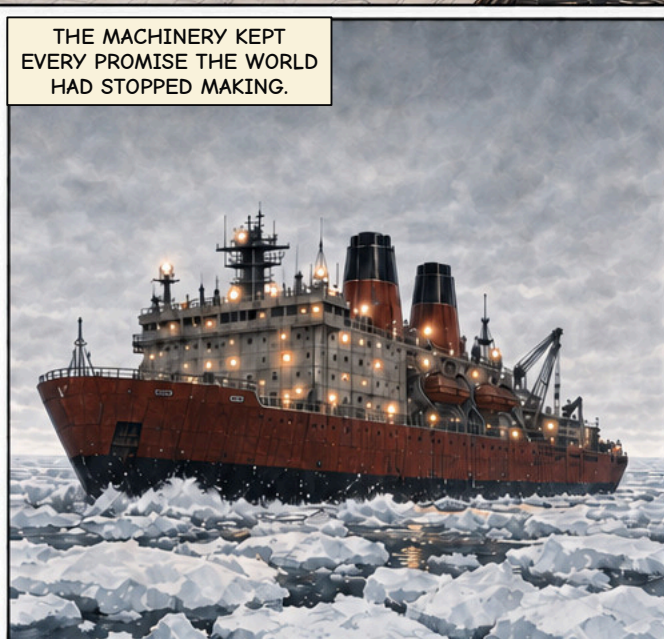
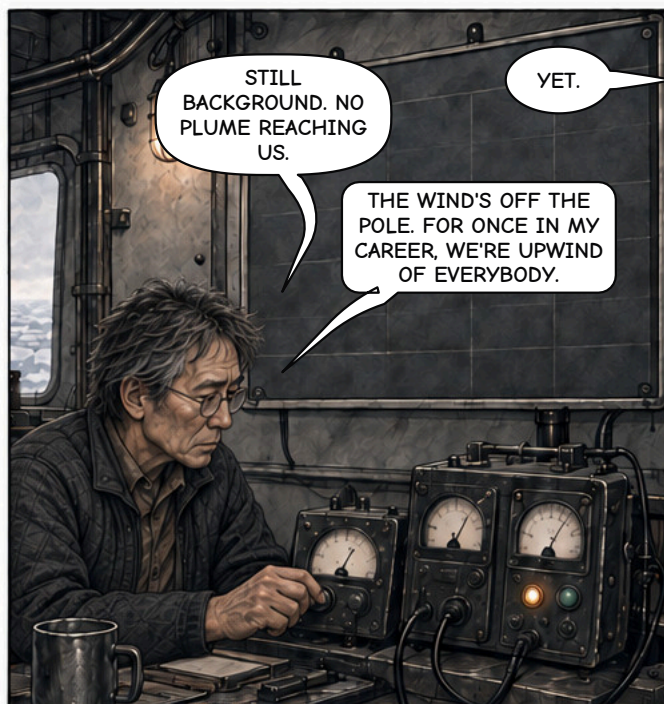


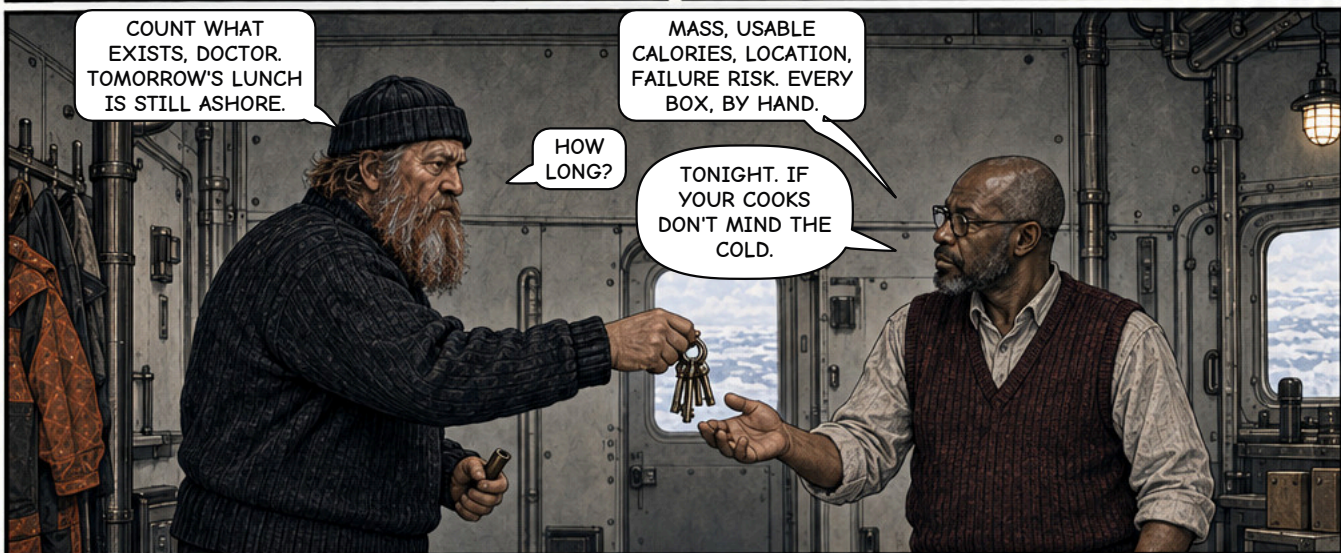
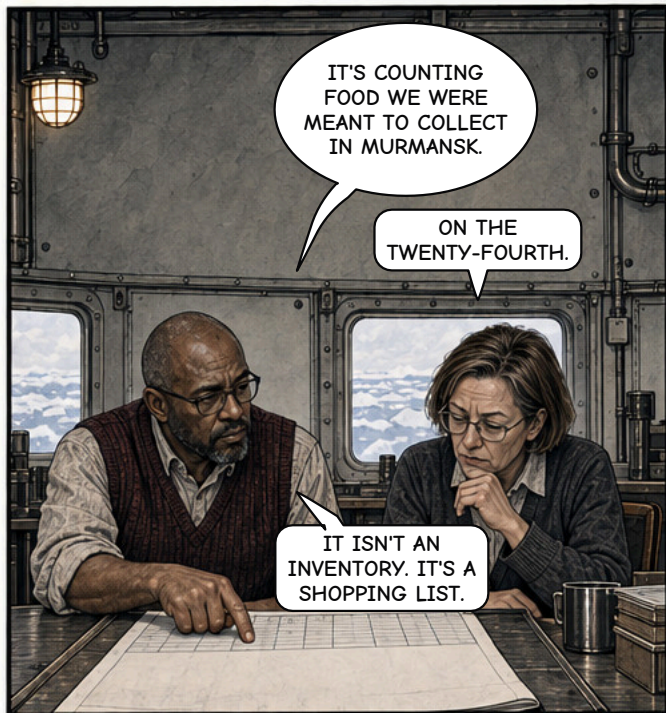
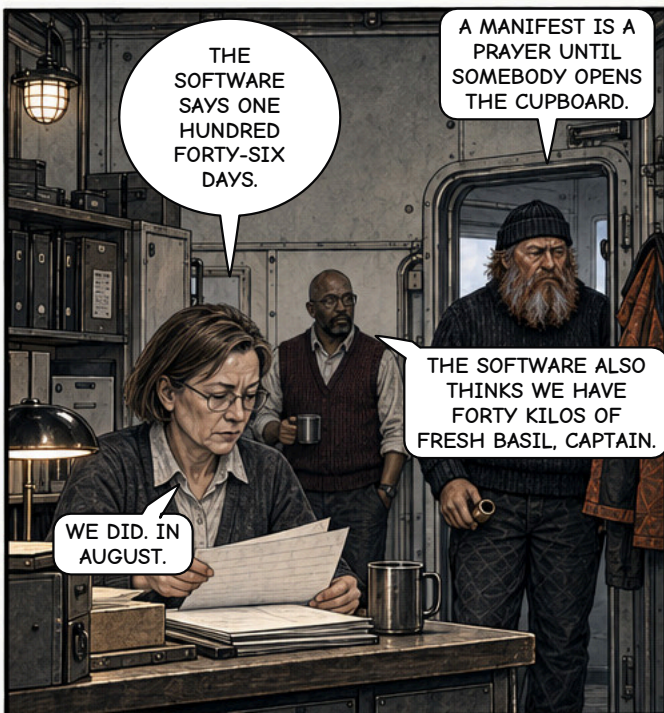
CHNK-CHNK-CHNK

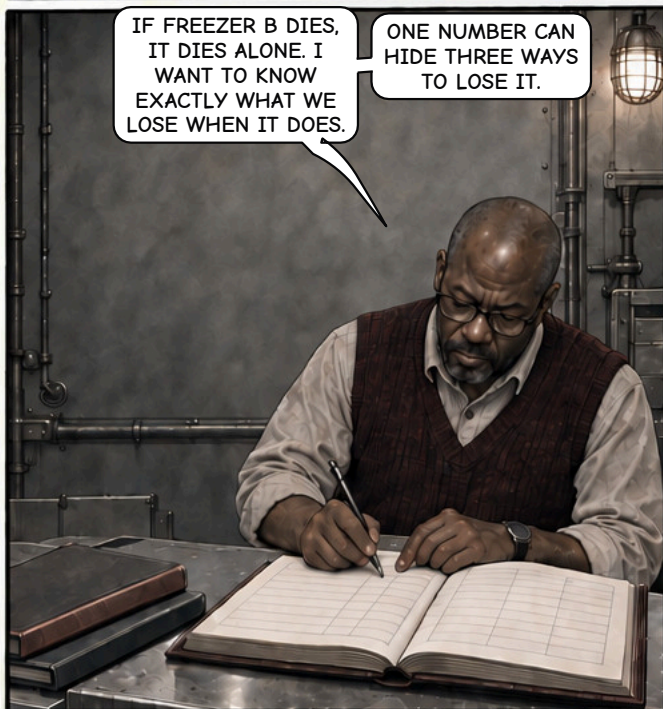
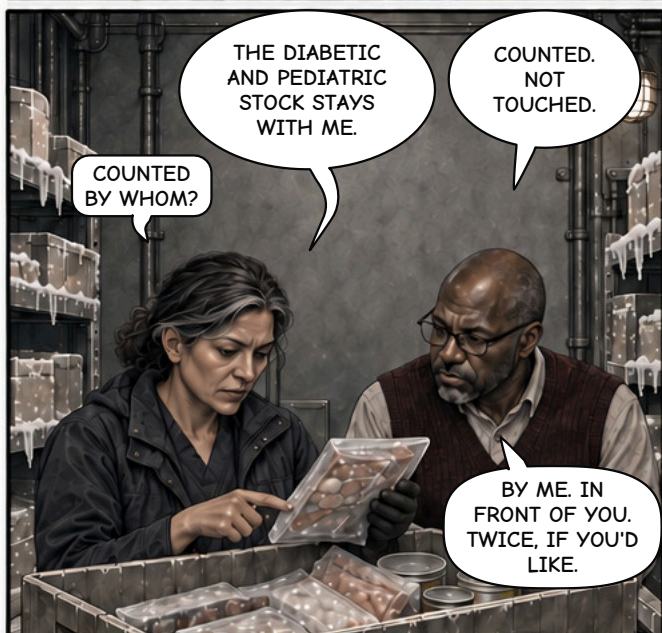
KLANG

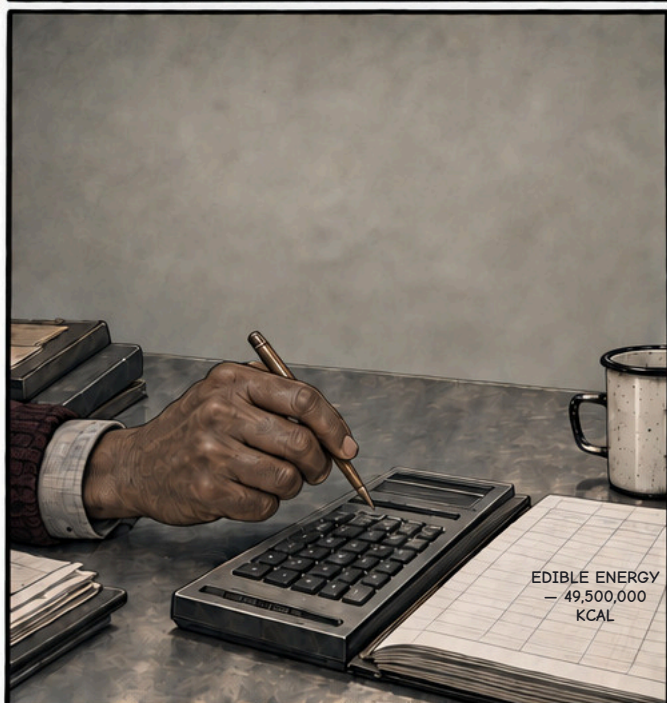
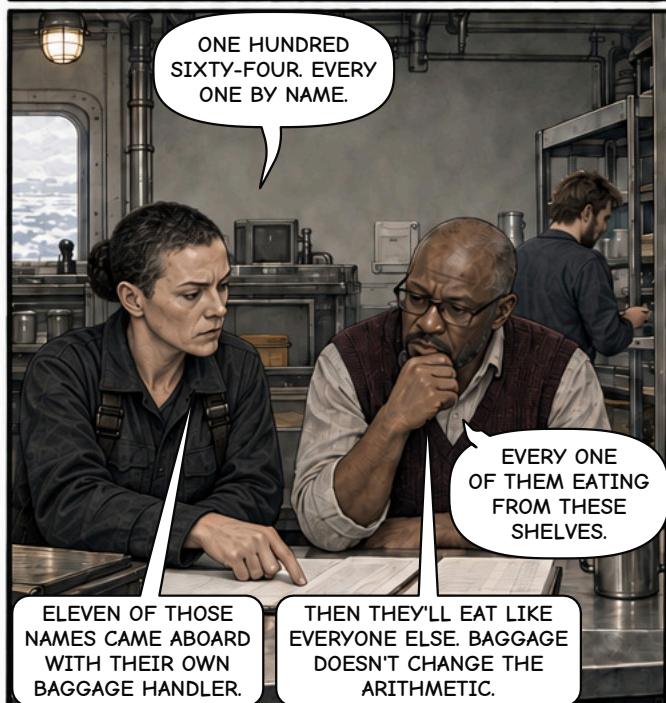
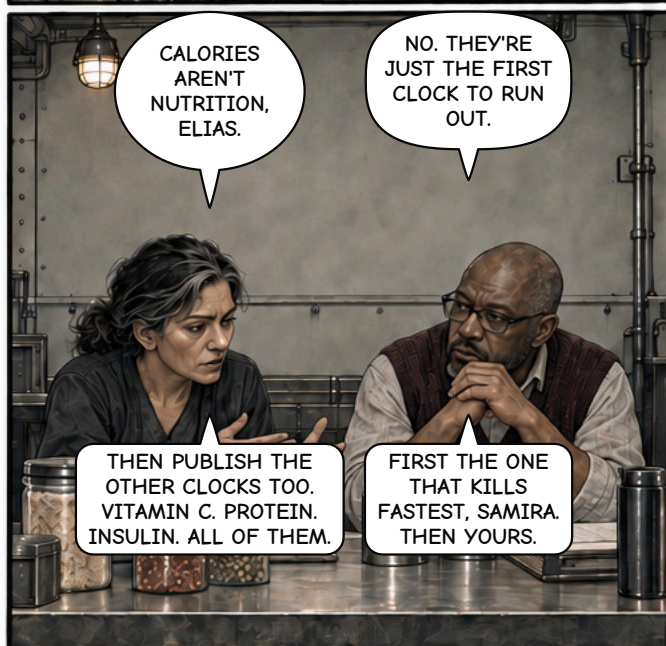


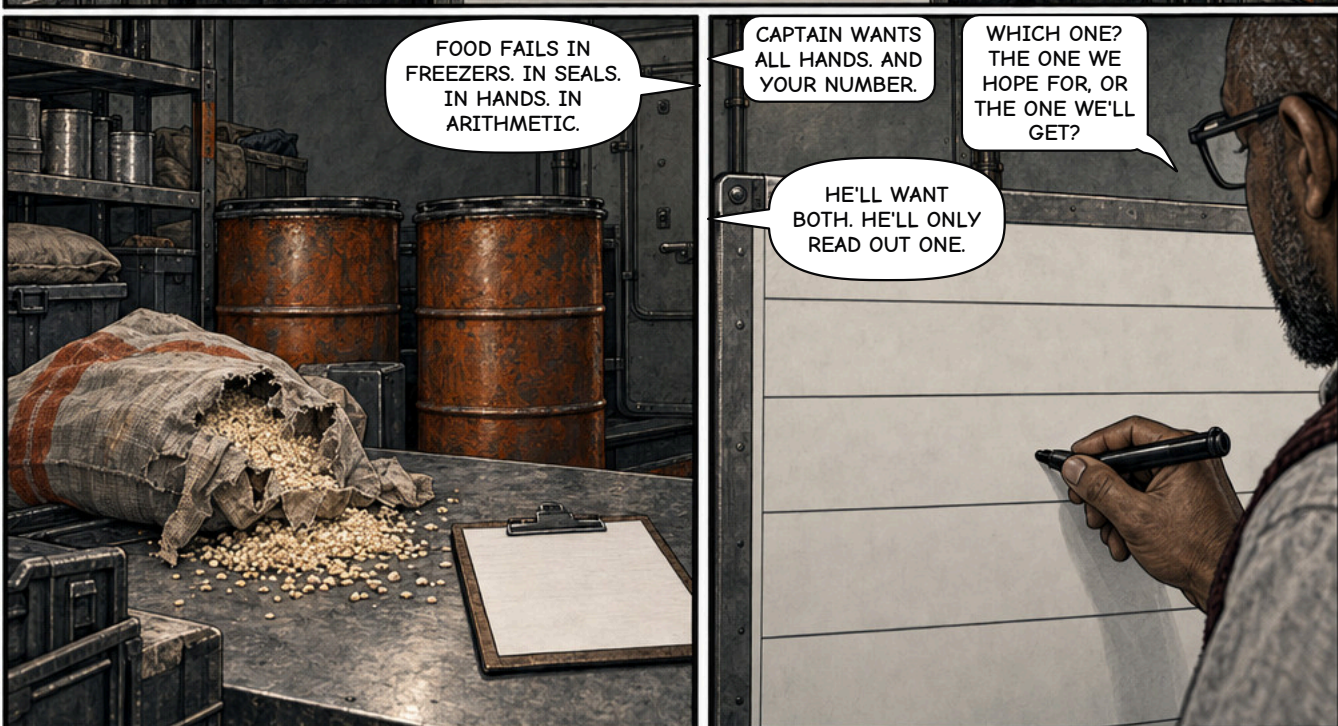
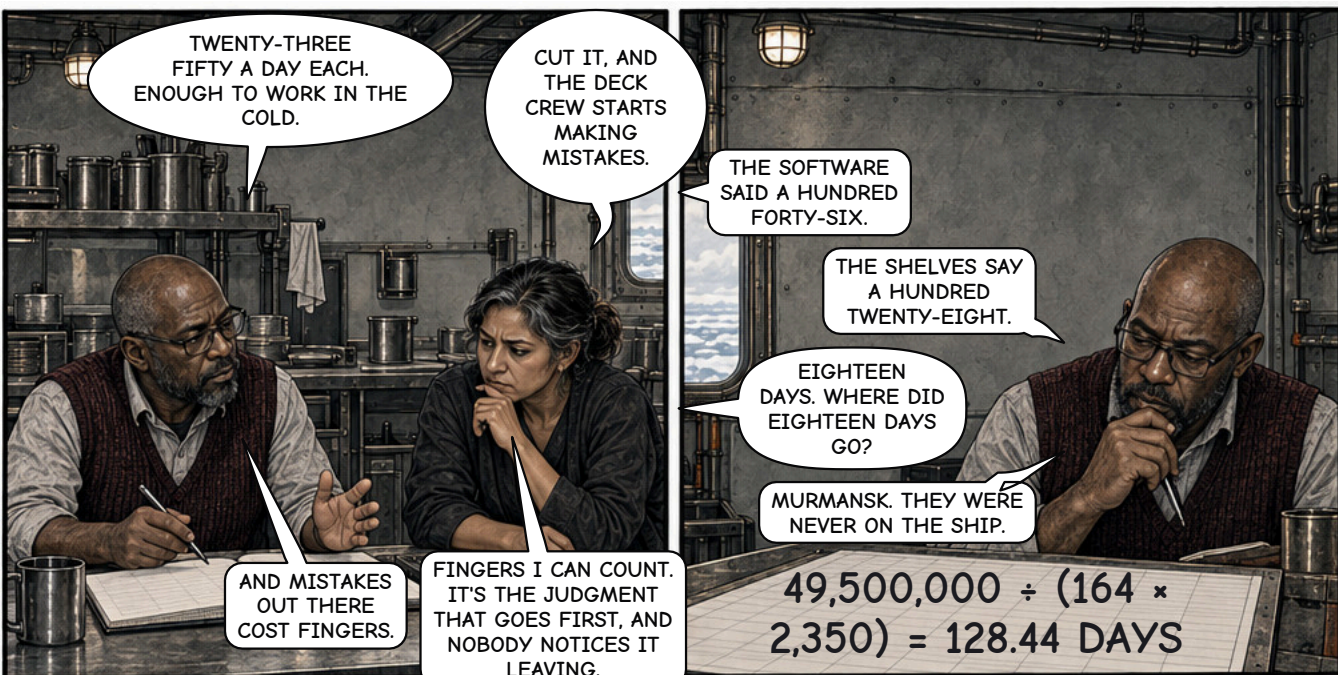












BONG-BONG

ALL HANDS TO THE MAIN LOUNGE. ALL PASSENGERS.

ALL CREW NOT ON WATCH.

I'LL SAY THIS ONCE, PLAINLY. THEN YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

EVERY SHORE STATION IS SILENT. THE LAST VOICES WE HEARD WERE ORDERING SHELTER.

I BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN A NUCLEAR WAR. HERE, THE AIR IS CLEAN.

MULTIPLE--? HOW MANY?

WHERE?

MY DAUGHTER'S IN OSLO--

MY GIRL WAS TEXTING ME THIS MORNING. IT STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORD.

CAPTAIN -- WHO FIRED FIRST?

WHEN DO WE GO HOME?

UNTIL SOMEONE ASHORE ANSWERS. THIS SHIP ANSWERS TO ME.

I WON'T INVENT CERTAINTY BECAUSE FEAR ASKS NICELY.

I'LL NEED A PRIVATE BRIEFING, CAPTAIN. AND A PRIVATE CHANNEL OUT.

I HAVE PEOPLE ASHORE WHO CAN POINT A SATELLITE AT THIS SHIP BY MORNING. LET ME REACH THEM.

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM NEEDS A BRIEFING, MR. CALDER.

YOU BOUGHT ELEVEN BERTHS, NOT A PRIVATE HORIZON.



