

THE LAST WARM PLACE

CHAPTER FOUR · HOME PORT



22 SEPTEMBER.
DAY EIGHT.

STEADY ON
COURSE.

SVALBARD,
OH-EIGHT-TEN. SAME
FOUR SECONDS. SAME
FORTY-THREE.

THEY'RE NOT
TALKING TO US,
CAPTAIN. THEY'RE
JUST TALKING.

THE STRAIGHT
LINE CLOSES SIX
MILES AHEAD.

STRAIGHT LINES ARE
FOR PEOPLE WHO
DRAW CHARTS IN
MOSCOW.

MOSCOW DRAWS
A LOT OF LINES,
CAPTAIN.

LONGYEARBYEN

KRRRRM-KRAK

THE ROAD
MOVED.

ROADS HAVE
MAYORS. ICE ONLY
HAS WITNESSES.

THE WITNESSES
RECOMMEND
PORT.

TEN TO PORT. KEEP
TURNING EAST LIKE THIS
AND WE'LL REACH
MURMANSK BY ACCIDENT.

TEN DEGREES
TO PORT.
SLOW AHEAD.

ALL STOP.

NNNNN...

THREE METERS
ON TOP. LOOK
UNDERNEATH.

IT'S A LITTLE
RIDGE, MALIK.

THEY'RE
ALL LITTLE ON
TOP.

THE KEEL GOES
DOWN TWENTY
METERS. WE DRAW
ELEVEN.

YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING ALL
MORNING TO SAY
THAT.

ALL
WEEK.

ICE KEEPS ITS
OPINIONS
UNDERWATER.

FOUR WAYS
OF LOOKING. ONE
ANSWER.

WHOSE
PRIDE?

DEPTH
FIRST.
PRIDE
LATER.

WHOEVER'S
ON THE
BRIDGE.

RADAR

SONAR

OLD CHART

MALIK

THE BOW
CAN BREAK THE
CREST.

SHE WAS
BUILT FOR THIS,
CAPTAIN.

AND SIT ON THE
KEEL TILL
SPRING. FIND ME
A WAY AROUND.

THROUGH
— 4
HOURS

AROUND
— 2 DAYS

ONE HARD RUN
AT THE EDGE. IF
IT HOLDS, WE
SAVE TWO DAYS.

TWO DAYS IS A THOUSAND
MEALS, CAPTAIN. I DO THAT
SUM IN MY SLEEP NOW.

THE EDGE IS
CLOSING WHILE
WE DISCUSS ITS
MANNERS.

A SHIP
PROVES NOTHING
BY COLLECTING
DAMAGE.

BACK
ONE-THIRD.

THRUM—KRRSH

WE GO
AROUND.

THEN WE EAT LESS
AND ARRIVE. I CAN'T
RATION A HOLE IN
THE HULL.

THAT'S
TWO
DAYS OF
FOOD,
CAPTAIN.

YOU'RE VERY SURE.
FOR A MAN WHO
CHANGES COURSE SO
EASILY.

24 SEPTEMBER.
DAY TEN.

KRRRM... KRRRM...



UNDER FOUR KNOTS SINCE THE RIDGE.

A MAN WALKS FASTER.

A MAN WOULD HAVE GONE STRAIGHT OVER IT.

22-24 SEP — AVG 3.7 KNOTS

ALL THE POWER WE WANT. NOWHERE TO SPEND IT.

REACTOR A — ONLINE

THE REACTOR ISN'T HUNGRY. WE ARE.

REACTOR B — RESERVE

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED A MEAL SINCE KESTREL.

OLD MEN DON'T NEED MUCH, DASHA. IT'S THE ONE THING WE'RE GOOD AT.

SLOW TRAVEL STILL EATS AT FULL SPEED.

173 ABOARD
FOOD TO 5 JANUARY

NO. THAT ONE'S JUST FOR US.

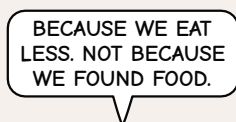
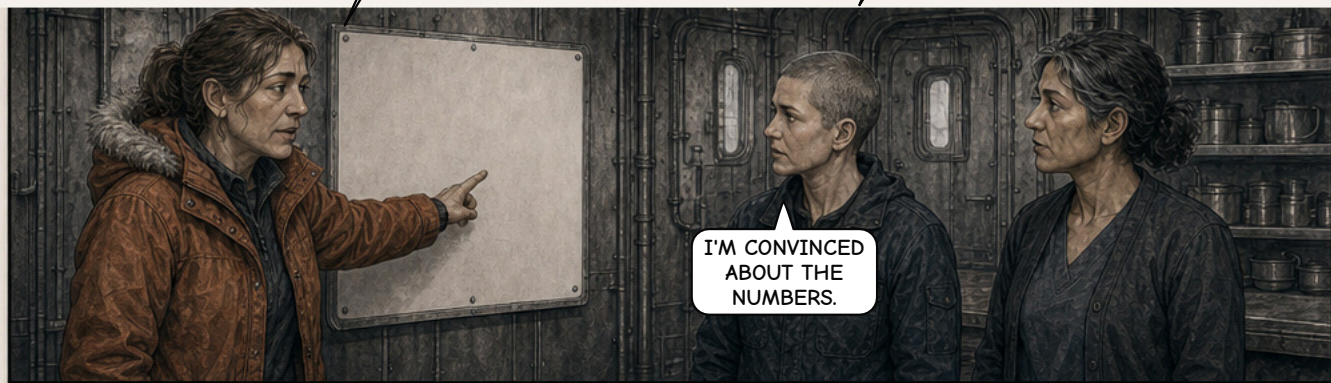
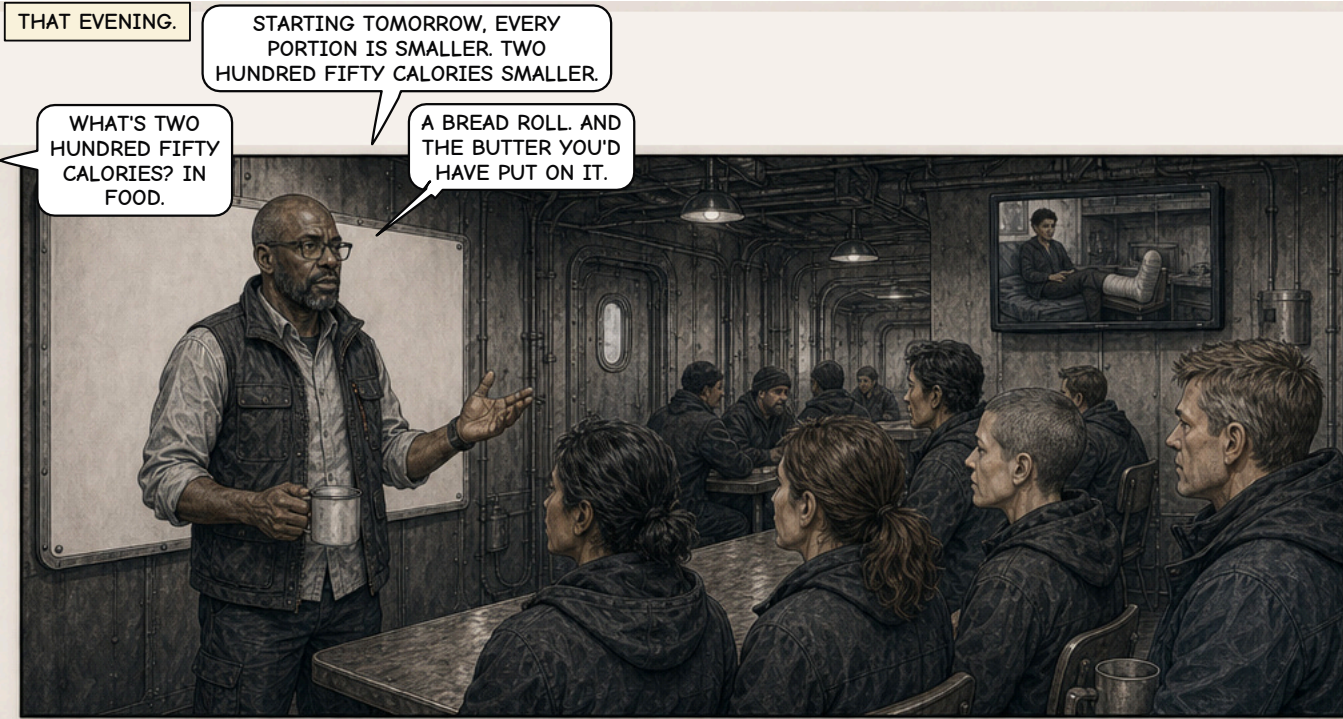
IS THAT GOING ON THE BOARD TOO?

YOU SAY THAT ABOUT ALL THE DEPRESSING ONES.

THEN WE EAT SLOWER. POST IT TONIGHT, ELIAS.

AFTER SUPPER, CAPTAIN. PEOPLE TAKE BAD NEWS BETTER ON A FULL STOMACH.

THEN ENJOY THE LAST FULL ONE.



26 SEPTEMBER.
DAY TWELVE.

2,100 A DAY —
FOOD TO 17
JANUARY

SEVENTEENTH
OF JANUARY. FIRST
THING I SEE EVERY
MORNING.

I CAN'T EAT
BREAKFAST
UNDER A DEATH
DATE.

RRRIP

MIND YOUR
BUSINESS,
KID.

TAKING IT DOWN
DOESN'T CHANGE
THE DATE.

TCHK

WERE THEY
ANGRY WITH
YOU?

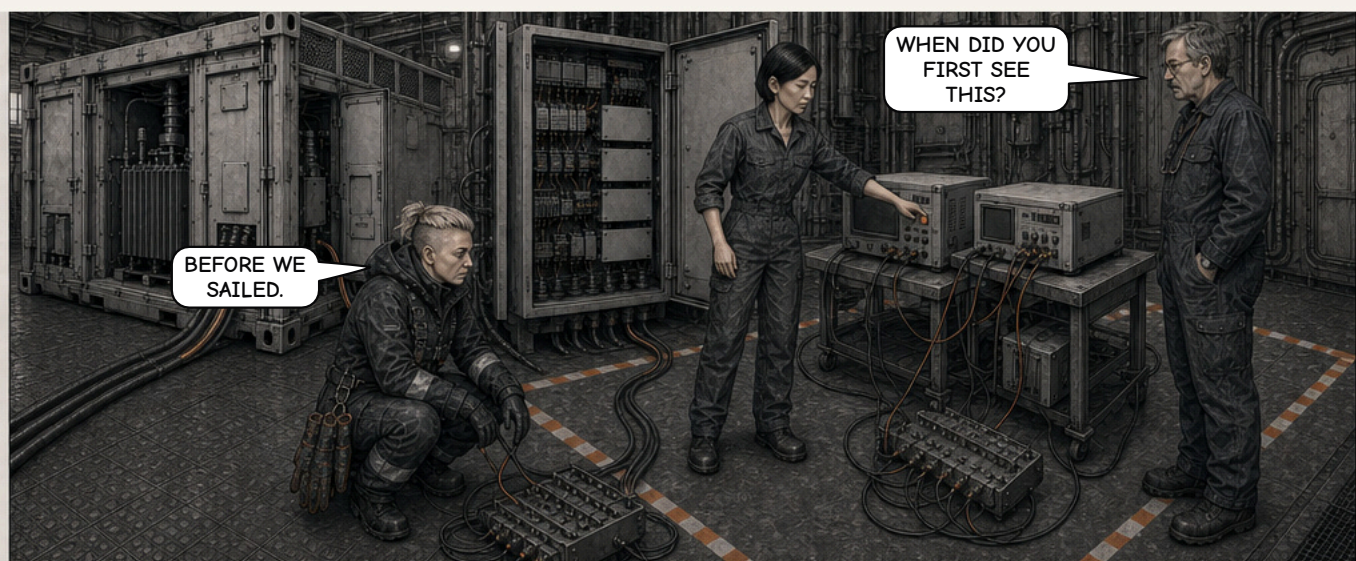
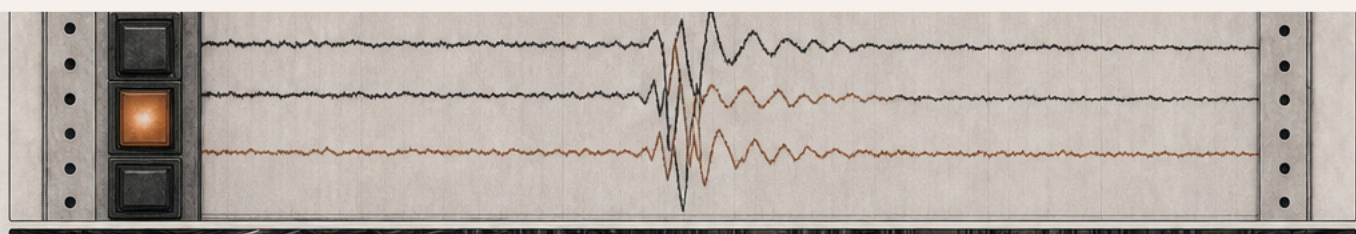
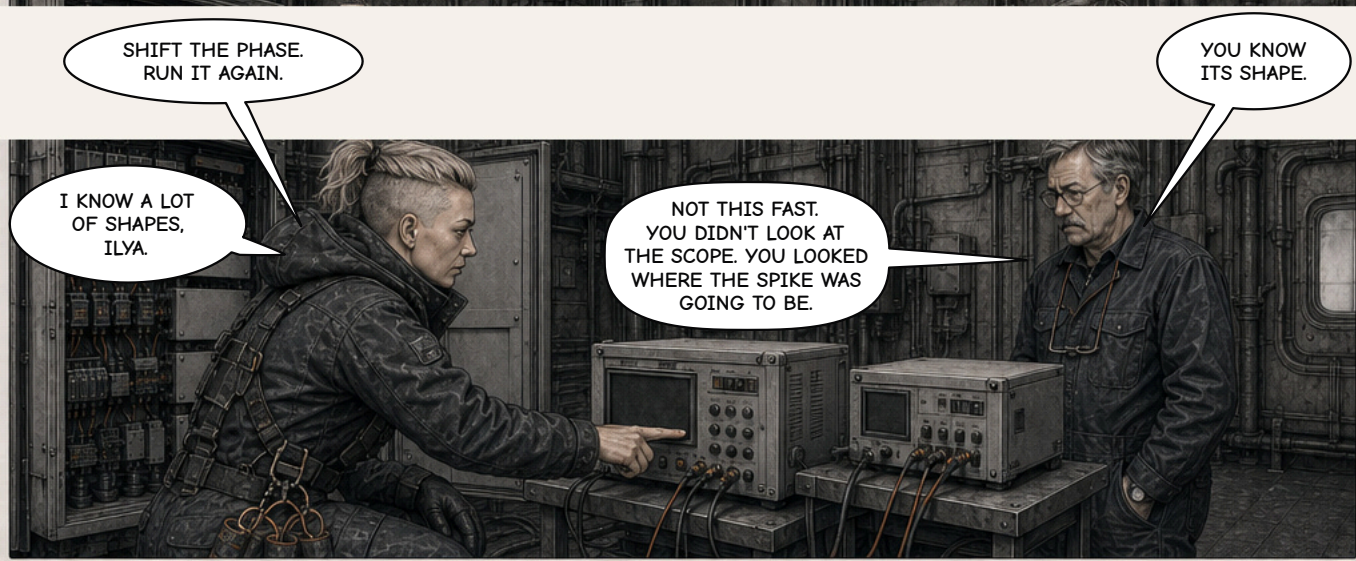
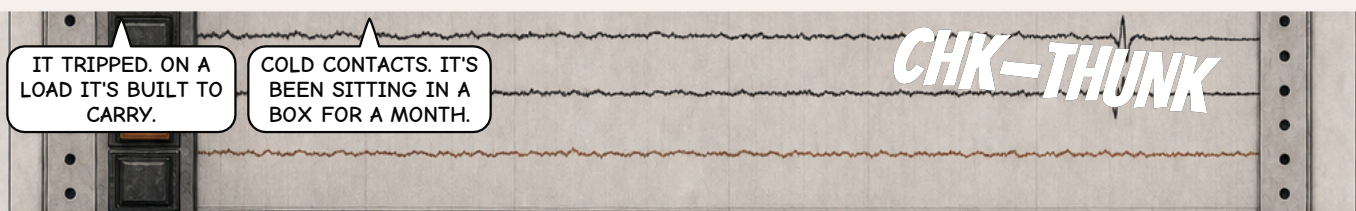
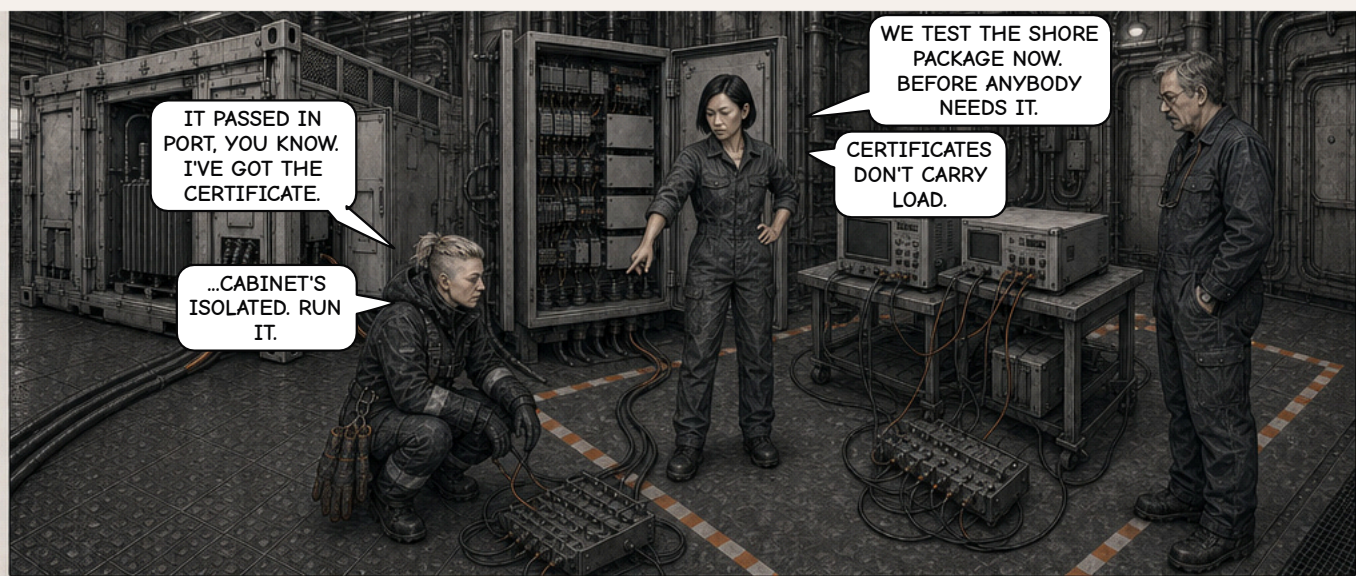
WITH THE
DATE.

AFTER THE
COUNT.

...AND I MEANT
IT YESTERDAY,
TOO.

EAT
BREAKFAST
WITH ME?

YOU SAID
THAT
YESTERDAY.

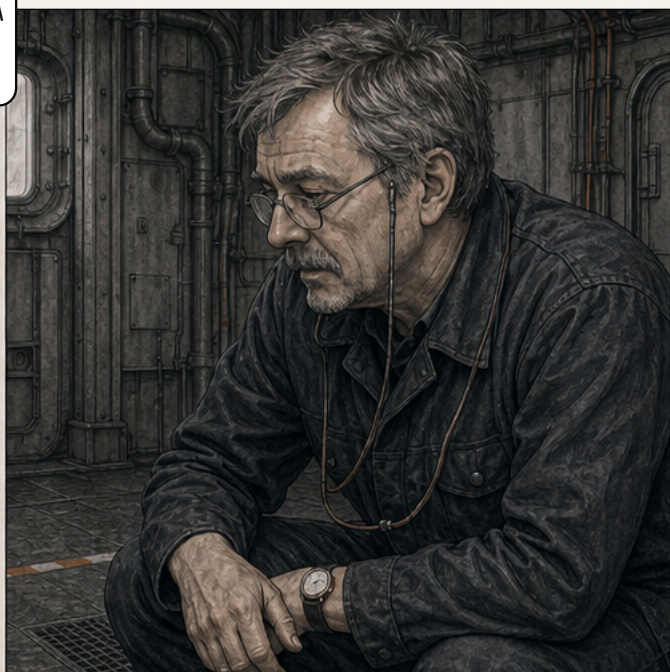


IN PORT,
DURING
COMMISSIONING. IT
TRIPPED NOW AND
THEN.

THE FACTORY
WAS ONE PHONE
CALL AWAY. I
SIGNED.

WE WERE THREE DAYS LATE.
MARA HAD FUNDERS ON THE
QUAY WITH CHAMPAGNE. I'M
NOT BLAMING HER. I'M
TELLING YOU WHAT THE
QUAY LOOKED LIKE.

YOU
TURNED A
SHARED RISK
INTO A PRIVATE
ONE.



I DIDN'T KNOW
THE PHONES
WOULD STOP
WORKING.

NOBODY DID.
THAT'S WHY IT
BELONGED ON
PAPER.

NOTHING GETS
PLUGGED INTO THIS
UNTIL IT'S FIXED.

CAN IT BE
FIXED?

DON'T, DARIA.
NOT YOU TOO.



WHO ELSE,
THEN? I'M THE ONE
WHO HAS TO PLUG
IT IN.



ASK ME IN
LONGYEARBYEN.

DO NOT
CONNECT

IT GOES ON THE
BOARD. IN MY
HANDWRITING.

THEN FIND
A PEN.

WRITE IT PLAIN. AN
ENGINEER WHO EXPLAINS
TOO MUCH IS USUALLY
STILL HIDING SOMETHING.

THEN I'LL
WRITE IT
VERY PLAIN.



27 SEPTEMBER.
DAY THIRTEEN.

RACHEL.
FILM THIS.

THAT'S THE
POINT.

YOU'RE SURE? ONCE
IT'S ON TAPE, IT'S
ON TAPE.



SHORE POWER CABINET — FAULTY

I SAW IT BEFORE WE SAILED AND SIGNED IT OFF.

— LEENA SAARINEN

I SAW THE FAULT IN
PORT. I SIGNED IT
ANYWAY.

I LEFT IT OUT OF
THE RECORD.
THAT WAS MY
CHOICE.

IF IT FAILS, IT FAILS
BECAUSE OF ME. NOT
THE ICE. NOT THE
WAR. ME.



THAT TOOK
NERVE.

DON'T GRADE
ME, MARA.

I WASN'T
--

YOU WERE. THAT'S
YOUR SEMINAR FACE. I
SAT THROUGH SIX
YEARS OF THAT FACE.



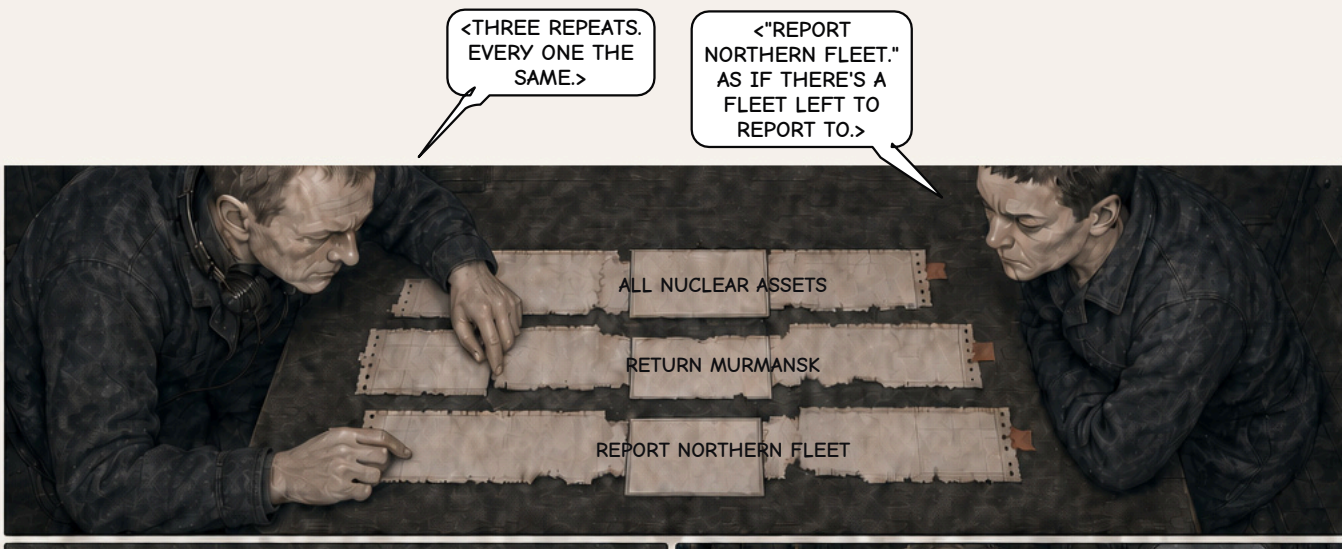
WHERE I COME
FROM, THAT GETS
YOU FIRED.

HERE, IT GETS
YOU TRUSTED.

AND IF SHE'S
WRONG ABOUT
SOMETHING ELSE?

THEN SHE'LL TELL US.
THAT'S WHAT TRUST
BUYS, MR. CALDER.
NOT BEING RIGHT.
BEING TOLD.

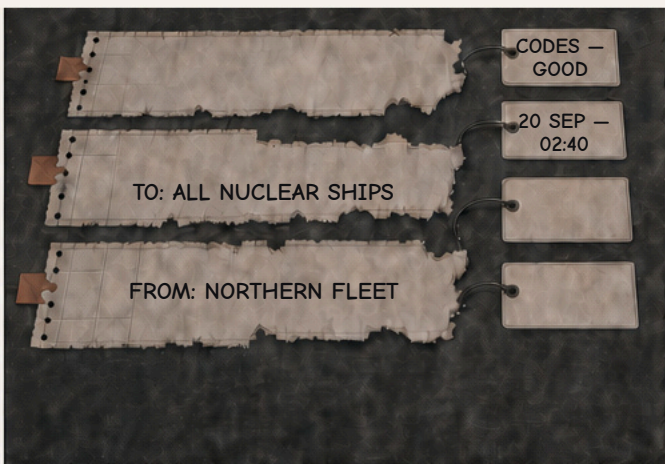




<SO IT'S REAL.>

<HE HAD IT THE DAY BEFORE HE CHOSE LONGYEARBYEN.>

<THE DAY BEFORE.>



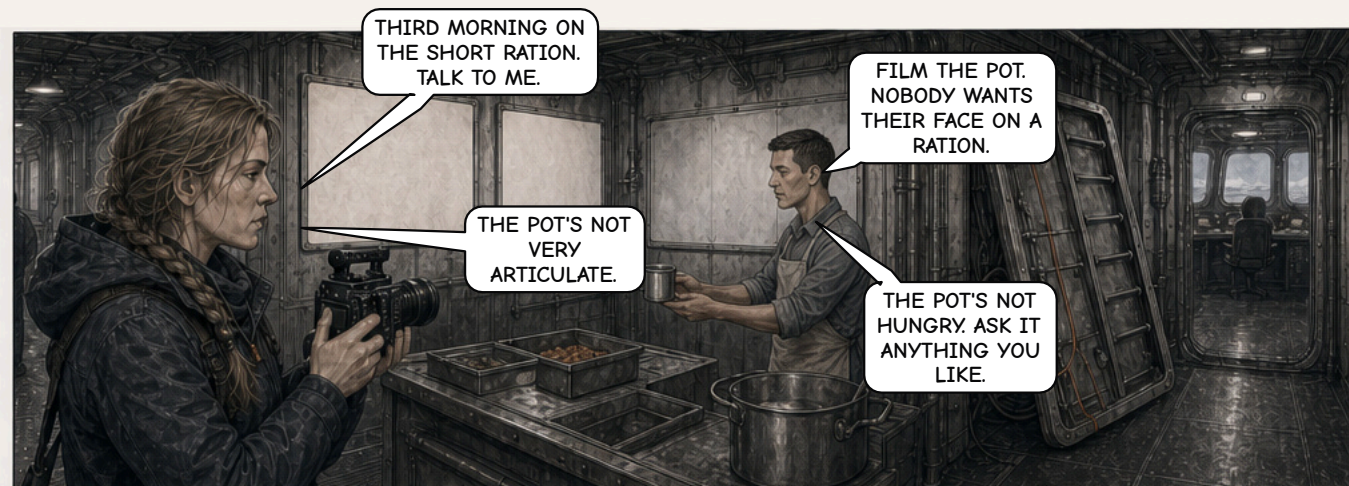
<OKSANA. WHAT WILL YOU DO?>

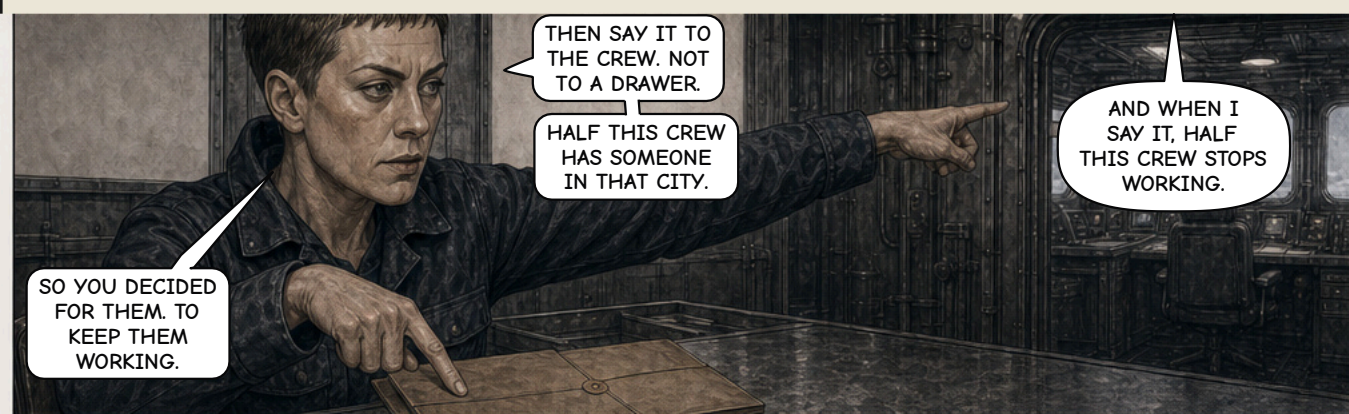
<ASK HIM. TO HIS FACE. HE'S OWED THAT MUCH.>

<LOG THAT I READ IT.>

<I ALREADY HAVE.>

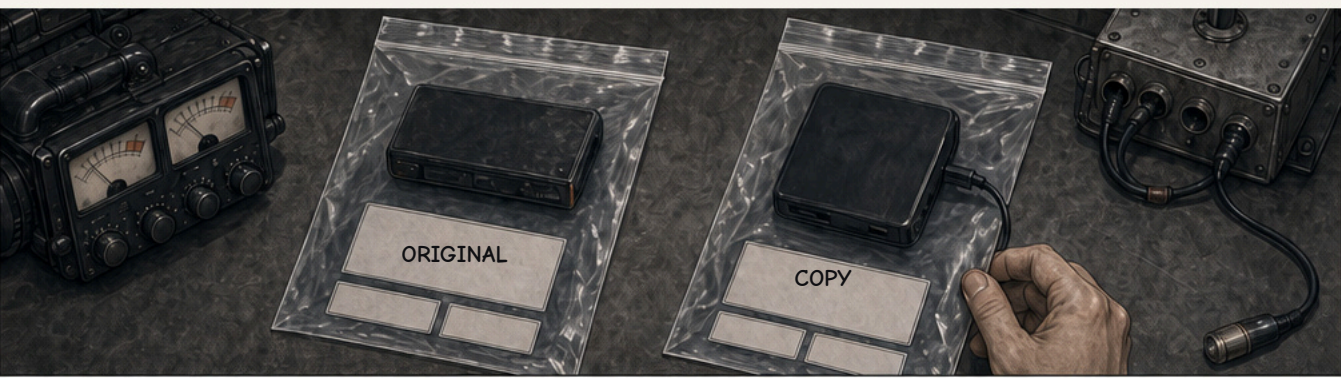








THAT
AFTERNOON.



ORIGINAL

COPY



I WAS FILMING
BREAKFAST. THE
CHART-ROOM DOOR
WAS OPEN.

I DIDN'T GO LOOKING.
I WANT THAT CLEAR
BEFORE YOU LOOK AT
ME LIKE THAT.

WHO ELSE
HAS HEARD
IT?



JUST YOU.

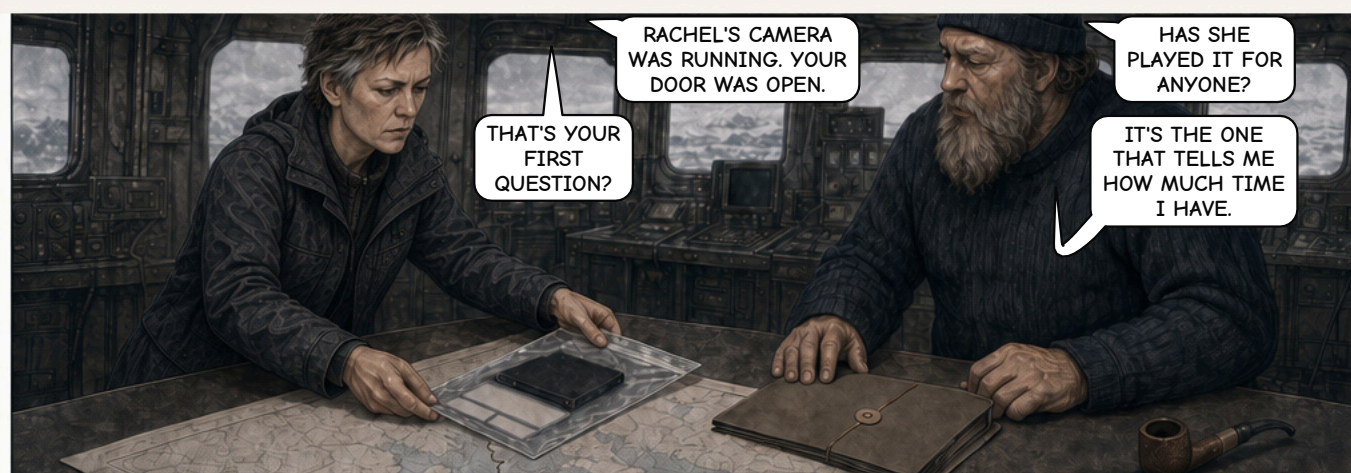
EVERYBODY ON THIS
SHIP DOES WHAT YOU
SAY, MARA. I WANTED
TO SEE WHAT YOU'D
SAY TO THIS.

PLAY IT.



MY WIFE IS IN
MURMANSK. MY
CHILDREN.

I CHOSE
LONGYEARBYEN.



28 SEPTEMBER.
DAY FOURTEEN.

<PUT THE CARDS DOWN.
ALL OF YOU.>

<I'M LETTING HIM WIN.
HE'S YOUNG. IT'S GOOD
FOR HIS CONFIDENCE.>

<CHIEF OFFICER! DEAL YOU IN?
SERGEI'S LOSING.>

<AND TURNED
US SOUTH THE
NEXT DAY.>

<MOSCOW SENT
THIS EIGHT DAYS
AGO. THE CAPTAIN
READ IT.>

ALL NUCLEAR ASSETS
RETURN MURMANSK
— 20 SEP 02:40

<IT COULD BE OLD. A MACHINE,
SENDING IT ROUND AND ROUND,
LIKE THE SVALBARD ONE -->

<KOLYA. READ
THE DATE.>

<HE SAYS
MURMANSK IS THE
FIRST PLACE
THEY'D AIM.>

<MAYBE
HE'S RIGHT. HE
DIDN'T ASK ANY
OF US.>

<DID HE
ASK YOU?>

<HE TOLD ME
IT WAS
WEATHER.>

<MY MOTHER
IS IN
MURMANSK.>

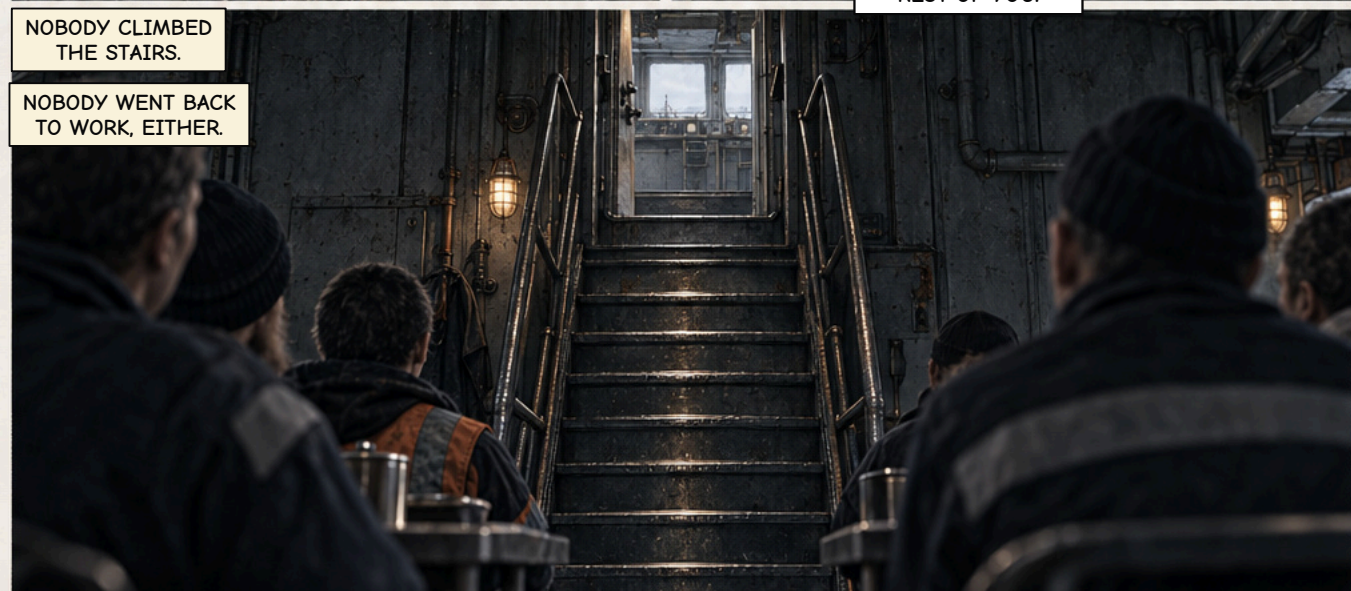
<MY SISTER.
HER TWO
BOYS.>

<MY WHOLE
STREET.>

<NOBODY WORKS
UNTIL HE TURNS US
HOME.>







THAT EVENING.

RADIO ROOM. KOLA BAY, LIVE. YOU SHOULD ALL HEAR THIS.

