



NIGHT FALLS ON THE SEA

WRITTEN BY TONY CHAVIRA
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDE LAHTI





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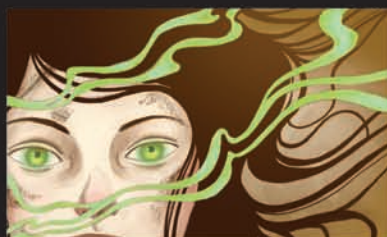
WRITTEN BY TONY CHAVIRA

ILLUSTRATED BY ANDE LAHTI

LOOK FOR THESE OTHER COMICS PRODUCED BY



ALLISON REIMOLD & TONY CHAVIRA
OUR LITTLE GHOST-EATING GIRL



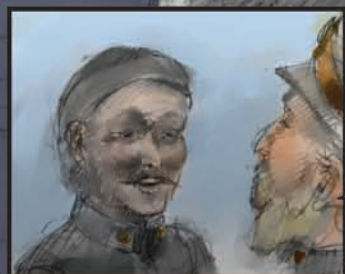
HILLARY BAUMAN & TONY CHAVIRA
MIRAGE POST-MERIDIAN



MANNY CUCHILLA & TONY CHAVIRA
TO SILENCE THE WEeping WOMAN

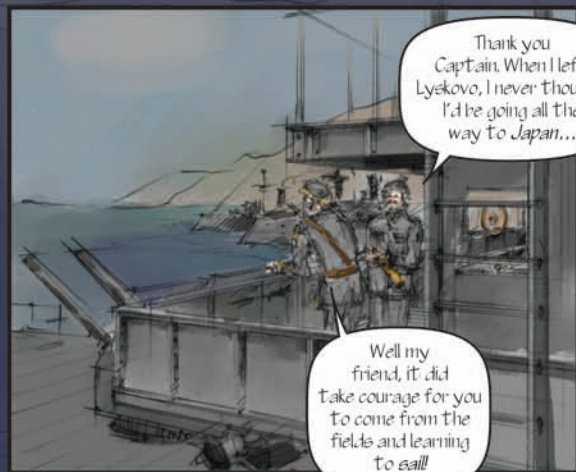


THE FIRST DAY



...So does our ship feel like a better fit for you, Andrei?

It must feel to be an honor! Admiral Ushakov assigned you to be the first mate himself.



Thank you Captain. When I left Lyaskovo, I never thought I'd be going all the way to Japan...

Well my friend, it did take courage for you to come from the fields and learning to sail!



I've been on this battleship for 7 years now Andrei, and I can assure you... this is the ideal voyage for your first time on our ship.

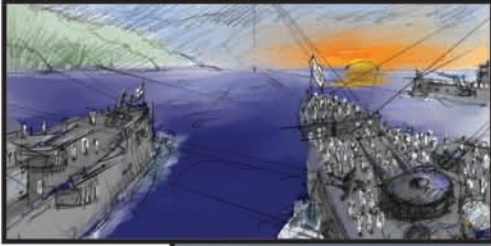
The Nikolai Chudotvoret's is easily the strongest ship in the fleet. Some of the men on board helped to build it, were there when the Metropolitan Vladimir blessed it, and still shovel coal for the engines today.

This is your Captain... fill the furnace and bring all ship hands to the top deck!



As you know, Commander Makarov has placed Admiral Sokolov in charge of our fleet. Including our ship, the Nikolai Chudetvoretz, we are 10 battleships strong with ten cruisers, seven destroyers and seven service ships.

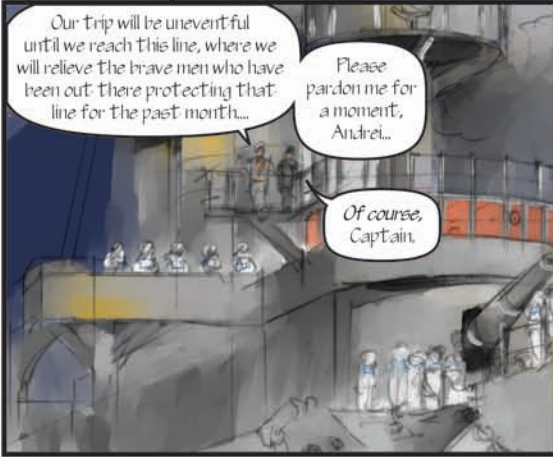
Several of our comrades have arrived and built a line around "Hako-da-te", so that ships cannot pass from the east side of Japan to the west without a fight...



Our trip will be uneventful until we reach this line, where we will relieve the brave men who have been out there protecting that line for the past month...

Please pardon me for a moment, Andrei...

Of course, Captain.

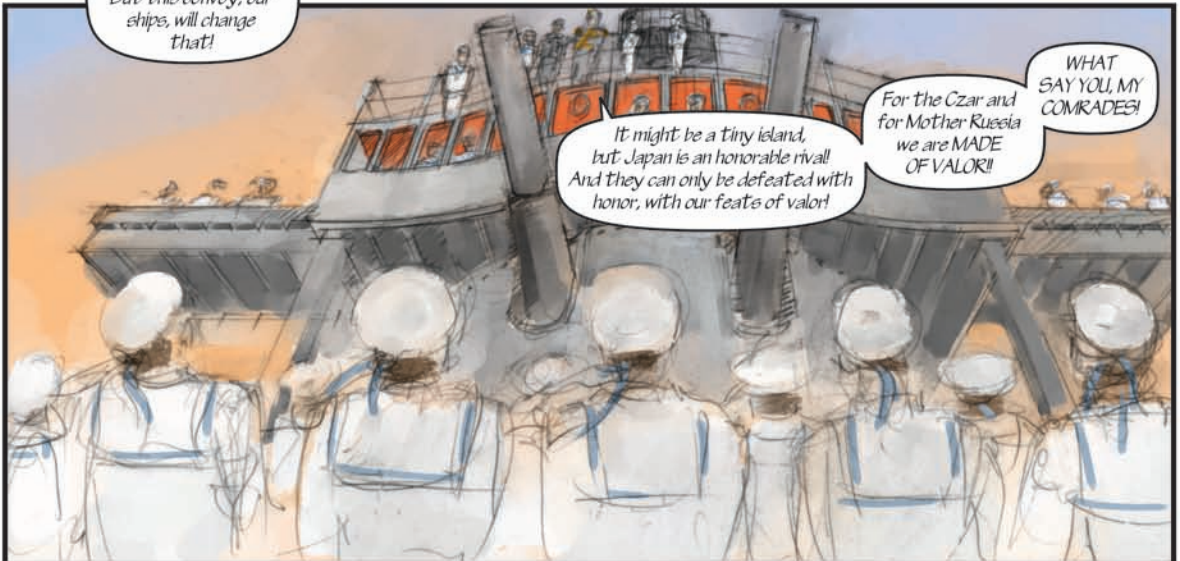


ATTENTION!
Victories so far have been few, my friends. But this convoy, our ships, will change that!

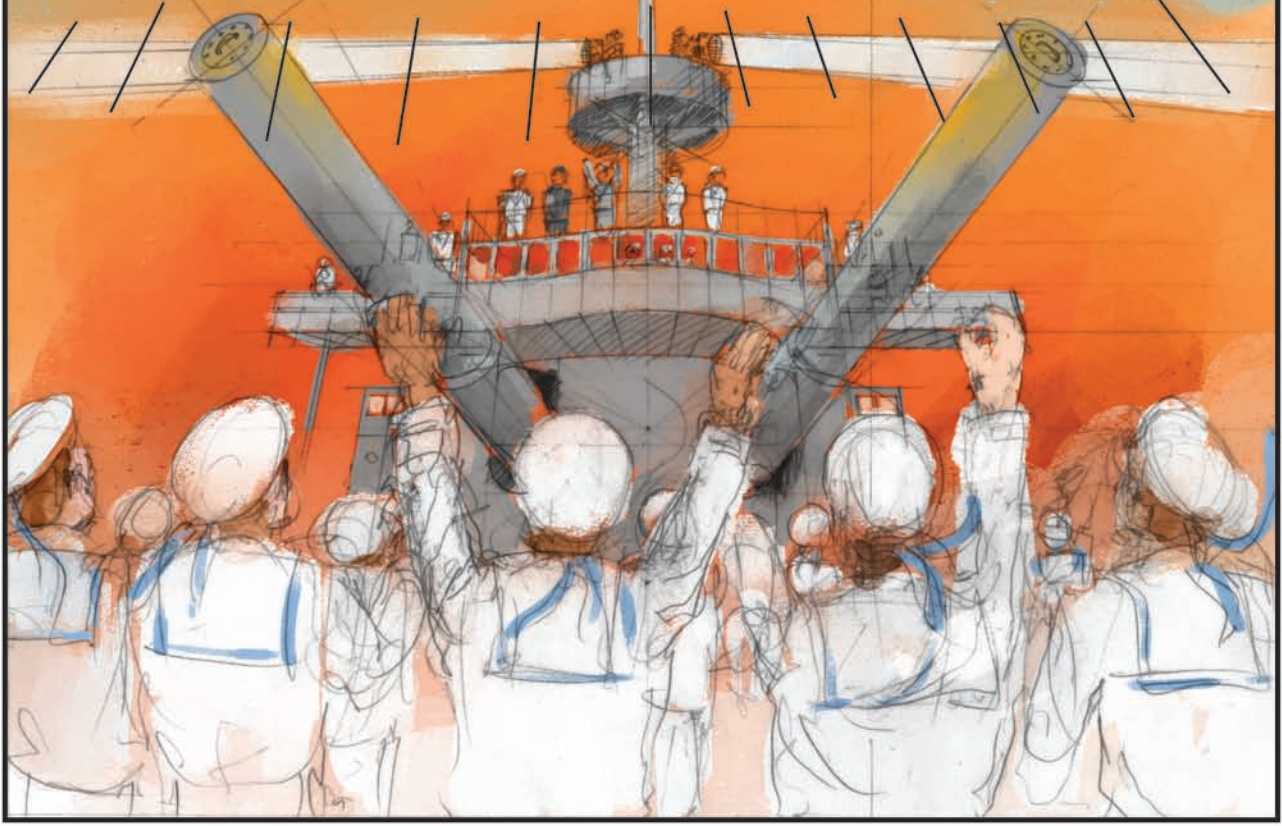
It might be a tiny island, but Japan is an honorable rival! And they can only be defeated with honor, with our feats of valor!

For the Czar and for Mother Russia we are MADE OF VALOR!!

WHAT SAY YOU, MY COMRADES!



FOR MOTHER RUSSIA!



THE SECOND DAY

39...
no 40 Knots,
Captain! It's
amazing!

Admiral Sokolov has
issued orders to push
ahead as long as the
weather permits...

At this rate,
we'll reach Japan
much sooner than
expected...

Captain,
do you mind
if we speak in
private?

Andrei,
my friend, what
troubles you?

Does it seem
odd to you that,
after a year of failures
at sea, our convoy would
have such good luck
all of the sudden?



Nothing yet...

What are you implying?



The seas are just strange here... the bow of our ship tethers back and forth as we somehow increase in speed, out of nowhere we increase in speed.

There's no reliable nautical history about this area that would lead me to think that this is normal... that our speed is normal.



Yes, this certainly is a surprise Andrei and neither I nor Admiral Sokolov expected it.



But God has heard the screams of the people of Manchuria, and has finally blessed the Czar's navy for once with good weather and good fortune!

God knows, we're long overdue for some good fortune right now.



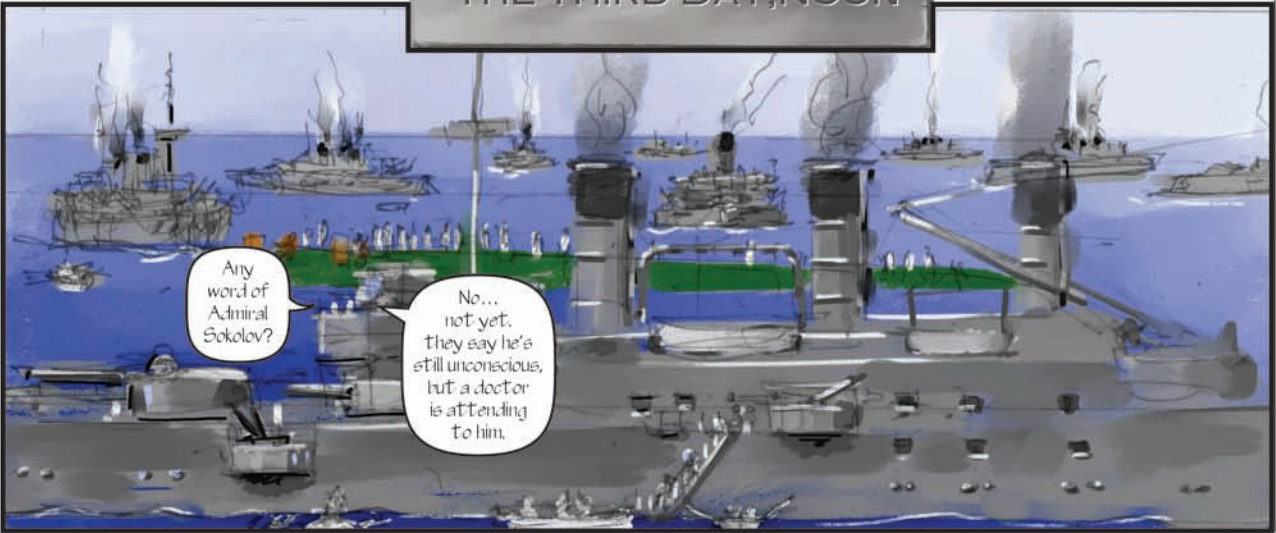
Ease your mind, Andrei! The war is ours. I can feel it deep within myself, and I've felt it since the beginning. You'll see for yourself very soon...

Yes, Captain. I'll try.

THE THIRD DAY, 2:48 AM



THE THIRD DAY, NOON



Any word of Admiral Sokolov?

No... not yet, they say he's still unconscious, but a doctor is attending to him.

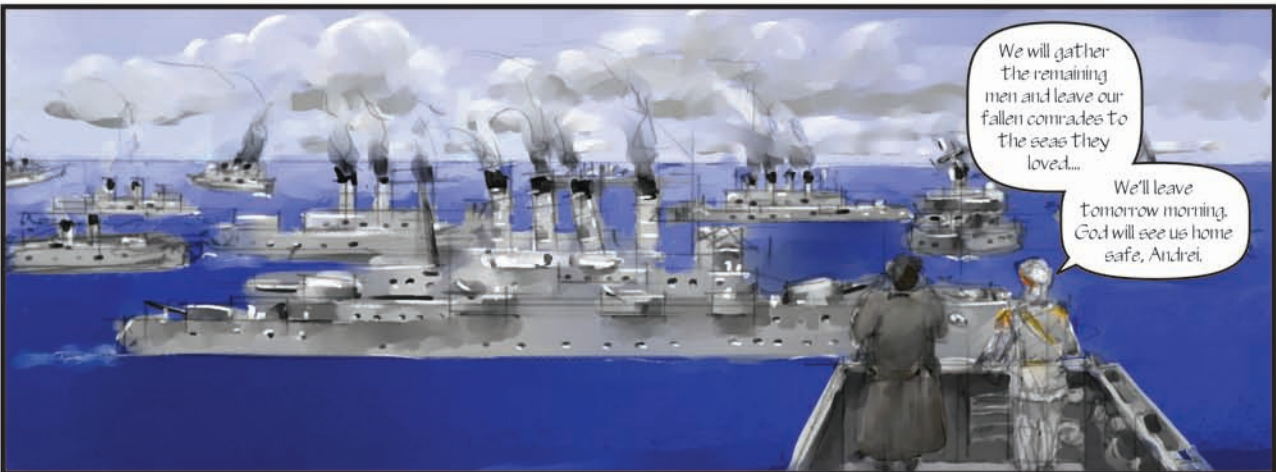


Are we to head back? There are only twelve ships left...

We have no choice, Andrei. Although I'm not sure of how far we have drifted overnight.



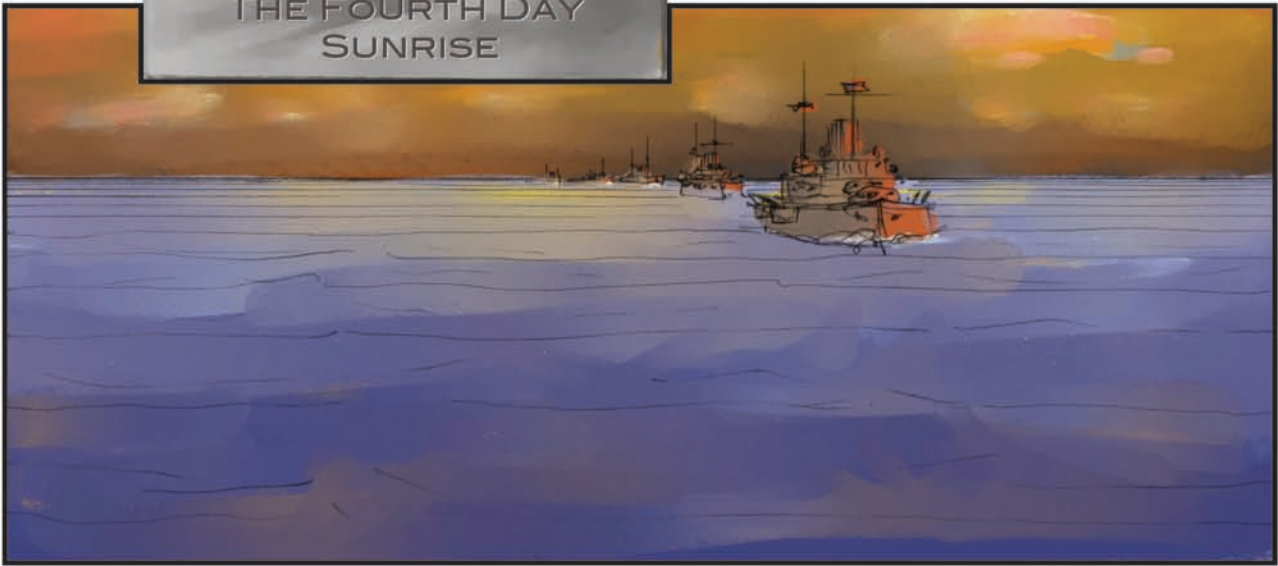
The tides may not have been on our side, but we have enough coal to make it home...

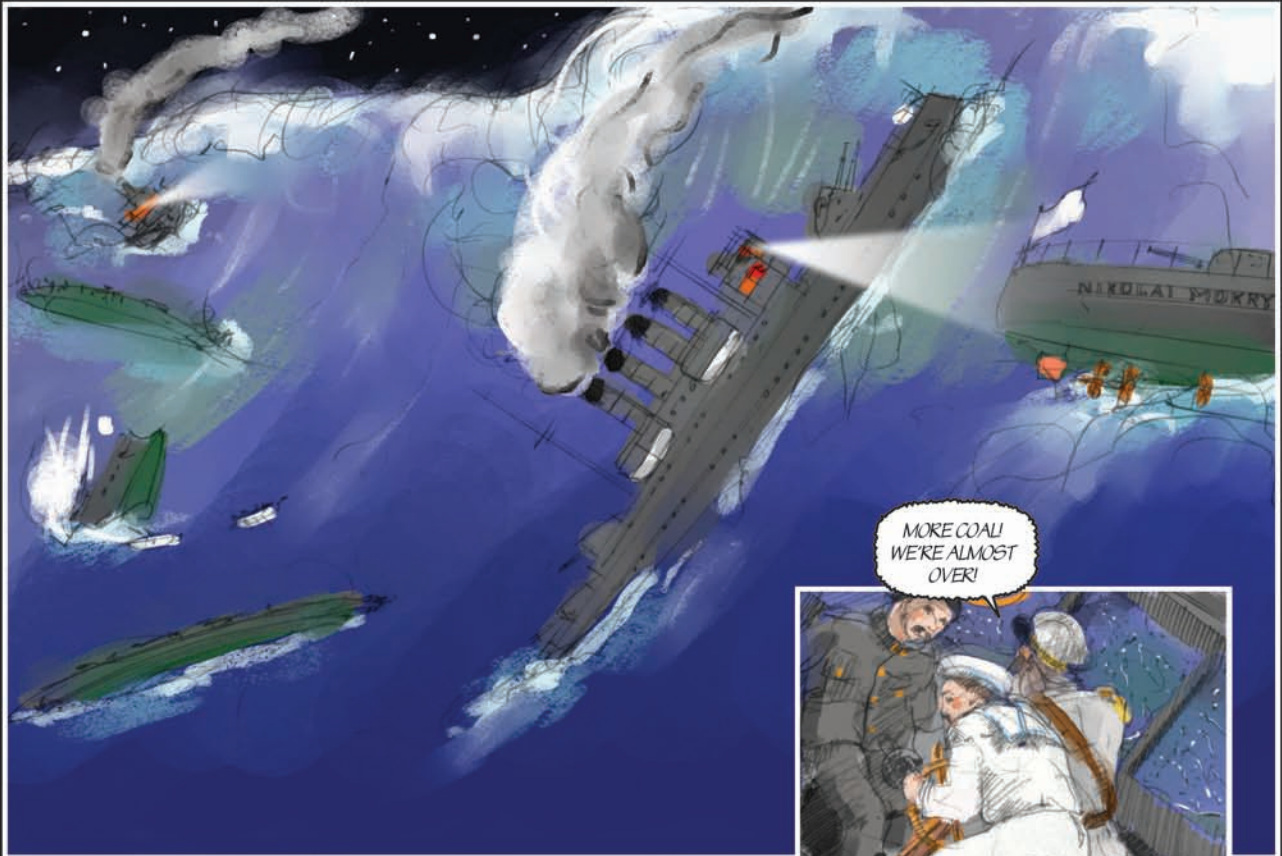


We will gather the remaining men and leave our fallen comrades to the seas they loved...

We'll leave tomorrow morning. God will see us home safe, Andrei.

THE FOURTH DAY SUNRISE





MORE COAL!
WE'RE ALMOST
OVER!



THE WORST
MAY BE OVER,
BUT STAY ON
HIGH ALERT!



Andrei,
I'm glad you're
still here.

To be
honest
Captain,
I'm not...



Our compass was
damaged, but I wanted to
show you something...

Our coordinates
yesterday were almost
100 kilometers south
of where we are
right now.



Wait,
how did this
happen?



I know
that it felt
like we only climbed
one wave, but 100
kilometers
overnight?



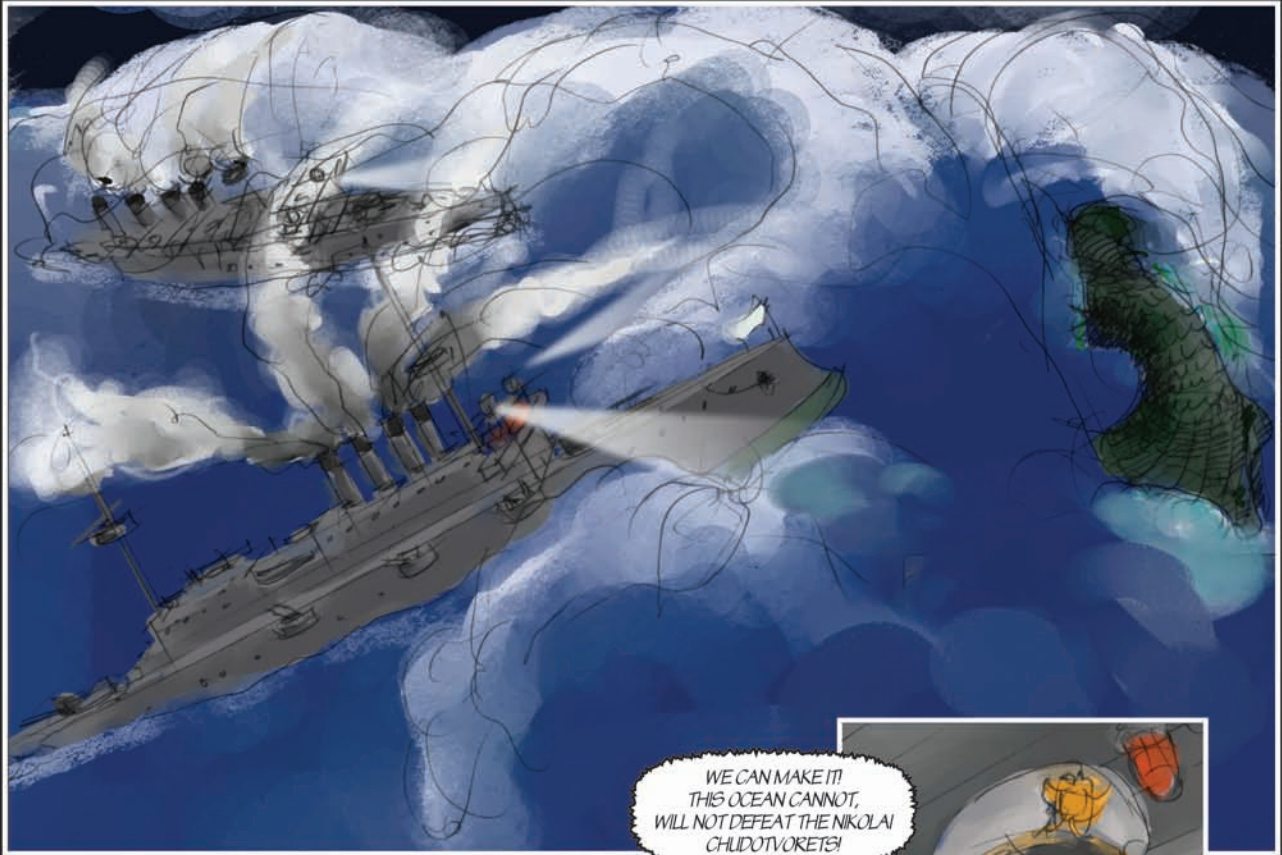
And all
five of our
remaining
ships...?



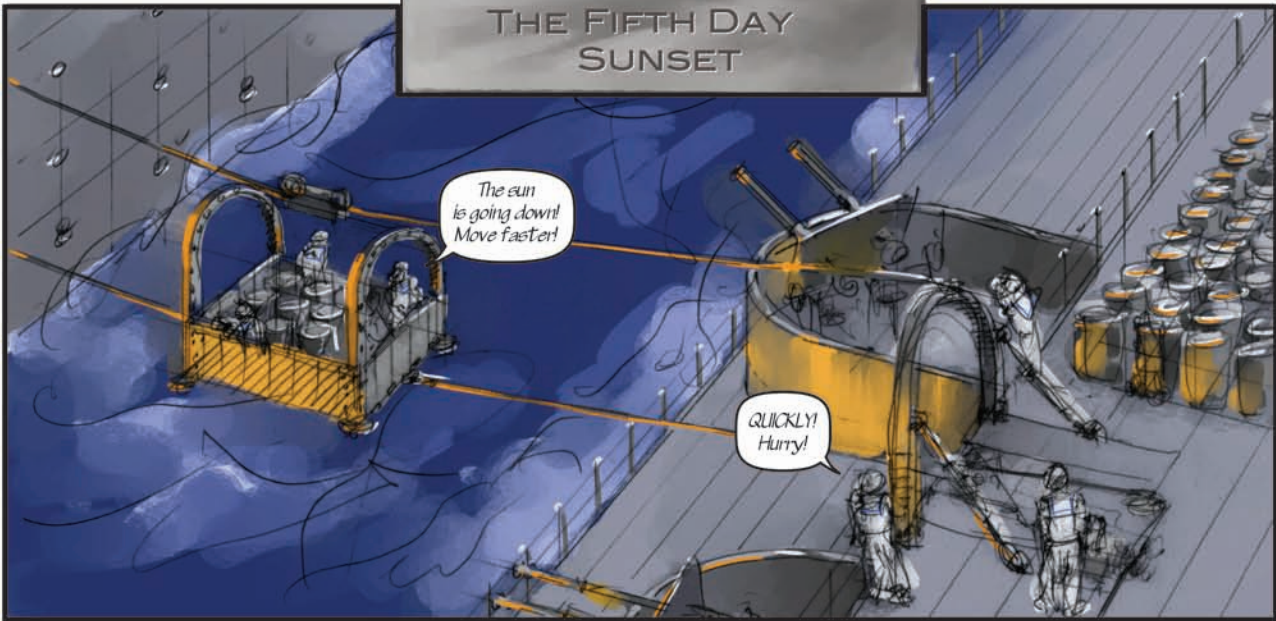
My God...
am I too stubborn
to have noticed
this whole time?



Andrei!!
Signal the
other four ships
and start our
engine!



THE FIFTH DAY SUNSET



The sun
is going down!
Move faster!

QUICKLY!
Hurry!



If we push
forward all night
long, we might be
able to get out
of this forsaken
area...

Now that
there's only one
ship left, there is
no need to reserve
coal. Take everything
from the Nikolai
Mokryi.



We can't
wait for what
may come in the
night. We are going
home now. Tell
our crew!

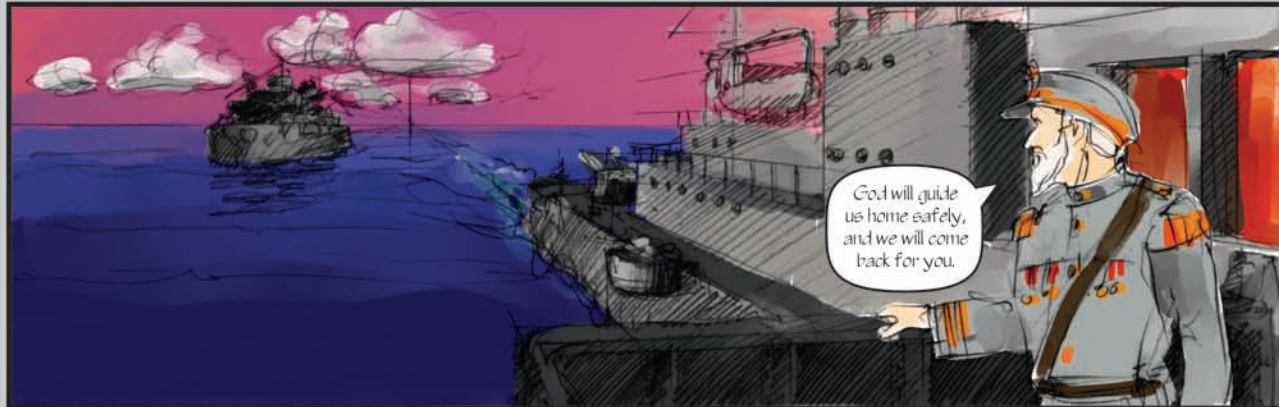


Captain,
Admiral Sokolov has
been transferred but
is still unconscious. What
shall we do with our ship,
the Nikolai Mokryi?

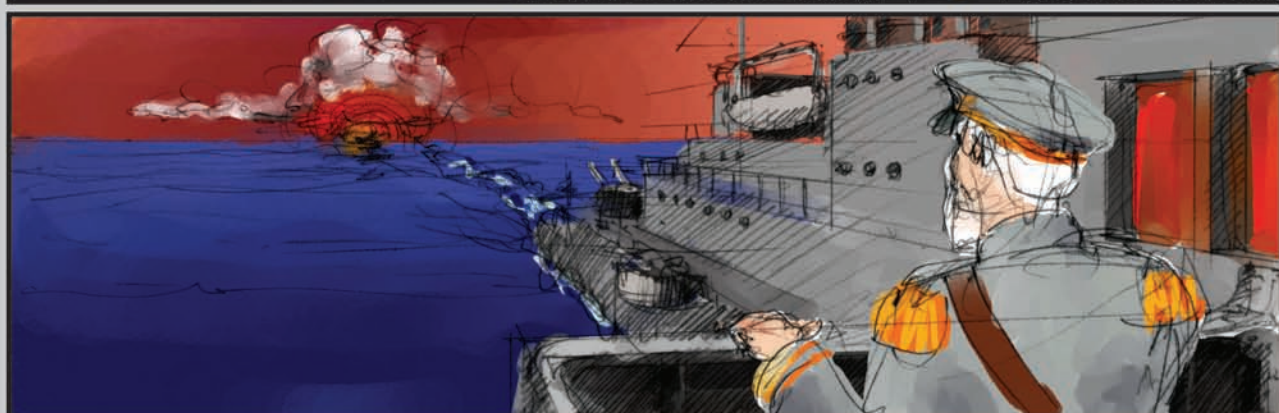
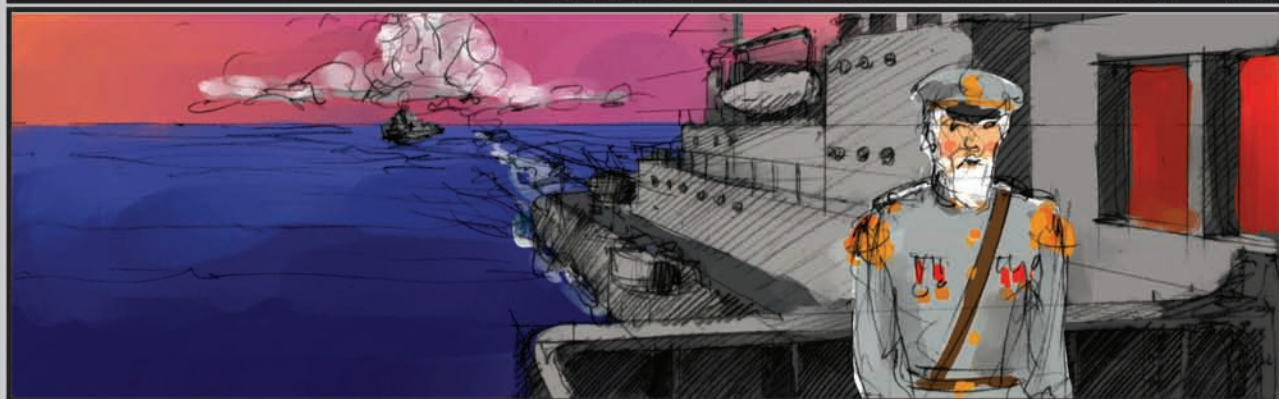


Quickly lower
it's anchor before we
leave. The sea can claim
the Nikolai Mokryi as
it's last prize.

Yes Sir!



God will guide us home safely, and we will come back for you.



NO, PLEASE!



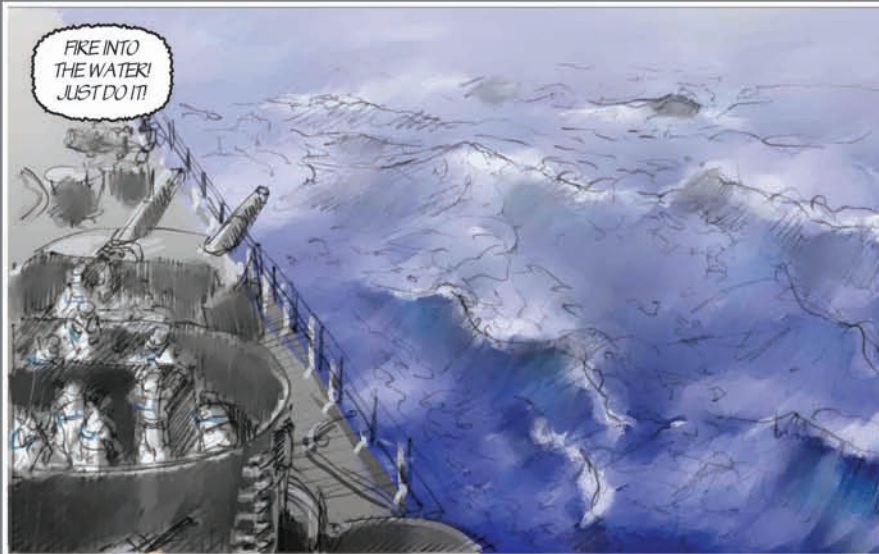
MORE COAL! SHOVEL IN EVERYTHING! EVERYONE WHO ISN'T SHOVELING, GRAB A WEAPON AND MAN YOUR STATIONS!



Have you lost your mind? We can't fight another wave!



We need to get out of here! If you're not helping, get on deck with a gun! NOW ANDRE!!



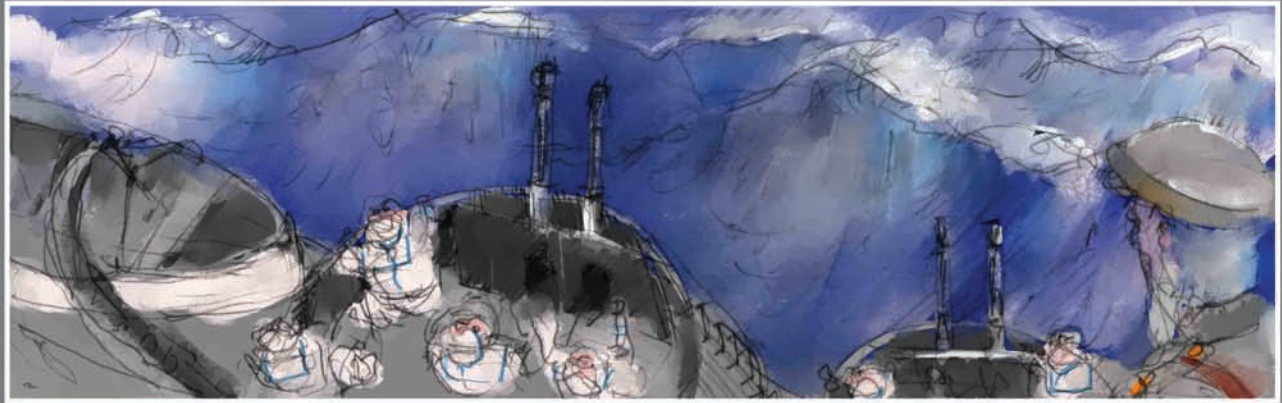
FIRE INTO
THE WATER!
JUST DO IT!

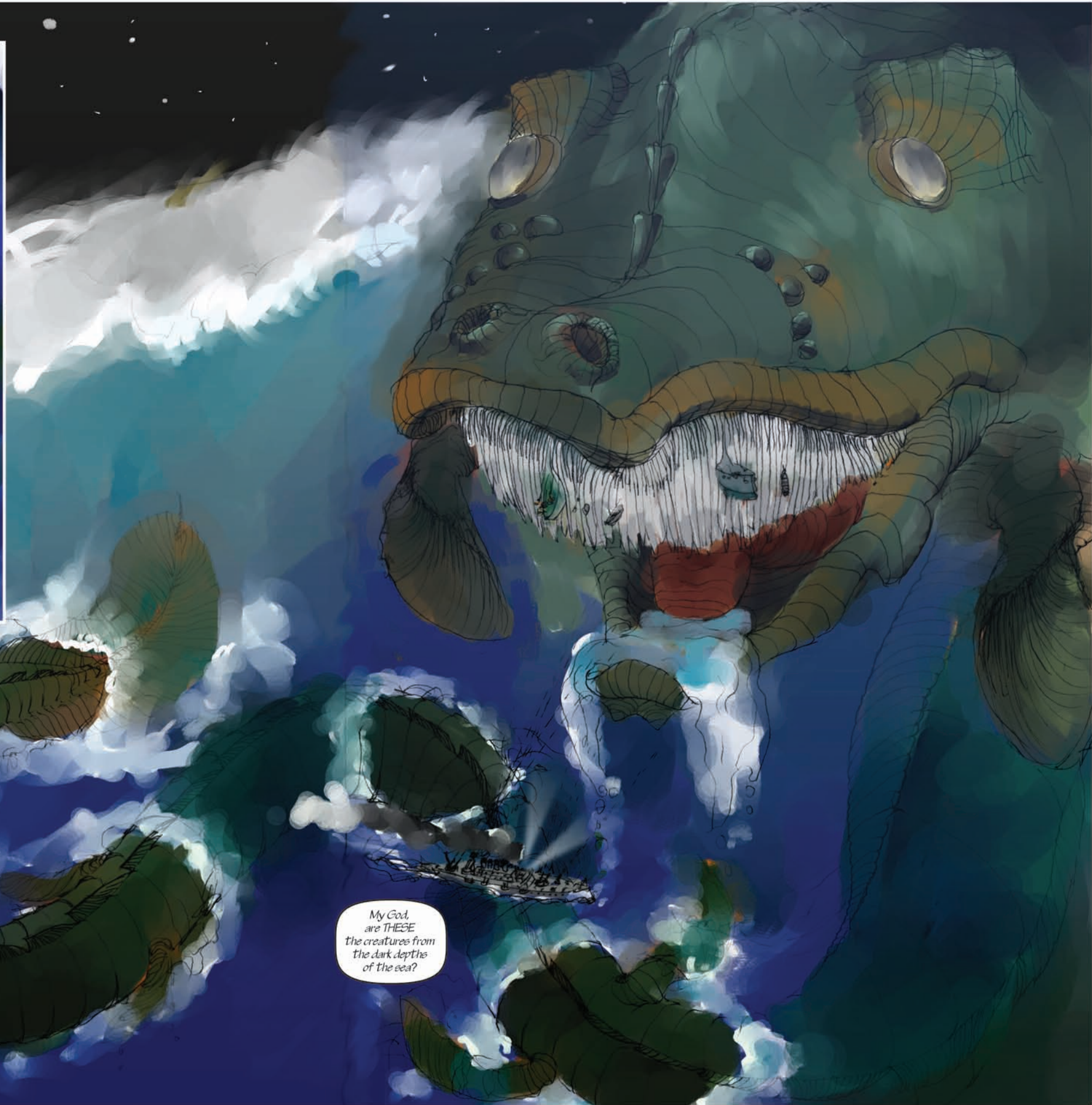
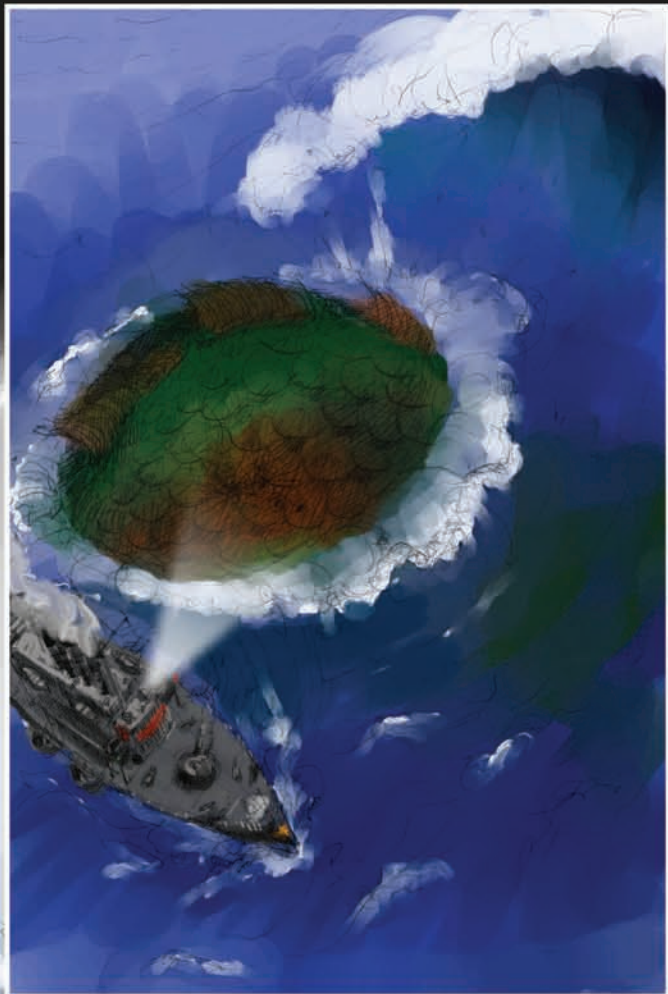


No...



FIRE EVERYTHING!





My God,
are THESE
the creatures from
the dark depths
of the sea?