





Author Teemu Leppälä is a Finnish writer, sea captain and marine pilot. He has worked on dozens of different ships and seen the world from the Suez Canal to the rivers of China and from Greenland to Africa. In the winter of 2011 he was working as an Icebreaker operator and had just finished his night watch. The night had been full of important missions and tricky situations. That was the night that Teemu decided to start writing down his icebreaker adventures as stories for children.



Ruslan Safarov is a Ukrainian engineer and illustrator and a graduate of the Donetsk Institute of Artificial Intelligence. He enjoys making CG graphic and digital art of all kinds. Ruslan's passions are reading science fiction, realizing his creative self, and creating interesting and atmospheric artwork.



THE MAGICAL TREASURE

Written by Teemu Leppälä
Illustrated by Ruslan Safarov

ICEBREAKER SNOW AND THE MAGICAL TREASURE

Icebreaker Snow and the Magical Treasure is the seventh book in the Icebreaker Snow series.

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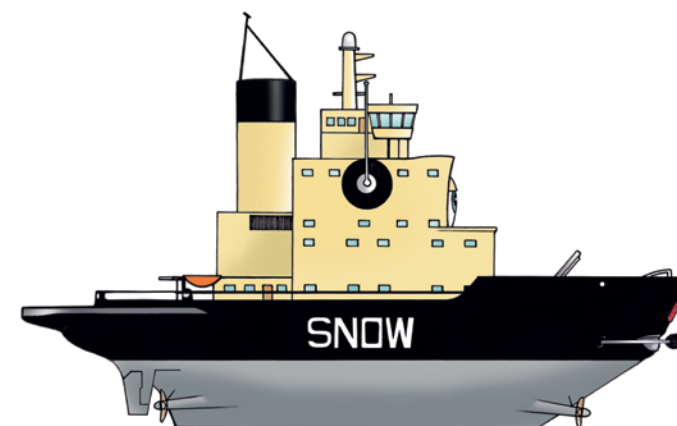
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ICEBREAKER ATLAS



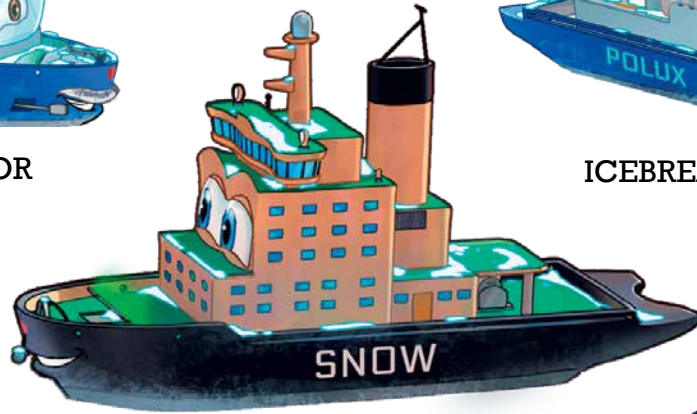
HELICOPTER HARRIET



ICEBREAKER CASTOR



ICEBREAKER POLUX



ICEBREAKER SNOW



HENRIQ Q



ICE FOX



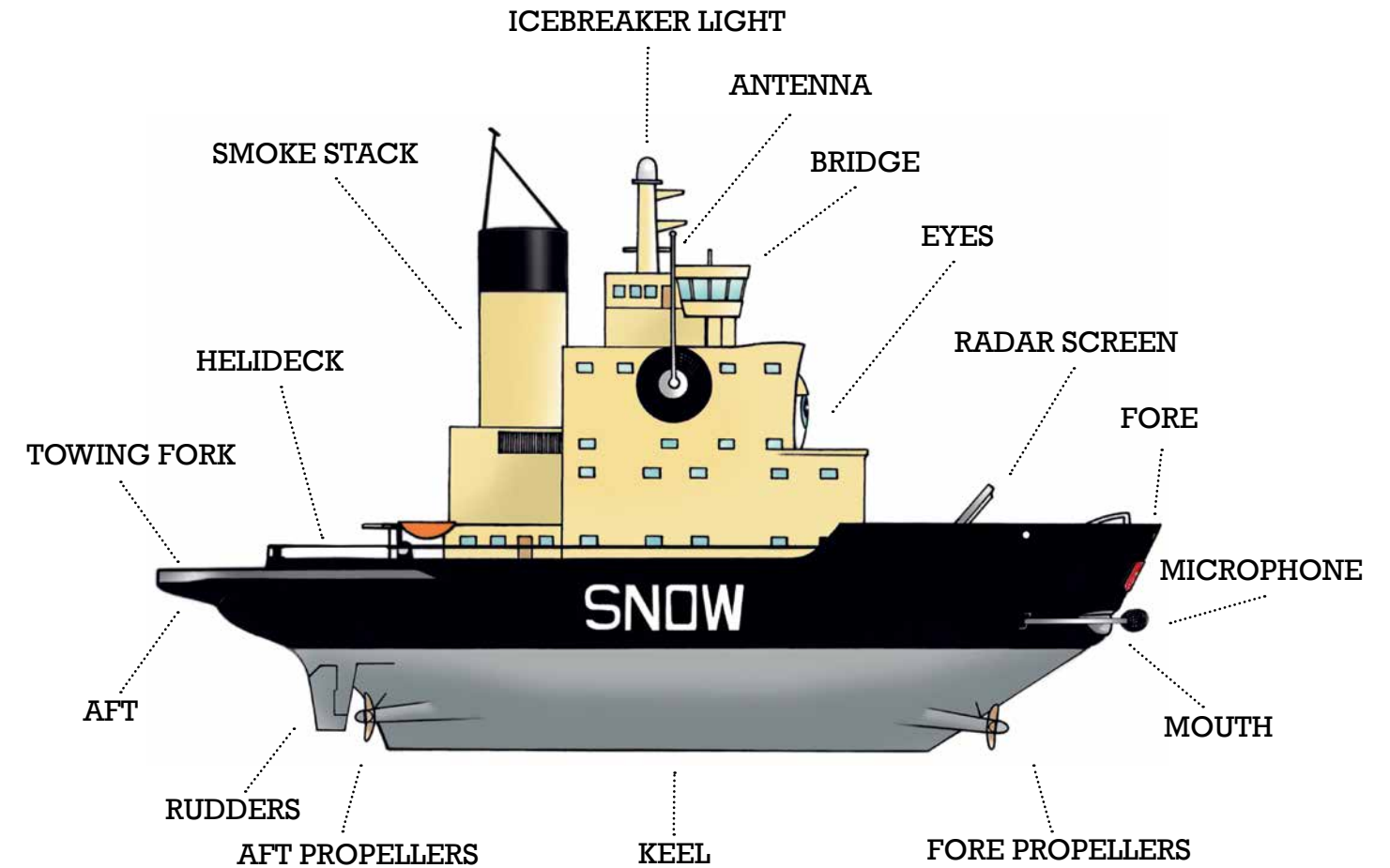
HAPPY DRAGON



HAPPY TIGER



DRONE HICCUP



“YOUR NAME SHALL BE SNOW AND MAY LUCK BE WITH YOU ON YOUR TRAVELS.” Snow is a Finnish icebreaker. He lives at Juniper Point with his icebreaker friends. Snow’s hull is made of the sturdiest steel and he is as strong as 100 polar bears! He moves through the sea ice as quick as a rabbit. At full steam, ice more than a meter thick crumbles before him and rises in great waves that cover the nearby islands and skerries. In the summertime Snow saves up his strength and services his equipment to meet the challenges of the coming winter. When the frost returns and the sea freezes over, Snow casts off his moorings, lights up the blue icebreaker light at the top of his tower, and heads off to help ships into the port. Snow likes to help, and he loves his job at sea. That is his nature as an icebreaker.



The air was bright with frost and the wind had formed undulating white snow dunes on the surface of the frozen sea. A small drone hovered over the ice. Behind the drone was an icebreaker and two multipurpose vessels stopped in front of an enormous structure. Booming ice and the clank of steel could be heard from the northwest as three more icebreakers approached the gathering place.

Their task was to tow the enormous structure, a groundbreaking invention called the Snowflake, to the southern Arctic Sea, where its construction would be completed.

"Today we make history," shouted Icebreaker Snow excitedly as he joined his fellow icebreakers. Drone Hiccup winked and spun around nimbly in the air in front of Snow.

"You call that moving fortress that covers the whole horizon history? From the looks of it I would say it's the future," Icebreaker Atlas said, smiling behind his mustache as he came up behind Pollux and Castor and slowed his engines.

The large solar panels on the Snowflake reflected the shining sun. Way up at the very top, Helicopter Harriet was explaining to the construction drones how events would unfold.

‘We are about to leave and you will all have to work together. Conditions may change, so you will have to be especially careful. Is that understood?’

“You can count on us to get the work done. We’ll get the wind turbines installed on schedule,” replied the mechanical voice of a construction drone.

«Excellent. Once the Snowflake is moved, the work can continue,” said Harriet with satisfaction.



When he was given the assignment, Icebreaker Snow hadn't realized how huge the Snowflake actually was. The enormous structure floated independently in the sea, surrounded by ice. Harriet lowered her altitude and reported to Snow on the situation.

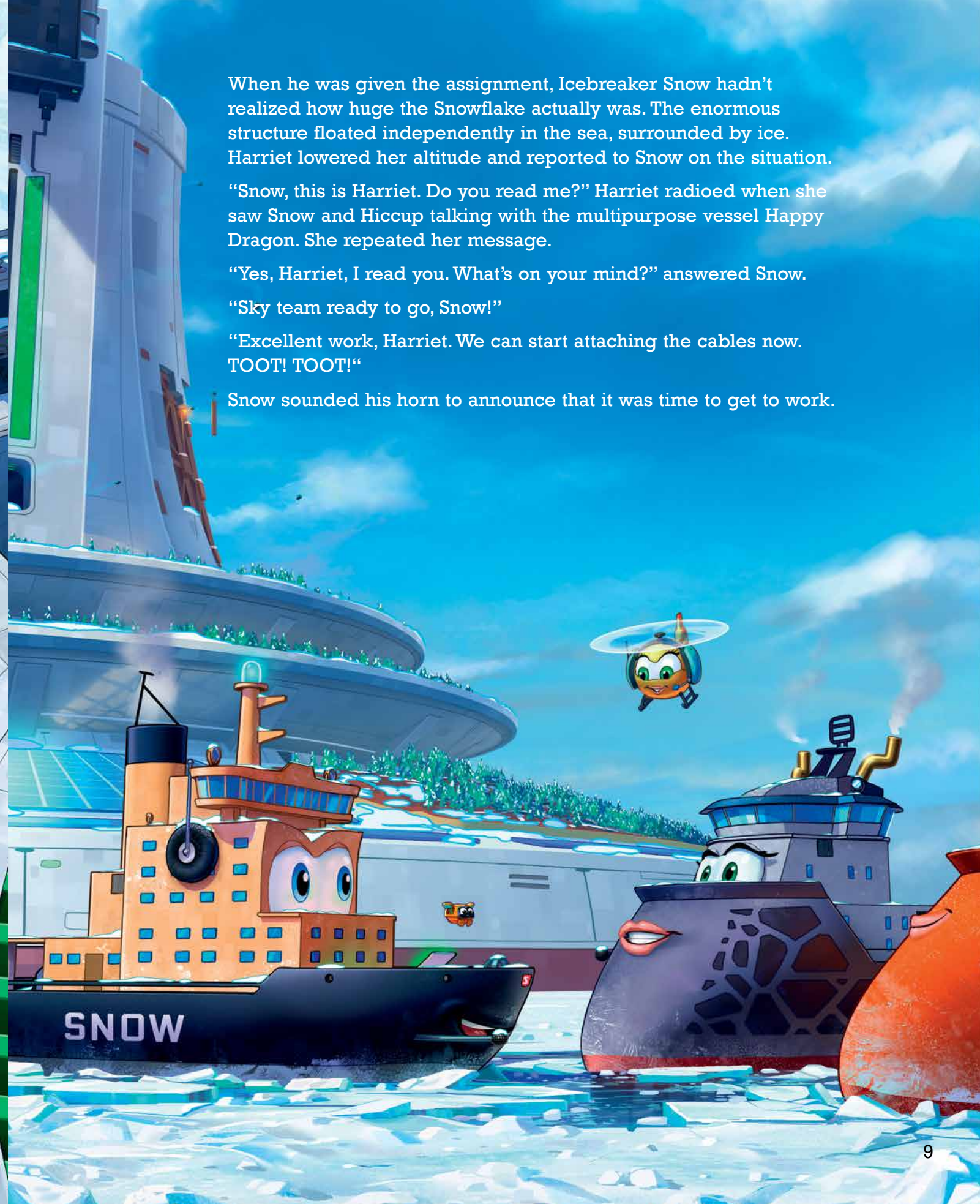
“Snow, this is Harriet. Do you read me?” Harriet radioed when she saw Snow and Hiccup talking with the multipurpose vessel Happy Dragon. She repeated her message.

“Yes, Harriet, I read you. What's on your mind?” answered Snow.

“Sky team ready to go, Snow!”

“Excellent work, Harriet. We can start attaching the cables now. TOOT! TOOT!”

Snow sounded his horn to announce that it was time to get to work.



First they had to attach the towing cables to the Snowflake. Hiccup moved in precise, slow steps over the fastening brackets, listening and feeling as he went. The cables began to rasp and boom as they pulled tight. The water at the stern of the icebreakers began to churn and froth. Hiccup could feel his legs shaking.



"Let's get the Snowflake moving!" Snow said to encourage his fellow icebreakers.

"I've towed almost everything over the decades, from rubber ducks to aircraft carriers, but I've never towed a Snowflake. We've got enough power to move continents here," said Atlas, revving his engines to full power.

"Propellers spinning and power up!" shouted Castor.

"TOOT! TOOT! Let's make waves!" yelled Snow.

Helicopter Harriet circled overhead, keeping her eye on the movements of the Snowflake. The roar of the ships' engines was overpowering even from up there. Large blocks of ice started breaking away from around the Snowflake. The team was on its way. Water vapor sprayed from the top of the Snowflake but the construction drones kept working through it as if it were nothing.

"Helicopter Harriet here. We're on the move! Great job, everyone. Maintain direction and speed."

"It seems quite light, this Snowflake," Snow answered.

"It's practically floating behind us," said Happy Tiger.

"An icebreaker's work is never done, and with weather like this, even a Snowflake won't melt," Atlas said in amusement.

Everyone laughed. The Snowflake moved steadily south as the ice boomed and rumbled around it, until...



Suddenly the Snowflake stopped moving. The abrupt stop made the icebreakers rock dangerously from side to side. Snow's eyes widened in astonishment and Pollux's towing gear stretched to its limits. Hiccup saw what was happening from the air and flew toward Snow.



"What in the world just happened?" Snow said.

In his own robotic language, Hiccup answered, "This is a new situation. It was not anticipated."

"It certainly wasn't. We have to find out what's wrong," Snow said firmly. "Hiccup, scan the area from above to see what's stopping us."

Hiccup acknowledged Snow's request and flew off toward the top of the Snowflake.

Hiccup's jet engines shone like turquoise as he hovered over the power cells at the top of the Snowflake. How odd--the power cells weren't spraying vapor anymore. The Snowflake was cutting-edge technology and it produced all its own energy from the sun, the wind, and the sea tides. The forests on its platform produced oxygen for the atmosphere and sequestered carbon dioxide. But now its equipment had shut down.



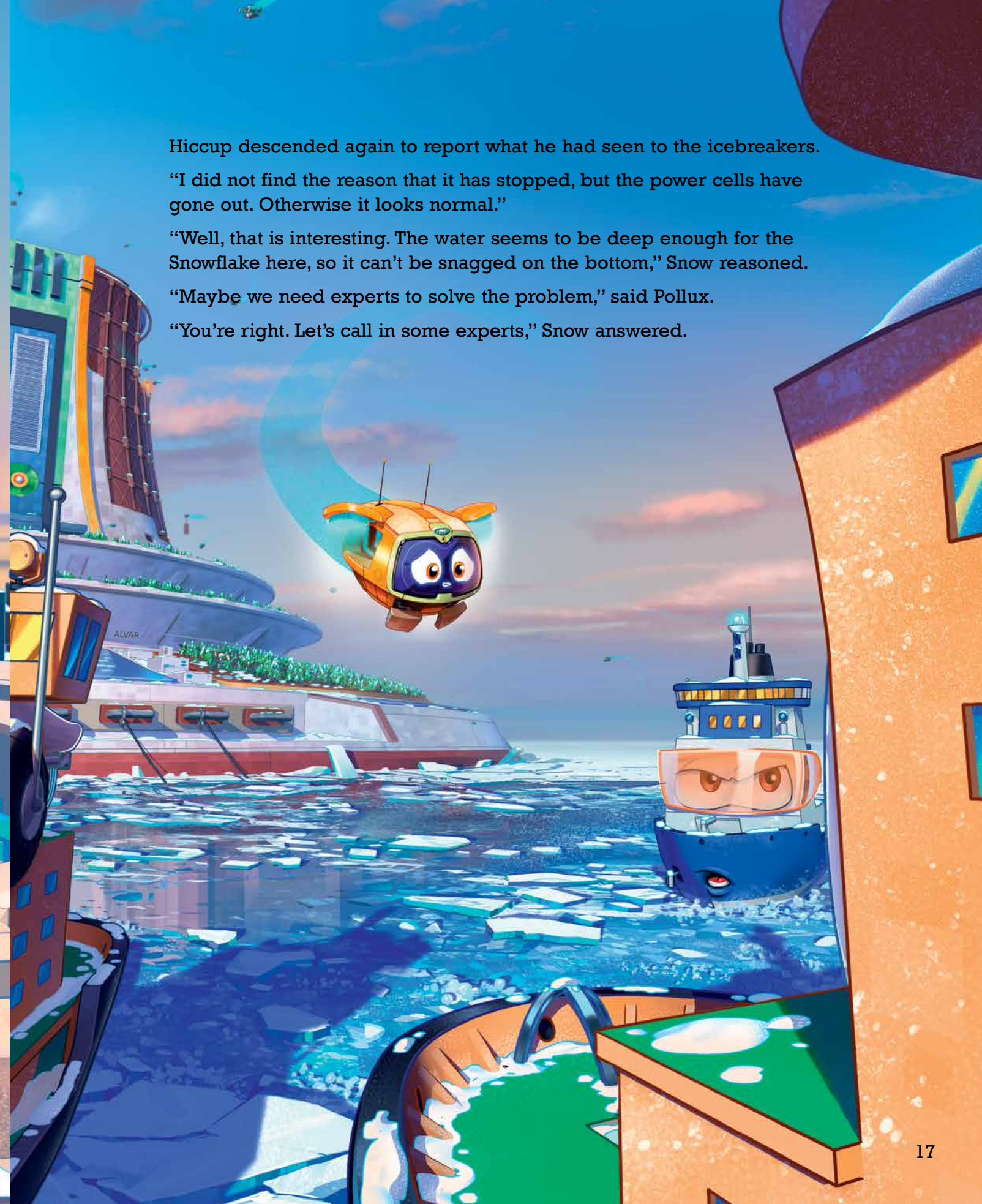
Hiccup descended again to report what he had seen to the icebreakers.

"I did not find the reason that it has stopped, but the power cells have gone out. Otherwise it looks normal."

"Well, that is interesting. The water seems to be deep enough for the Snowflake here, so it can't be snagged on the bottom," Snow reasoned.

"Maybe we need experts to solve the problem," said Pollux.

"You're right. Let's call in some experts," Snow answered.



They alerted the special-purpose vessels Henriq Q and Ice Fox to come and help. The two vessels had helped to install the Snowflake's equipment and they knew it well. A few hours later the steam was once again rising from the Snowflake's power cells.

"TOOT! TOOT! They're changing the sun's rays to energy again," Snow said with satisfaction, gazing up at the top of the Snowflake.

But not everything was right yet.

"The longer a problem lasts, the more complicated it becomes," said Atlas.

"Yes, it does," Henriq Q said, muttering to himself and looking at the Snowflake's monitor.

"Yes, it does, it certainly does," repeated Ice Fox.



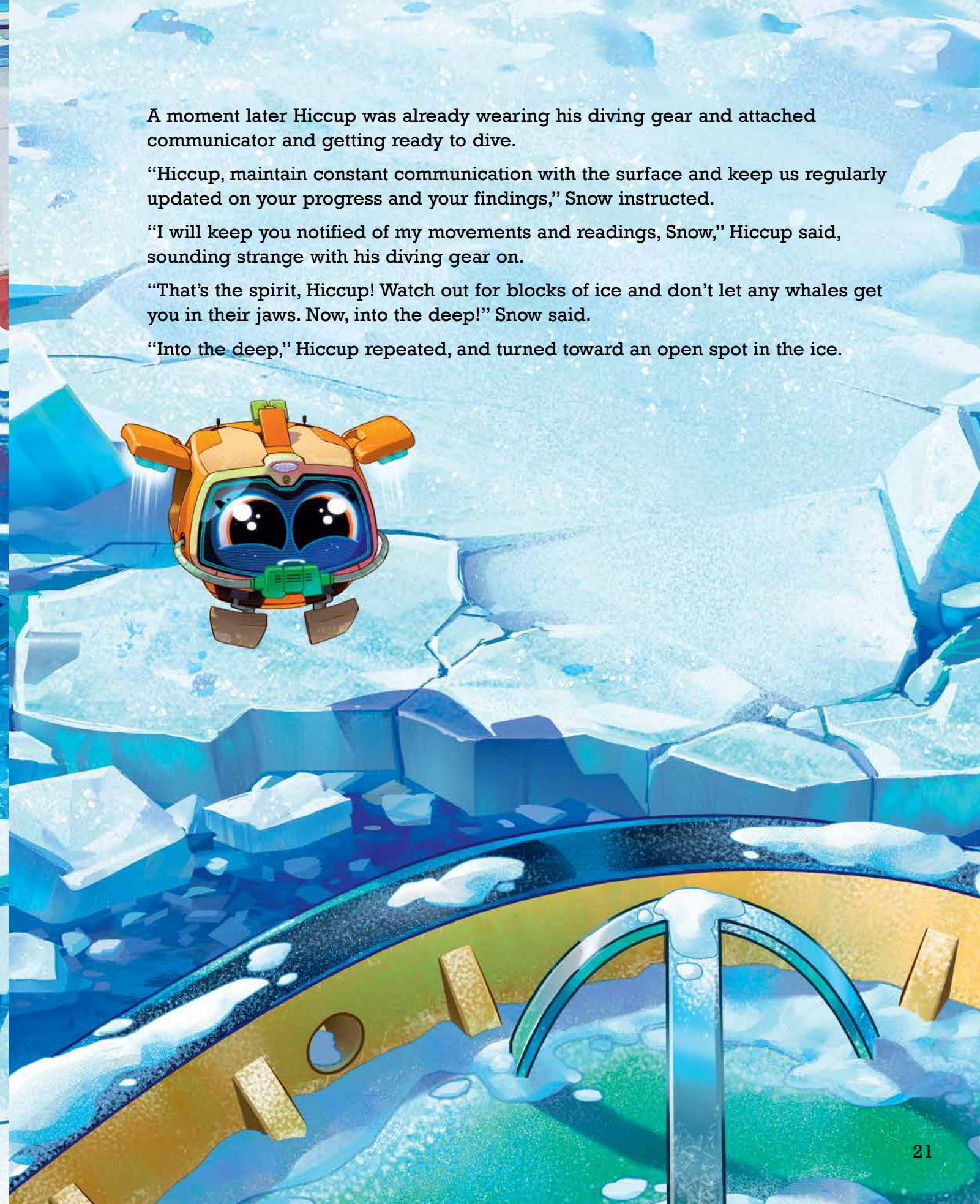


A red warning triangle still shone from the Snowflake's main console, and they couldn't figure out why. Henriq Q and Ice Fox studied the data and discussed it among themselves.

"We believe that the problem with the cells lies beneath the water's surface," said Henriq Q, still looking intently at the monitor.

"It must be in the filter cells that the Snowflake uses to purify the seawater," Ice Fox added.

Hiccup was hovering in the background and realized what this meant. He would have to go underwater to inspect the Snowflake beneath the surface.



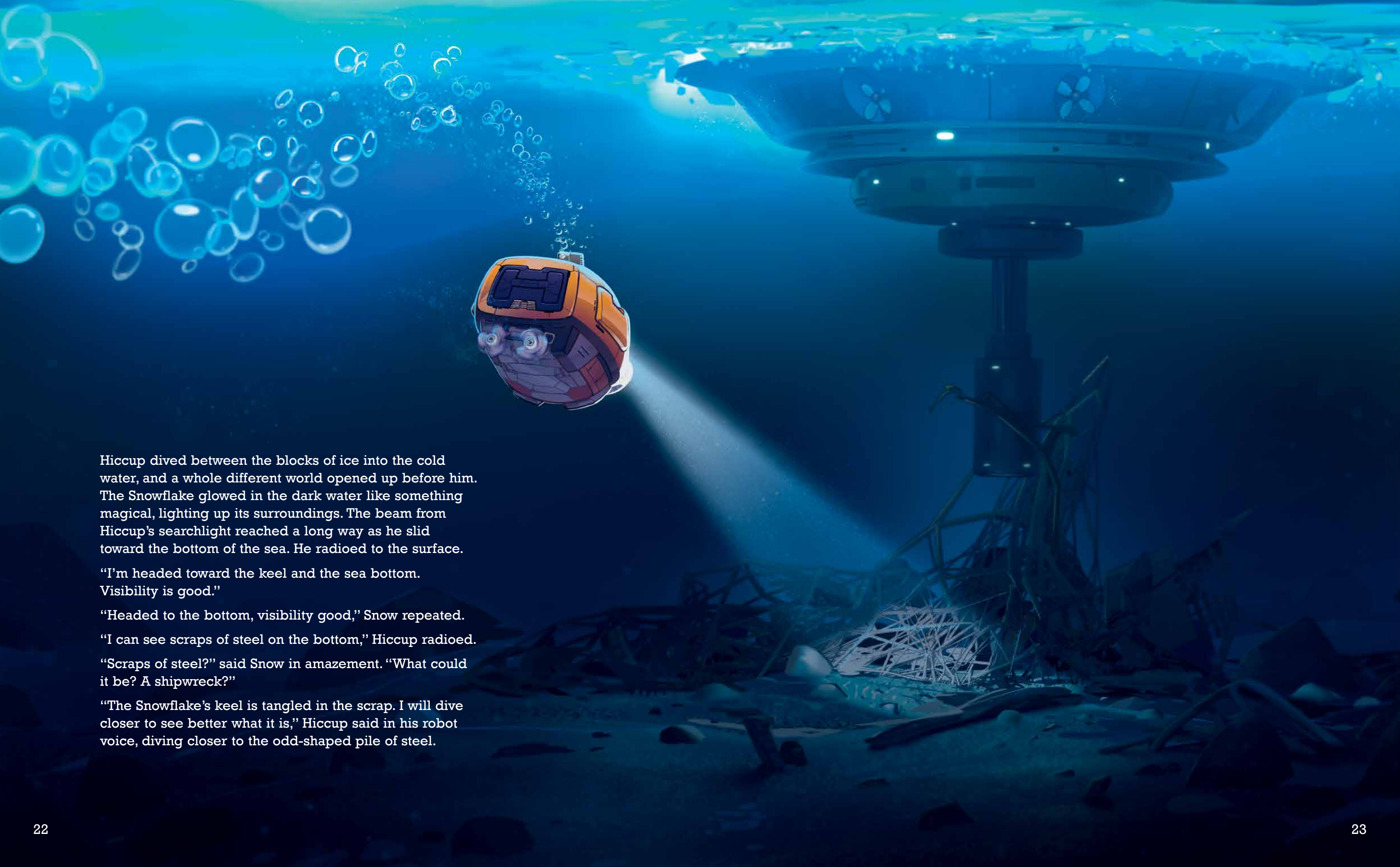
A moment later Hiccup was already wearing his diving gear and attached communicator and getting ready to dive.

"Hiccup, maintain constant communication with the surface and keep us regularly updated on your progress and your findings," Snow instructed.

"I will keep you notified of my movements and readings, Snow," Hiccup said, sounding strange with his diving gear on.

"That's the spirit, Hiccup! Watch out for blocks of ice and don't let any whales get you in their jaws. Now, into the deep!" Snow said.

"Into the deep," Hiccup repeated, and turned toward an open spot in the ice.



Hiccup dived between the blocks of ice into the cold water, and a whole different world opened up before him. The Snowflake glowed in the dark water like something magical, lighting up its surroundings. The beam from Hiccup's searchlight reached a long way as he slid toward the bottom of the sea. He radioed to the surface.

"I'm headed toward the keel and the sea bottom. Visibility is good."

"Headed to the bottom, visibility good," Snow repeated.

"I can see scraps of steel on the bottom," Hiccup radioed.

"Scraps of steel?" said Snow in amazement. "What could it be? A shipwreck?"

"The Snowflake's keel is tangled in the scrap. I will dive closer to see better what it is," Hiccup said in his robot voice, diving closer to the odd-shaped pile of steel.



Hiccup dived deeper and deeper, investigating his target. It seemed as if time had stopped and the strange heap of scrap looked like it had been at the bottom of the sea for decades. As Hiccup examined it, the beam of his searchlight fell on a cube-shaped object.

"A safe. There is a safe here!" Hiccup said over the radio.

"Did I hear you say a safe? How interesting. Let's bring it up and see if we can find out what's going on," said Snow.

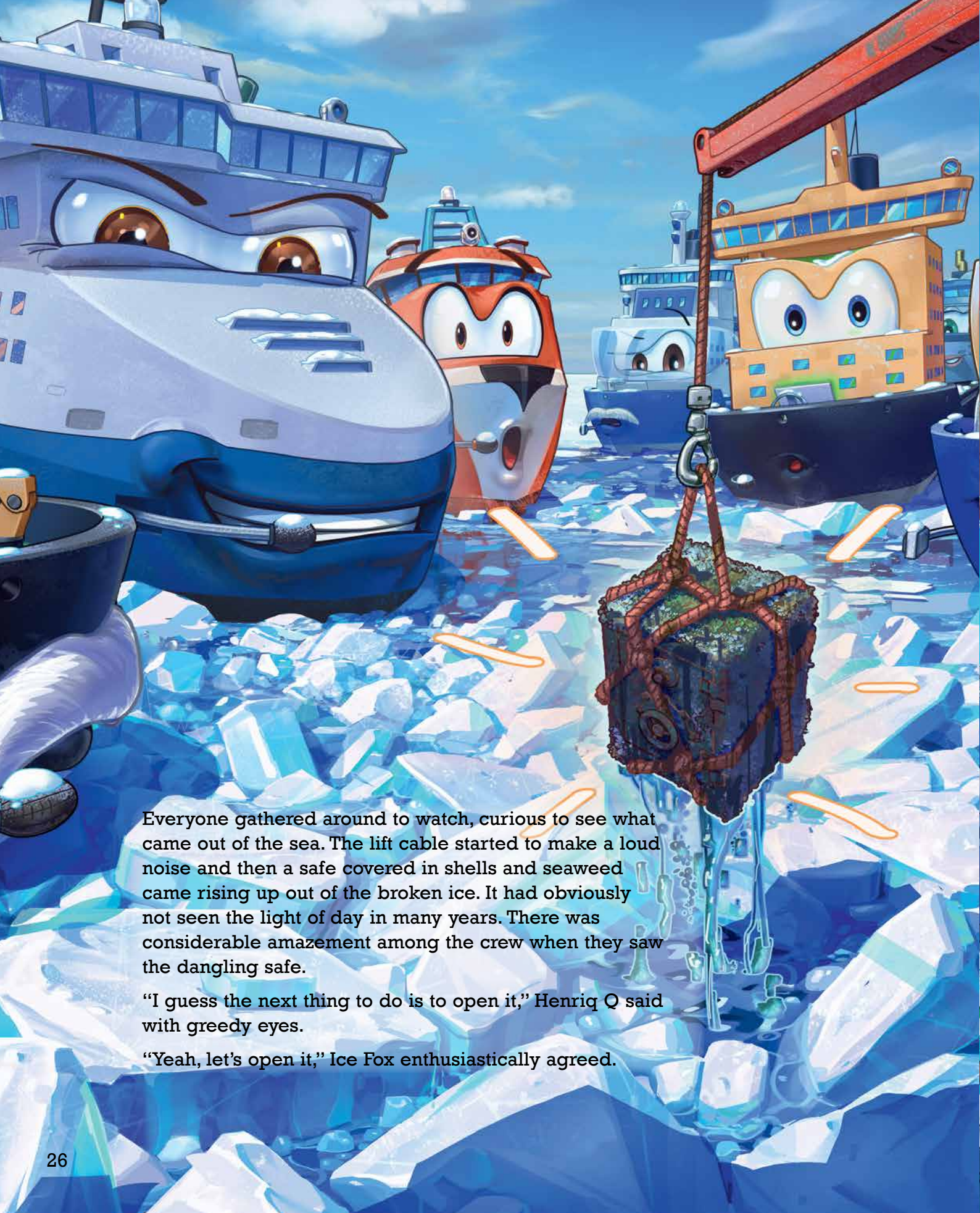


"The cable is now attached to the safe and the lift can begin," radioed Hiccup to the surface.

"I'll start the lift, nice and easy" Happy Dragon said, and the safe started to rise up to the surface.

"You can speed up now," said Hiccup.

The safe started rising at a quick clip toward the surface.



Everyone gathered around to watch, curious to see what came out of the sea. The lift cable started to make a loud noise and then a safe covered in shells and seaweed came rising up out of the broken ice. It had obviously not seen the light of day in many years. There was considerable amazement among the crew when they saw the dangling safe.

"I guess the next thing to do is to open it," Henriq Q said with greedy eyes.

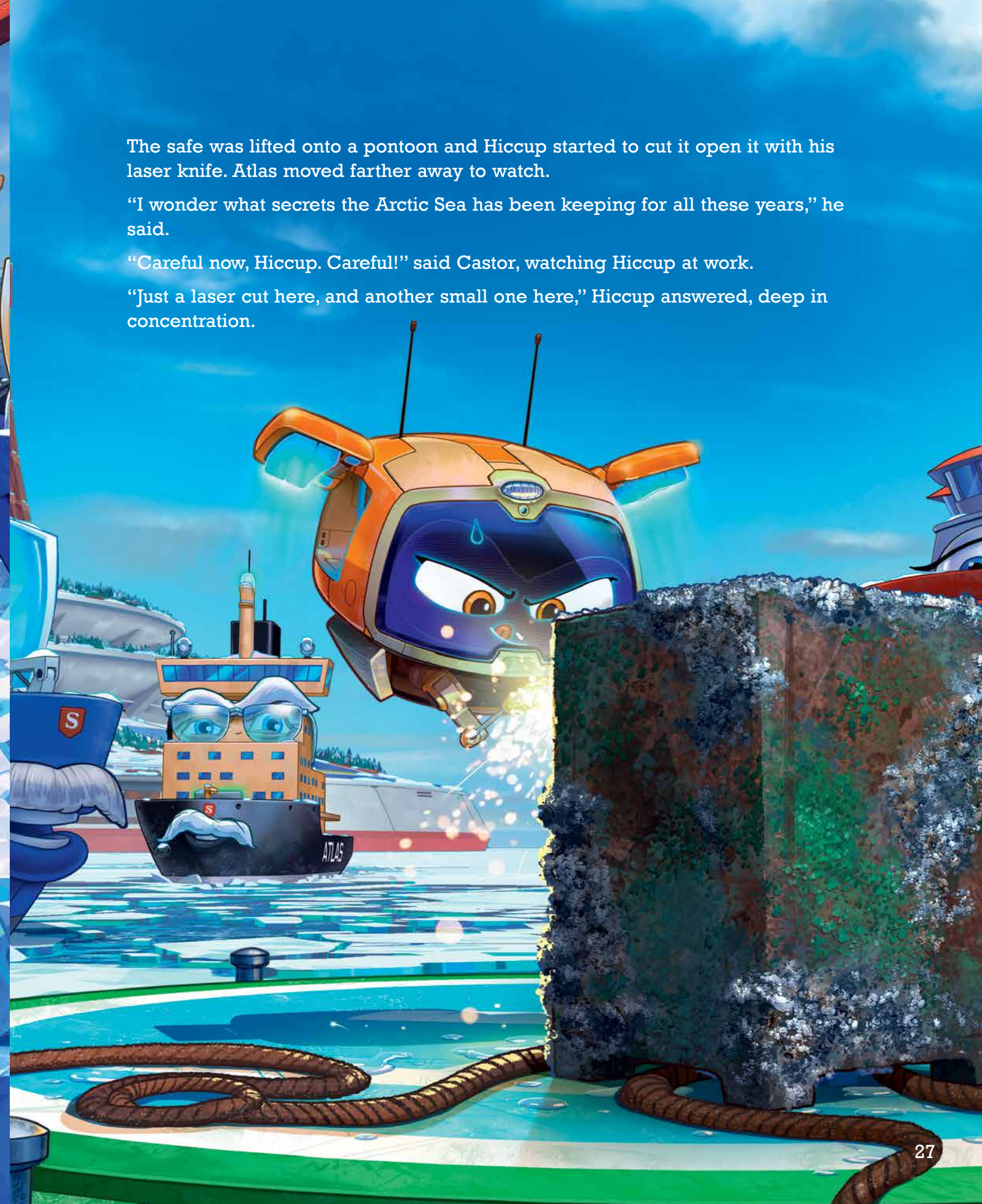
"Yeah, let's open it," Ice Fox enthusiastically agreed.

The safe was lifted onto a pontoon and Hiccup started to cut it open it with his laser knife. Atlas moved farther away to watch.

"I wonder what secrets the Arctic Sea has been keeping for all these years," he said.

"Careful now, Hiccup. Careful!" said Castor, watching Hiccup at work.

"Just a laser cut here, and another small one here," Hiccup answered, deep in concentration.



Then the safe opened as if by magic and hundreds of gold coins, rubies, emeralds, diamonds and, last of all, one large blue sapphire that looked like a piece from a puzzle came pouring out onto the deck of the pontoon. Everyone stared in amazement at the safe's contents, completely speechless.

Henriq Q was the first to speak. "Riches, riches, and more riches," he said with a smile of satisfaction.

"And plenty of them," Ice Fox added.

"Quite a treasure indeed! Now we have to think about what we're going to do about it," said Snow.

"A large blue puzzle piece," Hiccup said in wonder.

"A sapphire puzzle piece? How magical!" Atlas declared.



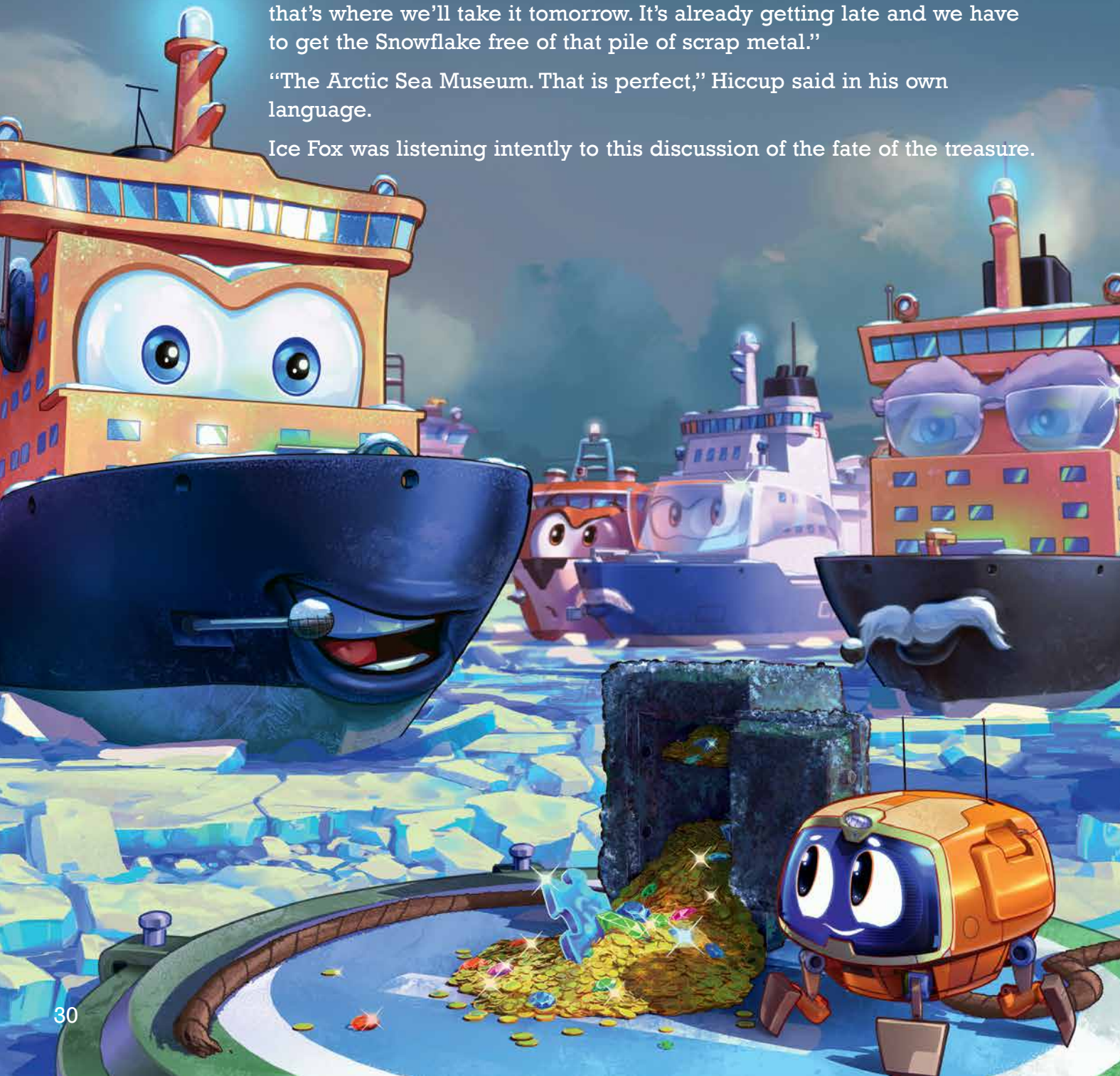
There was a long discussion about what was to be done with the treasure. They had to continue their work on the Snowflake and also keep the treasure as safe as possible.

“There’s only one place for the treasure, and it’s the Arctic Sea Museum,” Atlas said emphatically.

“By my steel keel! That is where the treasure belongs,” said Snow. “And that’s where we’ll take it tomorrow. It’s already getting late and we have to get the Snowflake free of that pile of scrap metal.”


“The Arctic Sea Museum. That is perfect,” Hiccup said in his own language.

Ice Fox was listening intently to this discussion of the fate of the treasure.



The sun set on the distant horizon. The sapphire puzzle piece and the other jewels lay on the pontoon and out-sparkled the ice in the last rays of sunlight. Ice Fox told Henriq Q about the plan to take the treasure to the museum. Henriq Q didn’t like that idea at all.





As evening turned to night, the northern lights blazed, filling the whole dome of the sky with their movements. They danced and flashed like fireflies around the Snowflake. Deep in the sea, the keel of the Snowflake broke loose from the pile of scrap metal which, unknown to the icebreakers, was the wreck of a lost airship.

At the darkest moment of the cold, cold night, strange things began to happen. Henriq Q began to tow the pontoon with the treasure on top away from the Snowflake, and Ice Fox was following him.

“Ha! Those dummies didn’t notice us leaving. I’m... I mean we’re going to be rich,” Henriq Q said.

“Nobody guessed a thing. You’re so clever,” Ice Fox said, flattering Henriq Q.

“There’s only one place for the treasure, and it’s on the end of my tow line,” Henriq Q said with a grin. “That pontoon is following me nicely. It’s perfect.”

Henriq Q and Ice Fox were quite far from the Snowflake now. They were sure their plot would succeed.

"I wish I could see the looks on the faces of Snow and his friends in the morning when they realize that the treasure is gone," Henriq Q chuckled.

"It'll make their faces freeze into such funny expressions," Ice Fox laughed.

"And we'll be long gone, on the other side of the Arctic Sea," Henriq Q grinned.



Ice Fox noticed that Henriq Q was taking a route too close to the shallows.

"I think we're getting a little too close to the skerries around Bear Island," Ice Fox said nervously.

"I've travelled thousands of miles on this route and I've never made a mistake," Henriq Q answered. "There's no reason to worry."

"But the skerries around the claws of Bear Island reach far out to sea, and we should be turning south," said Ice Fox.

"The claws of Bear Island? Humph. Just follow me," Henriq Q snapped.

And Ice Fox obeyed, although he feared they would run aground.





The claws of Bear Island did indeed reach just as far as Ice Fox said they did. Henriq Q and Ice Fox both ran straight into the shallows and tore their hulls on the sea bottom. Icy seawater began to fill their holds and they both started to sink, deeper and deeper, out there in the ice.

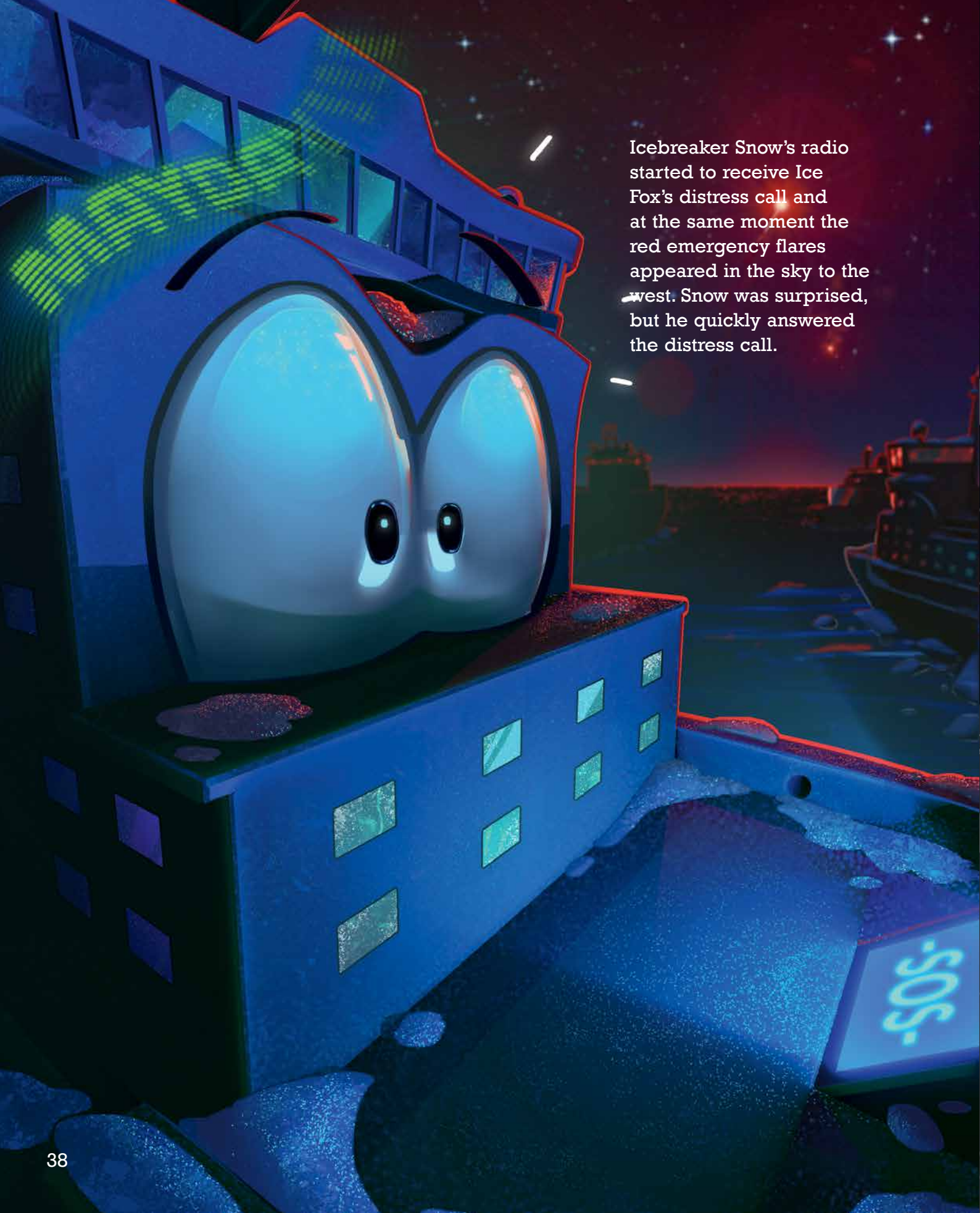
"Ice Fox, send a distress call!" Henriq Q shouted anxiously. "We need help right away or we'll sink! And send up some emergency flares, like you should have already done!"

"Is there any chance of being rescued now?" Ice Fox said in a panic.

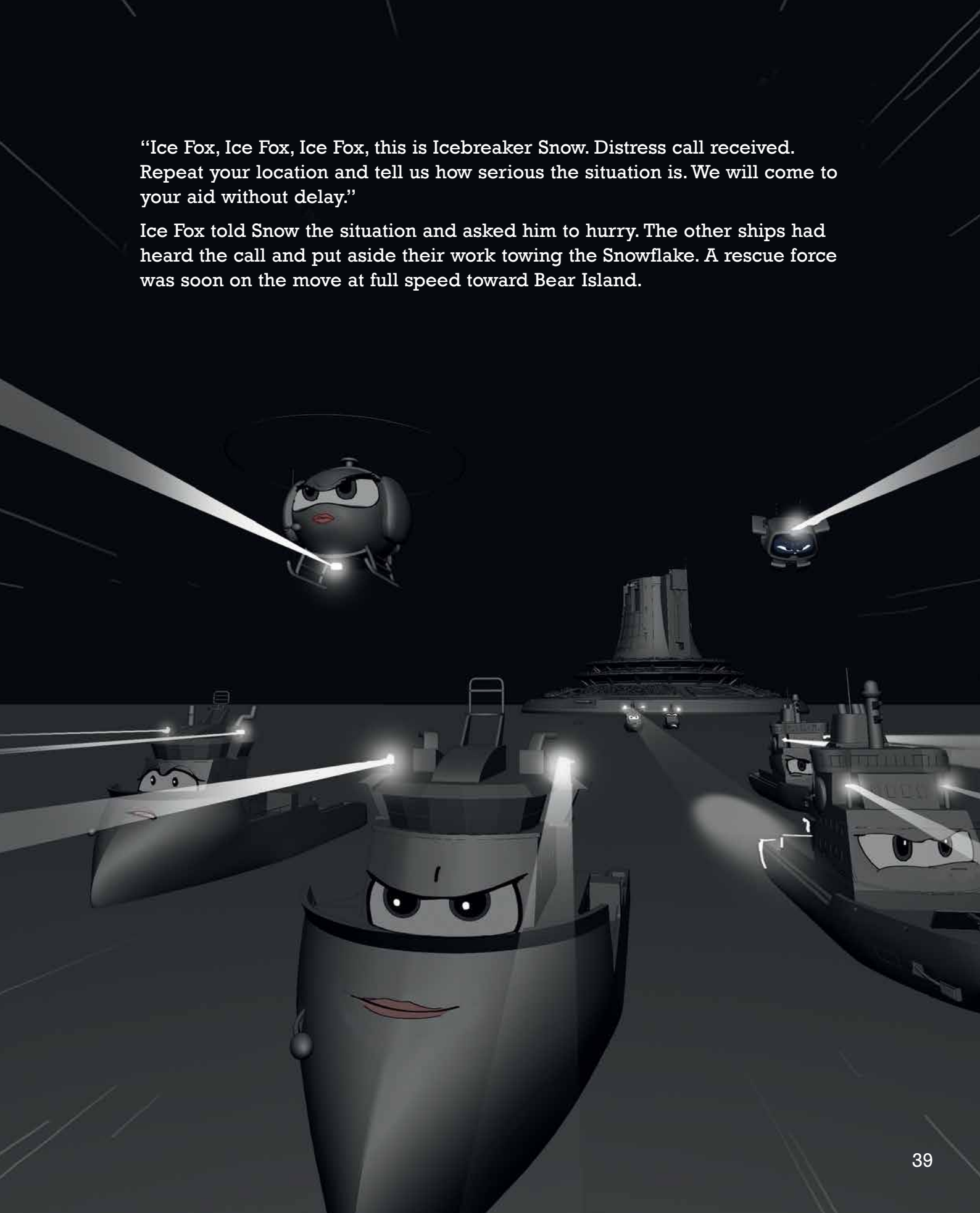
"Distress call and emergency flares, now!" Henriq Q roared.

"Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! Henriq Q and Ice Fox sinking at the skerries near the claws of Bear Island. We need help immediately!" Ice Fox repeated the distress call into the radio, hoping for a response.

The sky was filled with the red glare of the emergency flares and the distress call rang out in the dark night. Was it too late for anyone to rescue them?



Icebreaker Snow's radio started to receive Ice Fox's distress call and at the same moment the red emergency flares appeared in the sky to the west. Snow was surprised, but he quickly answered the distress call.



"Ice Fox, Ice Fox, Ice Fox, this is Icebreaker Snow. Distress call received. Repeat your location and tell us how serious the situation is. We will come to your aid without delay."

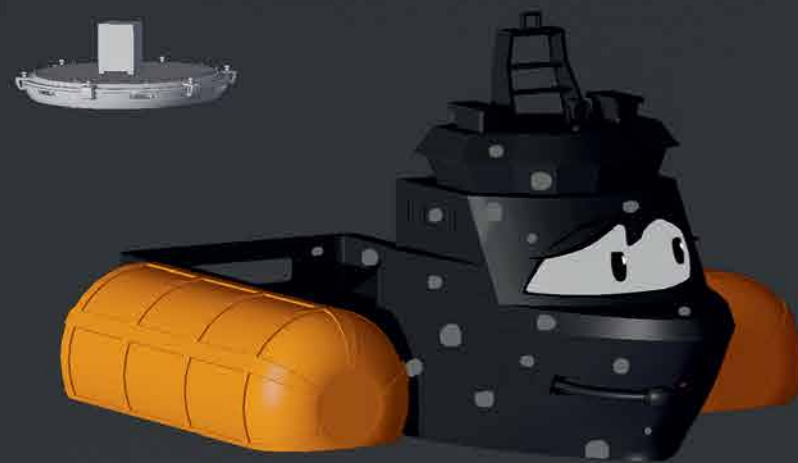
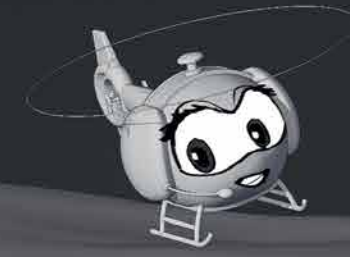
Ice Fox told Snow the situation and asked him to hurry. The other ships had heard the call and put aside their work towing the Snowflake. A rescue force was soon on the move at full speed toward Bear Island.

The rescue party arrived just in the nick of time. When they got to the skerries around Bear Island, Happy Dragon and Happy Tiger attached large orange floats to the sides of Ice Fox and Henriq Q to keep them afloat. Hiccup quickly dove under the surface to weld their torn hulls.

"The crisis is over, Ice Fox," Happy Tiger said reassuringly. "Situation under control. You can breathe a sigh of relief now."

"Thank you for rescuing us," Ice Fox replied uncomfortably.

"Our rescue team doesn't freeze up in even the hardest cold," Happy Dragon said lightheartedly.





Morning was dawning when they completed the rescue, and as it grew light, it became clear that Henriq Q and Ice Fox had secretly taken the treasure with them. They also saw to their surprise that Henriq Q and Ice Fox were now completely covered in spots.

“That rescue was a really close call. And now there’s the question of how it is that you have the pontoon and the salvaged safe here with you.” Snow said to Henriq Q and Ice Fox, who floated in front of him.

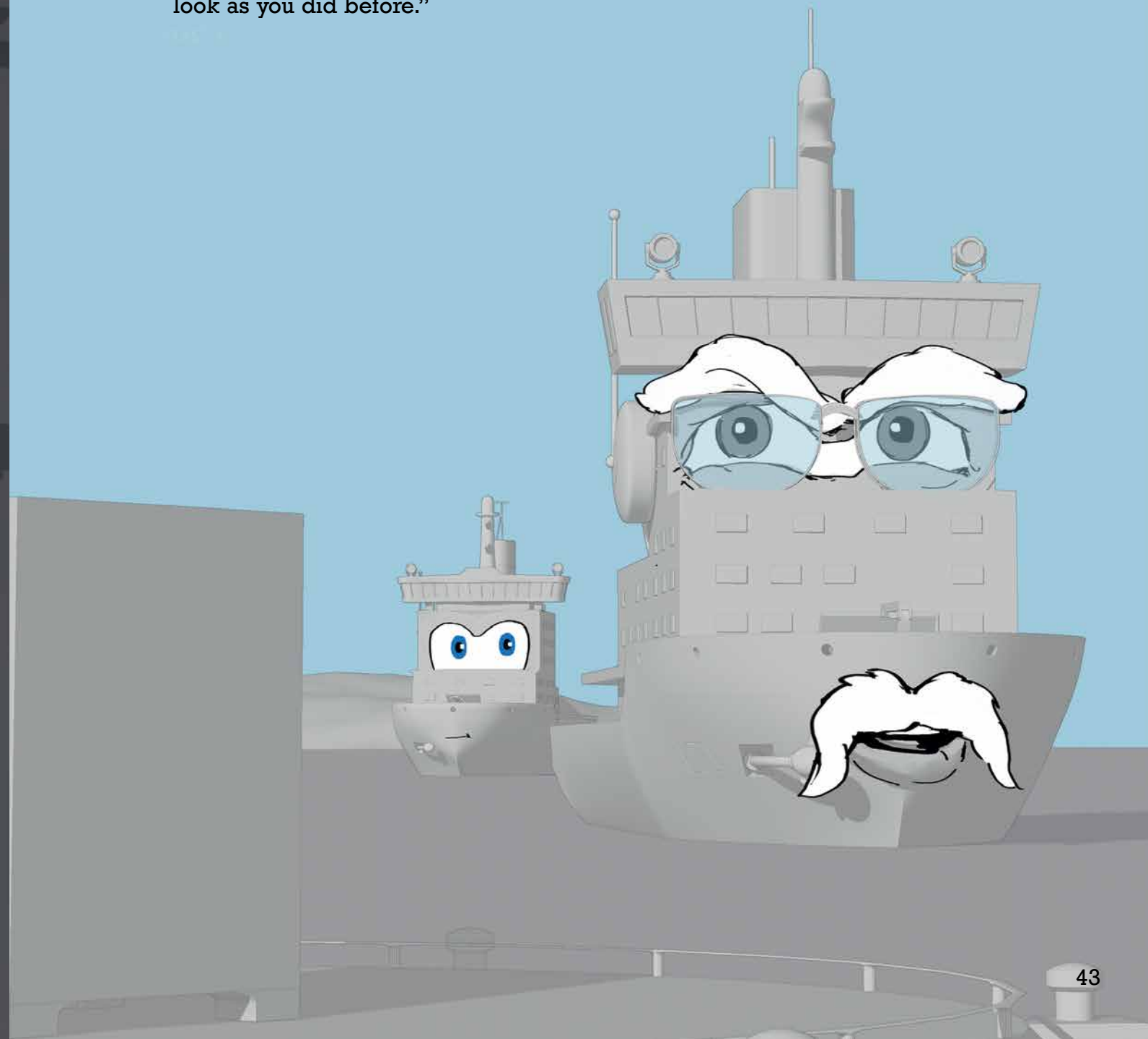
“Well, we thought... I mean... we were... I don’t really know,” said Henriq Q in shame.

“You stole a treasure that belongs to the Arctic Sea Museum,” Snow said.

The other ships circled Henriq Q and Ice Fox and marveled at the spots all over them. Icebreaker Atlas considered the situation for a time and then said,

“Your greed has covered you like a spotted rash. The treasure didn’t want to go to the greedy. It wanted to be with those who care about others. The spots are your punishment and you will have to wear them over all the seas of the world. Time will tell when your greed will be left behind and you can look as you did before.”

Icebreaker Atlas



All the ships had gathered around Henriq Q and Ice Fox, joking and laughing. They were relieved that Henriq Q and Ice Fox had been rescued.

"By the way, do any of you know the legend of Bear Island?" Atlas asked the others.

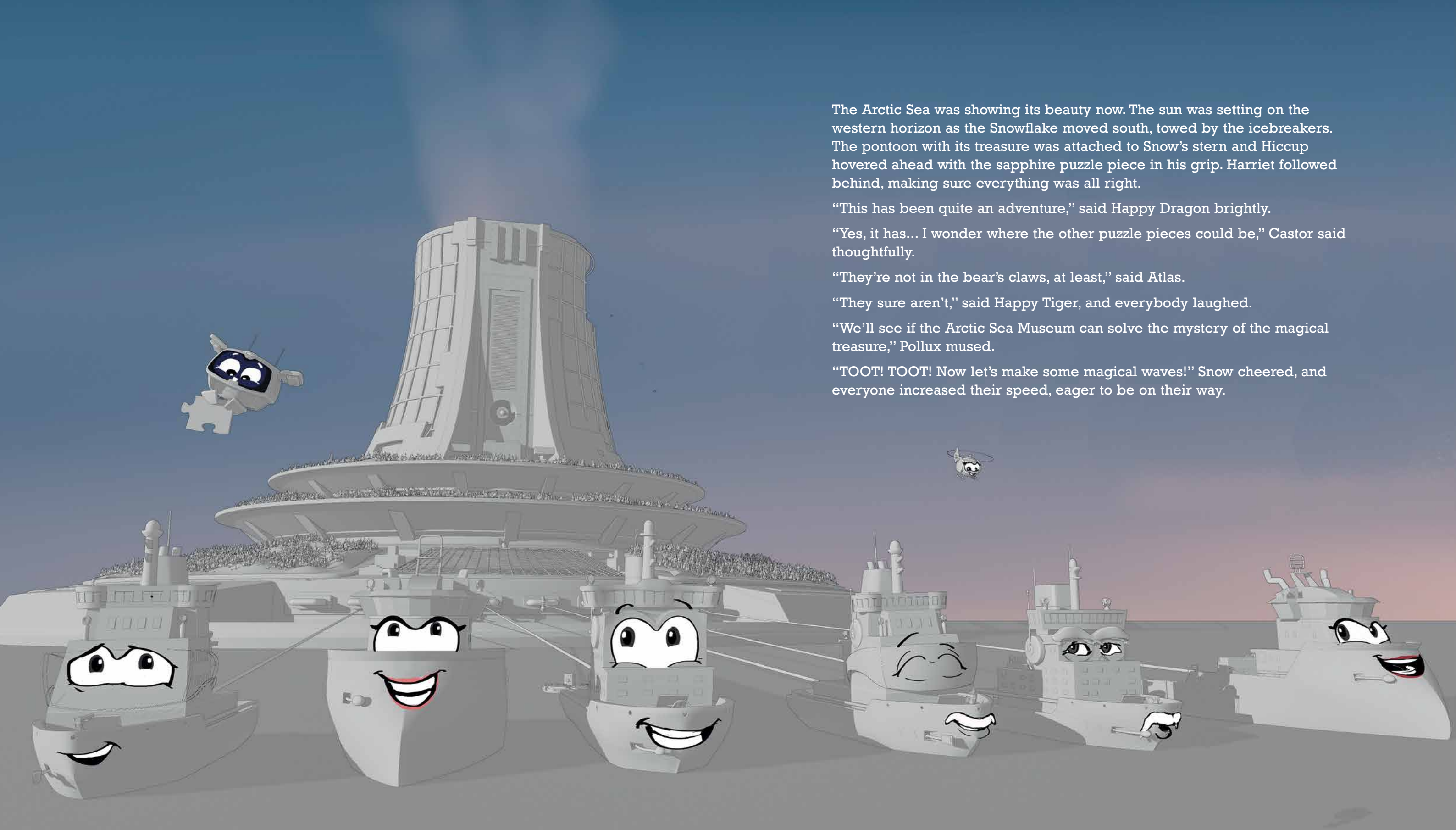
"That legend must have started back when old Atlas was a working icebreaker," joked Pollux.

"Your memory is what's legendary," Snow said, and everyone chuckled good-naturedly.

"They say that it was at this very spot that the Great Bear tried to jump up to reach the North Star," Atlas said. "The land here has been rising for thousands of years, forming islands in the shape of a bear's paw and smaller skerries in the shape of its claws. Perhaps last night's rescue will become another one of the stories of the Bear Island."

Henriq Q and Ice Fox listened in embarrassment to the others' chatter and didn't say anything.





The Arctic Sea was showing its beauty now. The sun was setting on the western horizon as the Snowflake moved south, towed by the icebreakers. The pontoon with its treasure was attached to Snow's stern and Hiccup hovered ahead with the sapphire puzzle piece in his grip. Harriet followed behind, making sure everything was all right.

"This has been quite an adventure," said Happy Dragon brightly.

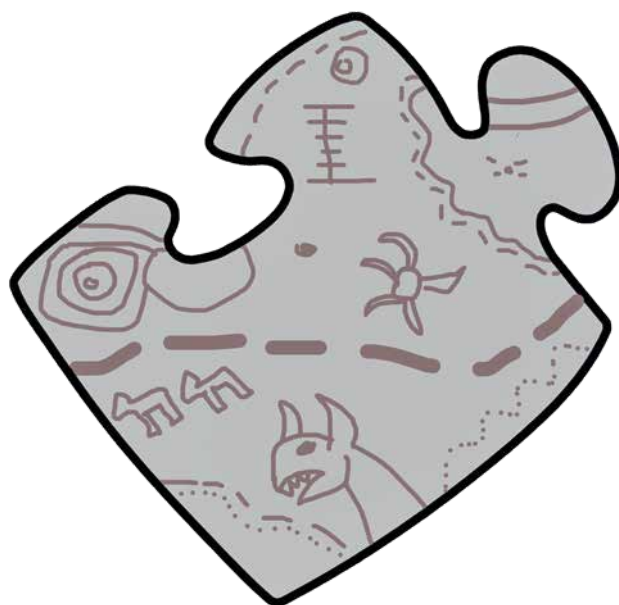
"Yes, it has... I wonder where the other puzzle pieces could be," Castor said thoughtfully.

"They're not in the bear's claws, at least," said Atlas.

"They sure aren't," said Happy Tiger, and everybody laughed.

"We'll see if the Arctic Sea Museum can solve the mystery of the magical treasure," Pollux mused.

"TOOT! TOOT! Now let's make some magical waves!" Snow cheered, and everyone increased their speed, eager to be on their way.



The End