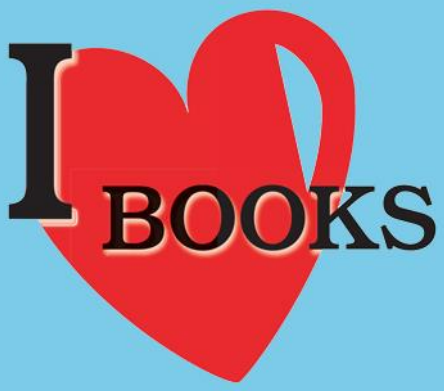

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Opening extract from

The Adventures of John Blake Mystery of the Ghost Ship

Written by

Philip Pullman

Illustrated by

Fred Fordham

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To the spirit of *The Phoenix* – P. P.

For Goosey. With special thanks to Camille – F. F.

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WARNING: This book will give you a thirst for adventure!

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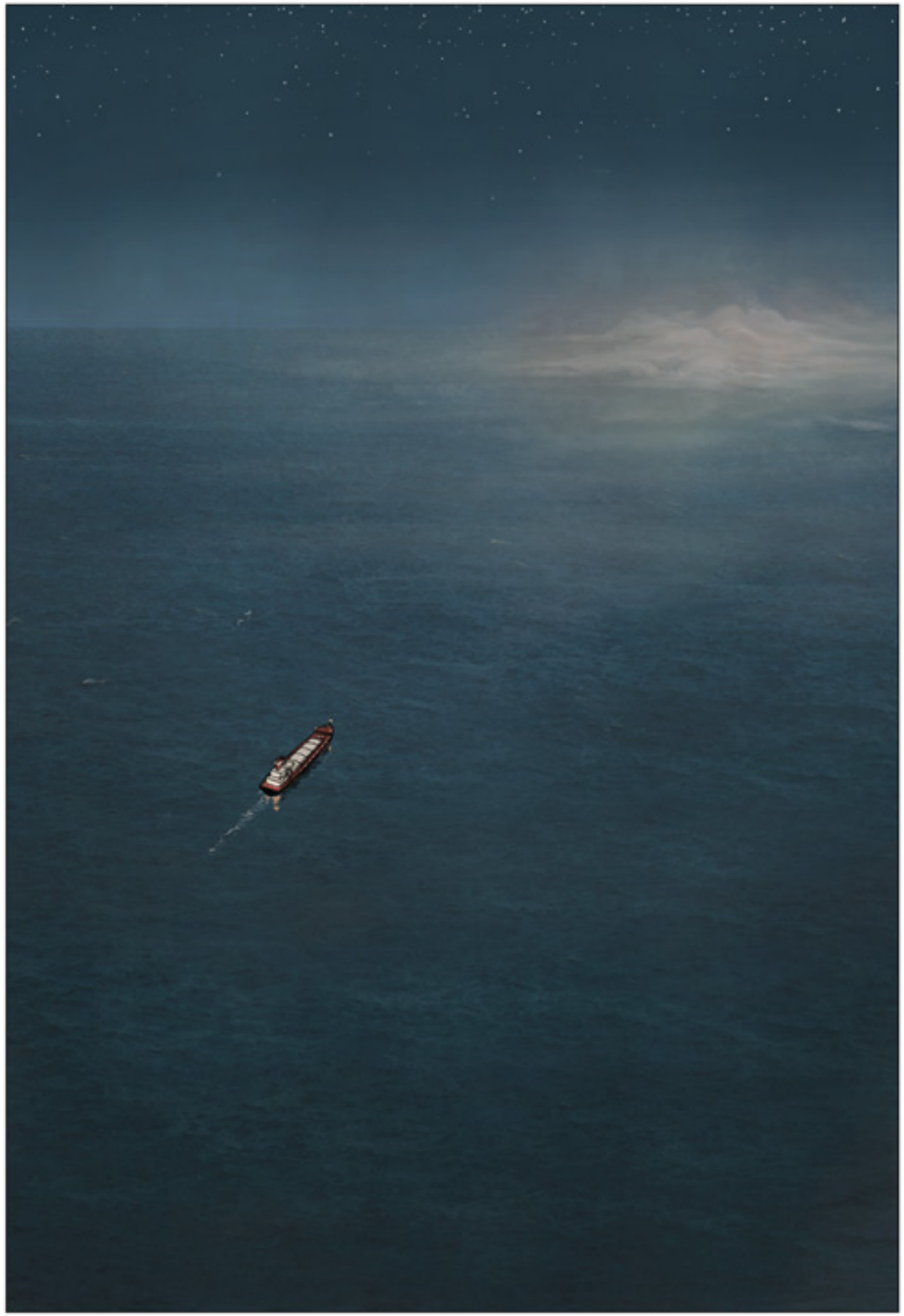
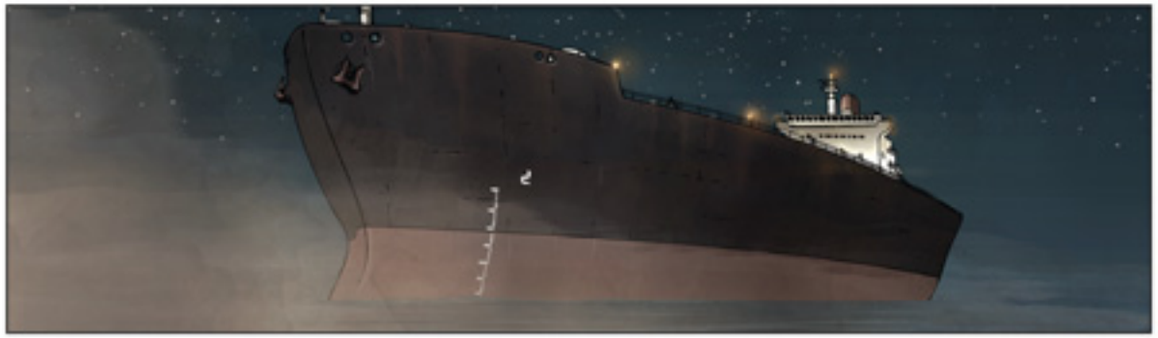
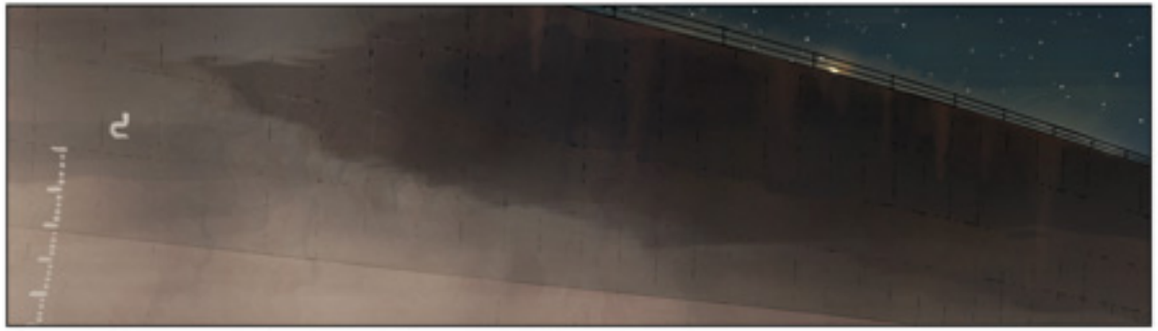
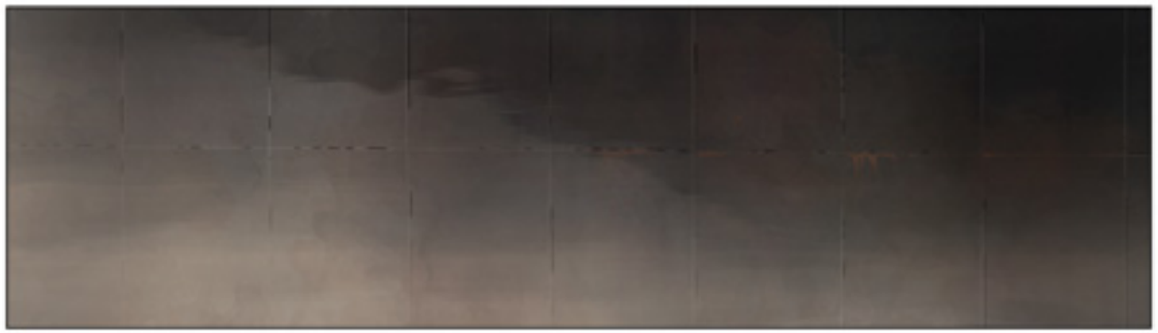






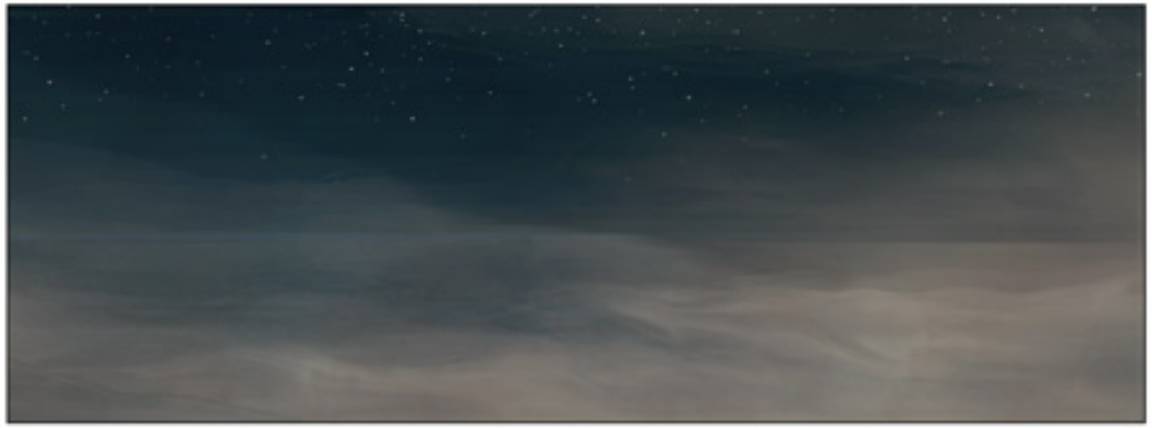













YOU
SEEN IT
YET?

JEEZ, BOSUN!

SHUT UP. LISTEN....

THIS AIN'T A NORMAL FOG.

NO, IT AIN'T.

HEY, BOSUN –

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GUN?

THIS AIN'T PIRATES.

DON'T LOOK IN HIS EYES.

WHAT EYES? WHOSE EYES?

YOU MUSTN'T LOOK IN HIS EYES. WHATEVER YOU DO.

WHY?

WHO?

WHAT YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT EYES?

THEY SAY YOU BE DEAD IN A MONTH IF YOU LOOK IN HIS EYES!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR NO MORE 'BOUT IT.

I DON'T BLAME YOU.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A SHIP.

PORT QUARTER! ON THE PORT QUARTER!

GOT IT, SIR! ABOUT A HUNDRED METRES....

BiP...
BiP...
DOUSE THE LIGHTS.
AYE, AYE, SIR.
SIXTY METRES, SIR...
FIFTY...
FORTY...
WAIT!
WAIT....
KRAK!
:KRAK!:
STOW THAT!
IT'S GOING TO CRASH!
OH, MOTHER OF GOD PROTECT US...




YOU SEE HIS FACE? HUH?
NO.
NO. I DIDN'T LOOK.


IT'S GONE! IT'S JUST...


IT'S NOT THERE ...


YOU LUCKY.
YOU LOOK IN HIS EYES, YOU BE DEAD IN A MONTH.

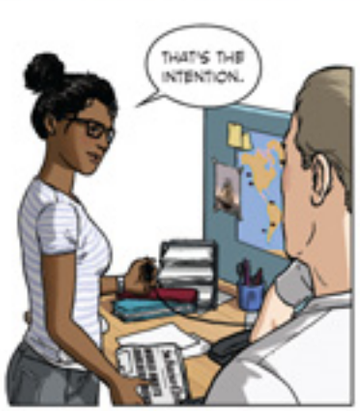

International Marine Organization, San Francisco_








DANIELLE.
SCHWARTZ WANTS TO SEE YOU. HE SAYS YOUR PHONE'S OUT OF ORDER.


THAT'S THE INTENTION.


BUT LOOK, CHRIS, THE MARY ALICE – ANOTHER SIGHTING! A TANKER OFF SOMALIA.
THAT'S FOUR THIS YEAR.