

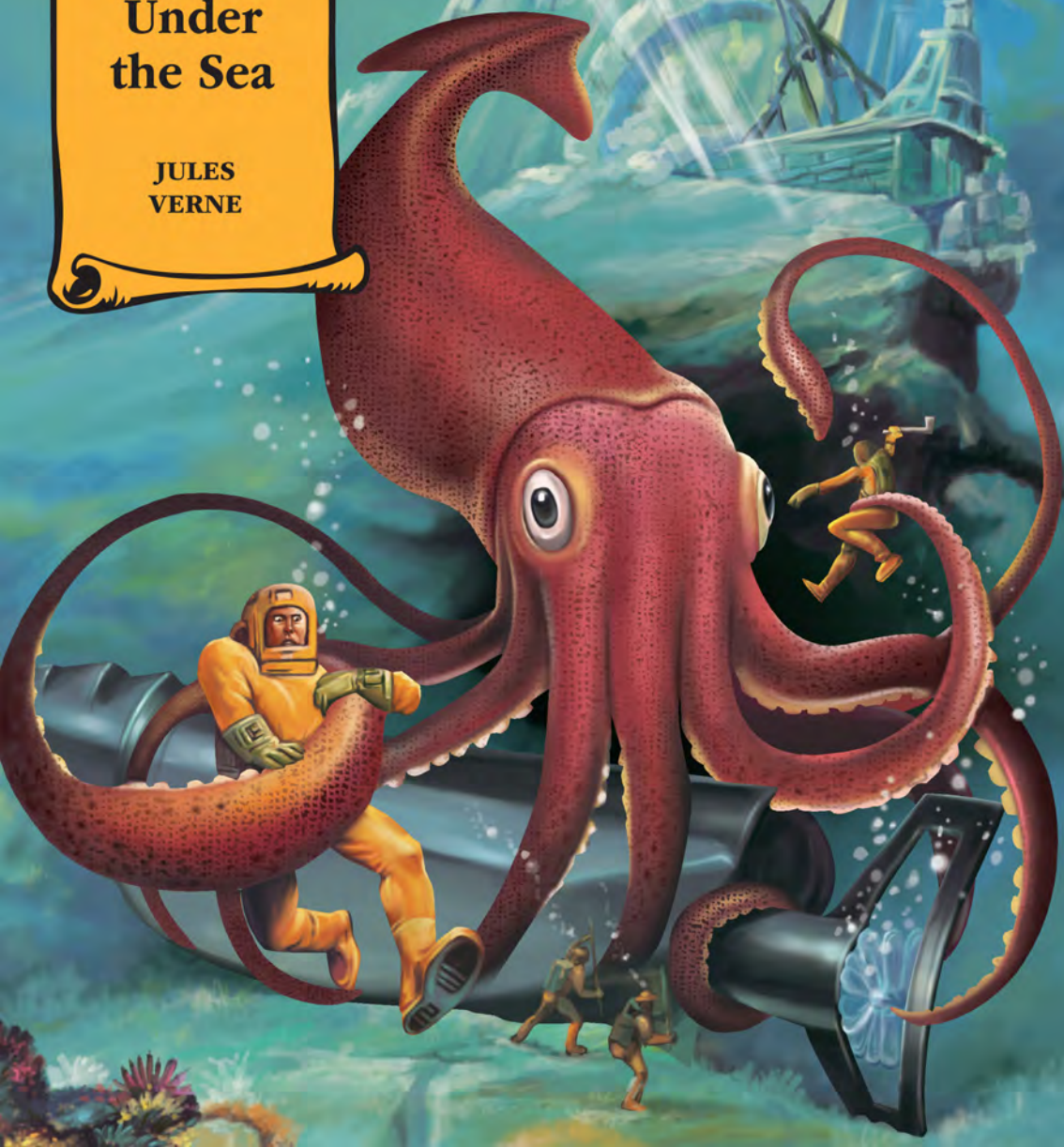


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20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

JULES
VERNE



Jules Verne

Born in Nantes, France, in 1828, Jules Verne was the son of an attorney. His father expected him to become an attorney, too, but Verne was addicted to sea travel and scientific study.

Jules Verne was at his peak as a writer of science fiction from 1862 to 1872. In fact, many of the creations of his fantasies described in his books were later actually invented. Submarines, for example, were used by Verne before they were manufactured. In the nineteenth century, Verne was talking about rockets around the moon, television, atomic bombs, polar travel, photography, automobiles and travel to the center of the earth.

Many of his scientific discoveries are embodied in his books. Two of the best known are *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Twenty-nine years before the Wright Brothers achieved powered flight, Jules Verne, in his imagination, had sent a rocket to the moon in his story *From Earth to the Moon*. He also wrote *The Castaways of the Flag*, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, *Master of the World*, and *Mysterious Island*.

Jules Verne dies in Amiens, France, in 1905.

Jules Verne

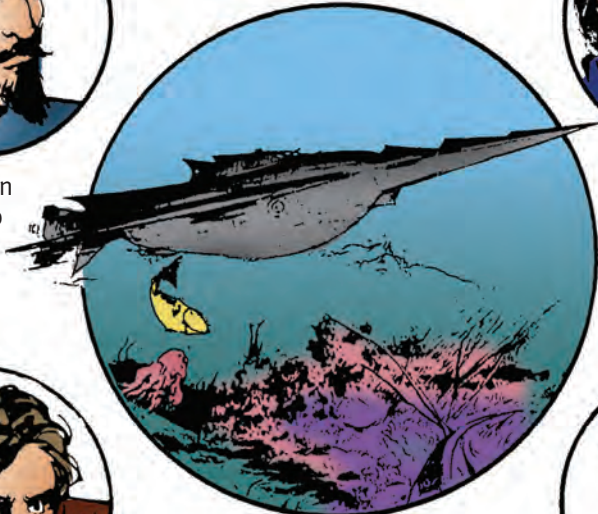
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea



Captain
Nemo



Professor
Arronax



The Nautilus

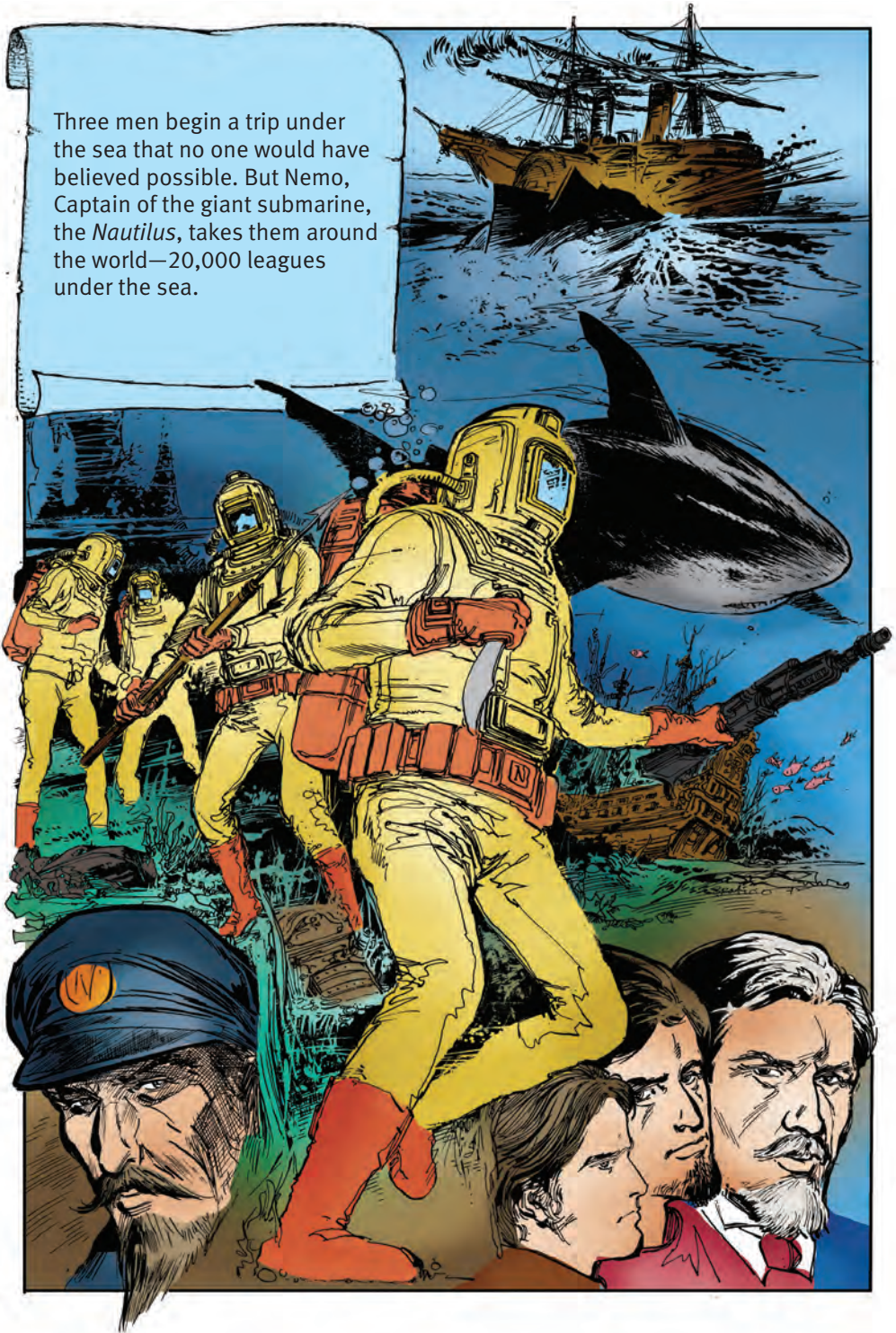


Conseil



Ned Land

Three men begin a trip under the sea that no one would have believed possible. But Nemo, Captain of the giant submarine, the *Nautilus*, takes them around the world—20,000 leagues under the sea.



I am Pierre Arronax, Professor of the Museum of Paris. I have studied the animals of the sea all my life. In the year 1866, a strange thing happened. Ships at sea had met a large unknown thing, shaped like a huge bullet. Sometimes it glowed with a light. It was much larger and faster than a whale.

On July 20th, the steamship *Governor Higginson*, sailing five miles from Australia's east coast, saw what looked like a small island that behaved strangely.

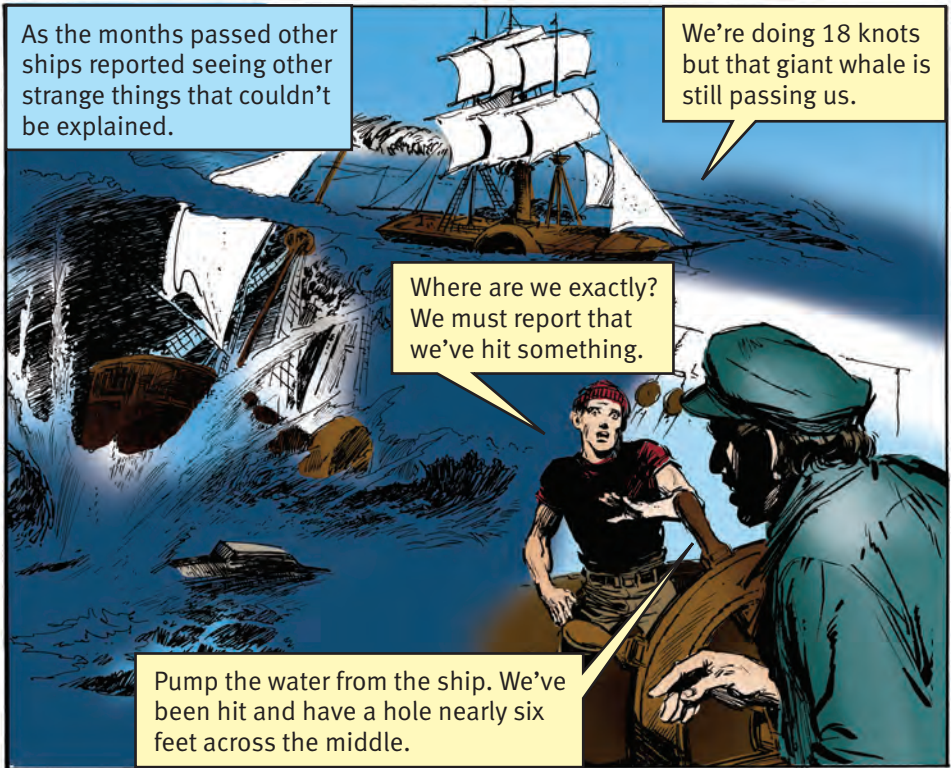


Whale ahoy! See the water shooting in the air, sir!

But who ever saw a whale that big!

As the months passed other ships reported seeing other strange things that couldn't be explained.

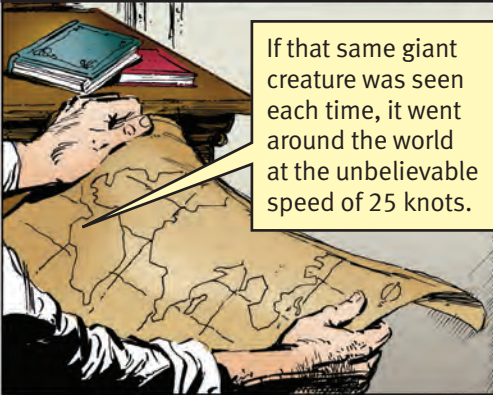
We're doing 18 knots but that giant whale is still passing us.



Where are we exactly? We must report that we've hit something.

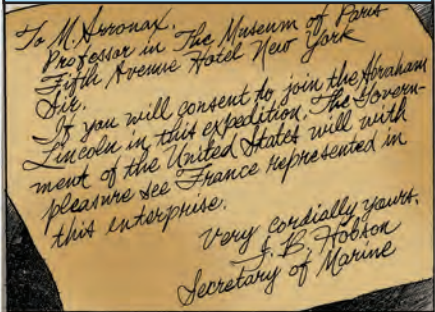
Pump the water from the ship. We've been hit and have a hole nearly six feet across the middle.

And when these different sea accidents were marked on a map . . .



If that same giant creature was seen each time, it went around the world at the unbelievable speed of 25 knots.

The United States was first to send a ship to look into the mystery. The following letter arrived three hours before the ship was to leave. It caught me in New York.



Without waiting a moment, I told my servant, Conseil, to pack.



As you wish, sir.

No time to lose. Lock in my trunk all my traveling clothes.

When we reported to the ship less than three hours later . . .



Mr. Arronax!
Come aboard.
As you can see, this is the finest and fastest ship in the United States Navy!

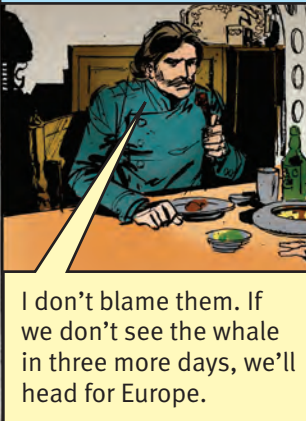
The captain wasted no time in putting out to sea. Thousands of the good people of New York cheered and waved good luck!



This ship had everything it needed to find the strange sea creature. Every day the crew looked over the waters hoping to be the first to see the monster and win the \$2000 that Captain Farragut had promised to the man who saw the monster first. The best eye probably belonged to Ned Land, a Canadian who was the best man with a harpoon in the world.



For three months nothing happened.



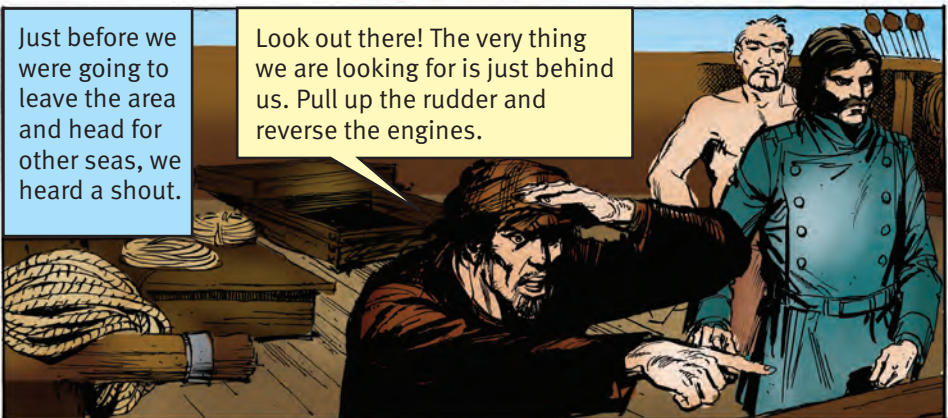
I don't blame them. If we don't see the whale in three more days, we'll head for Europe.

Captain, sir, the men are very unhappy. It is beginning to worry me.



Just before we were going to leave the area and head for other seas, we heard a shout.

Look out there! The very thing we are looking for is just behind us. Pull up the rudder and reverse the engines.



In the darkness the monster lifted out of the water and gave off a strong but strange light.

Mr. Arronax, I don't know what horrible thing is out there. I won't risk my ship in the dark. We will wait for daylight and the scene will change.



No one went to bed that night. The next day began with fog, but it soon began to clear.

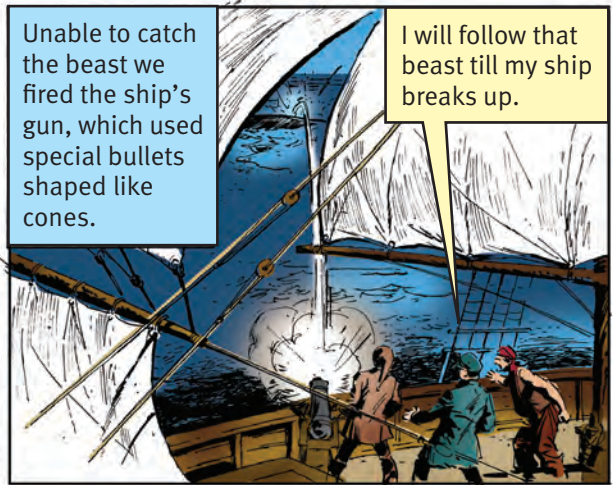
This first good view made me think the thing's length was 250 feet. I figured out it breathed air like a whale.

Unable to catch the beast we fired the ship's gun, which used special bullets shaped like cones.

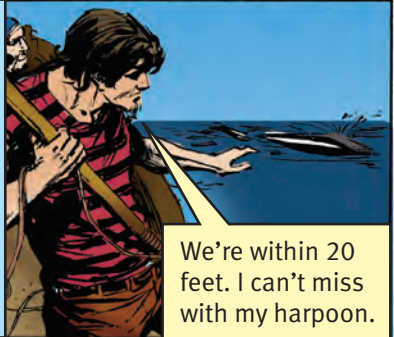
I will follow that beast till my ship breaks up.

Turn on more steam!

We've turned on full steam, sir.

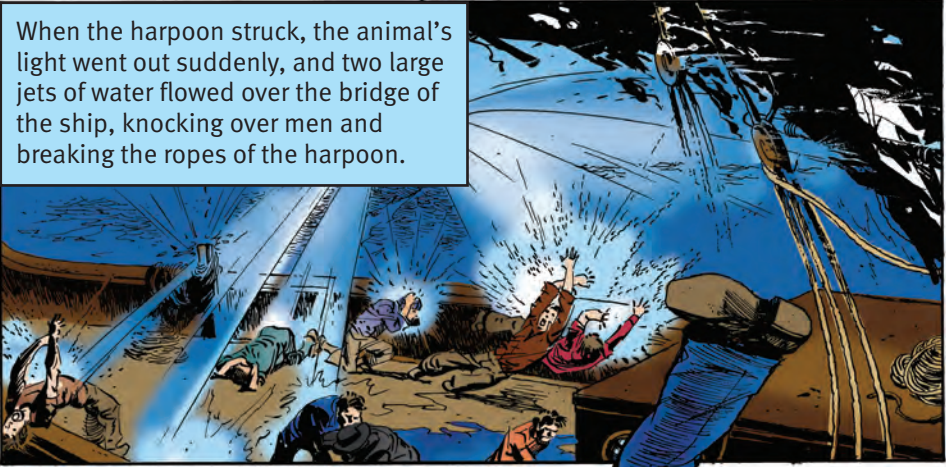


The chase seemed to be hopeless but it continued until that night. After disappearing for a while, the whale was seen not moving, as if it were asleep.



We're within 20 feet. I can't miss with my harpoon.

When the harpoon struck, the animal's light went out suddenly, and two large jets of water flowed over the bridge of the ship, knocking over men and breaking the ropes of the harpoon.



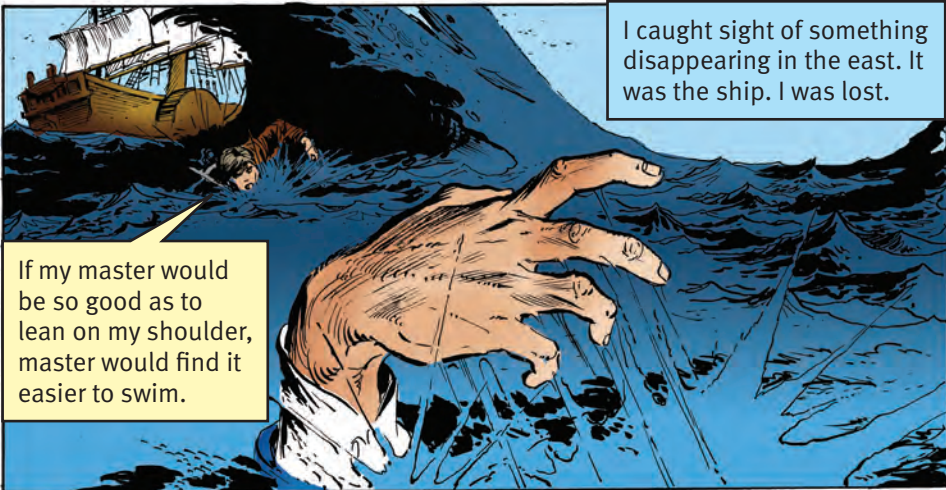
A terrible crash followed, and I was thrown over the rail and into the sea.

Help! Help!



I caught sight of something disappearing in the east. It was the ship. I was lost.

If my master would be so good as to lean on my shoulder, master would find it easier to swim.



I grabbed my servant Conseil's arm with one hand.



The crash threw you into the sea?

No, but since I am your servant, I jumped in to help you.

As I went into the sea, I heard men say, "The propeller and rudder are broken."

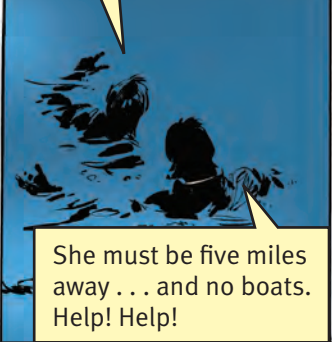


We were in trouble. We decided that our only chance for being saved was by being picked up by one of the ship's boats, which would probably not come before morning when they would have light to see.

Some hours later, the moon appeared through the thick clouds. This little light gave us new courage. I looked in all directions.

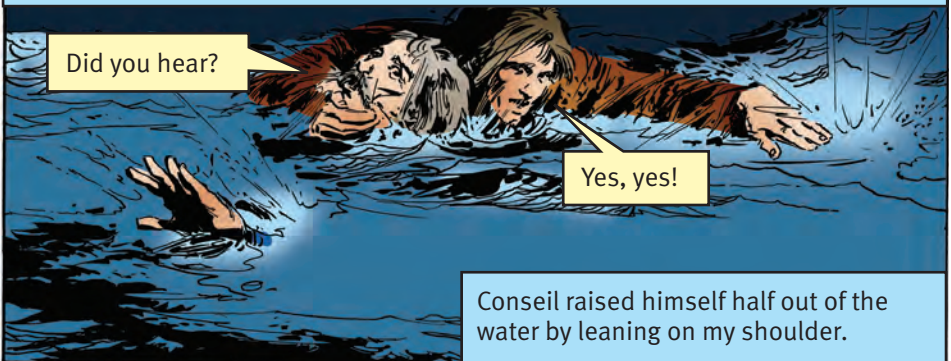


Look to the east, the ship!



She must be five miles away . . . and no boats. Help! Help!

We stopped moving around in the water to listen. It seemed as if someone answered.



Did you hear?

Yes, yes!

Conseil raised himself half out of the water by leaning on my shoulder.