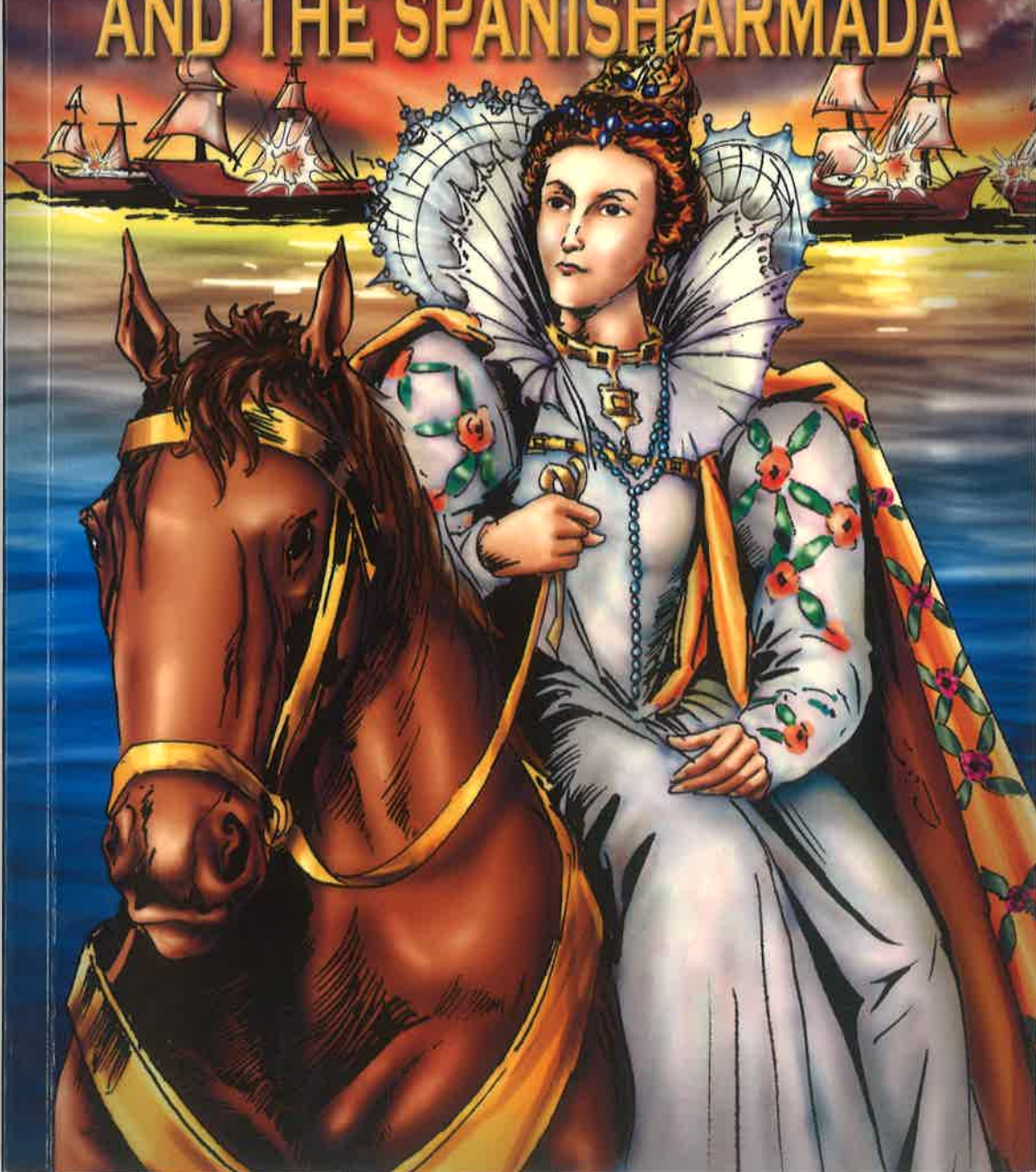


# ELIZABETH I

## AND THE SPANISH ARMADA





# ELIZABETH COMES TO POWER

In July 1553, Mary Tudor, a Catholic, became queen of England as Mary I. She insisted that her subjects followed her religion. Protestants were burned at the stake for refusing to accept the Catholic faith.



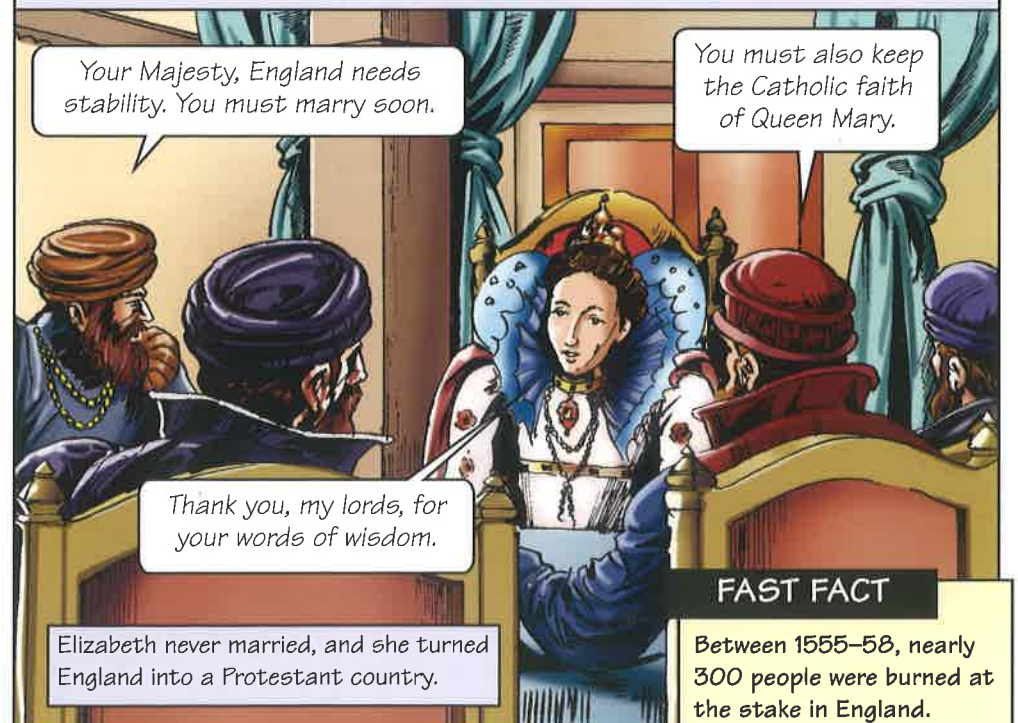
Queen Mary married Philip II of Spain in 1554. The marriage was meant to strengthen the Catholic faith in England.



Mary died childless in 1558. The heir to the throne was her half-sister, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was Protestant, not Catholic.



At first, Elizabeth needed the advice of the most powerful noblemen in England.



Elizabeth never married, and she turned England into a Protestant country.

## FAST FACT

Between 1555–58, nearly 300 people were burned at the stake in England.



During the 1580s, Spain's King Philip II controlled a large empire around the world.



With just 500 men, the Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes defeated the Aztec empire of Central America.



How can we defeat these men with their weapons?

Cortes took Montezuma, the leader of the Aztecs, hostage and demanded gold. The Aztecs fought back but were defeated.



The Aztec wealth was sent to Spain from Mexico. This new wealth helped make Spain the most powerful kingdom in Europe.



**FAST FACT** Spanish treasure ships did not sail alone. They sailed in fleets of between 30 and 90 ships. Two fleets sailed to Spain each year.



# ELIZABETH AND DRAKE

Queen Elizabeth I watched the growing power of Spain with envy and fear. She wanted control of the wealth that Spain was gaining. In 1577, she summoned the sailor Francis Drake to her.



Mr. Drake, I will pay for your ships to attack the Spanish, but our agreement must be a secret. I cannot risk war with Spain.

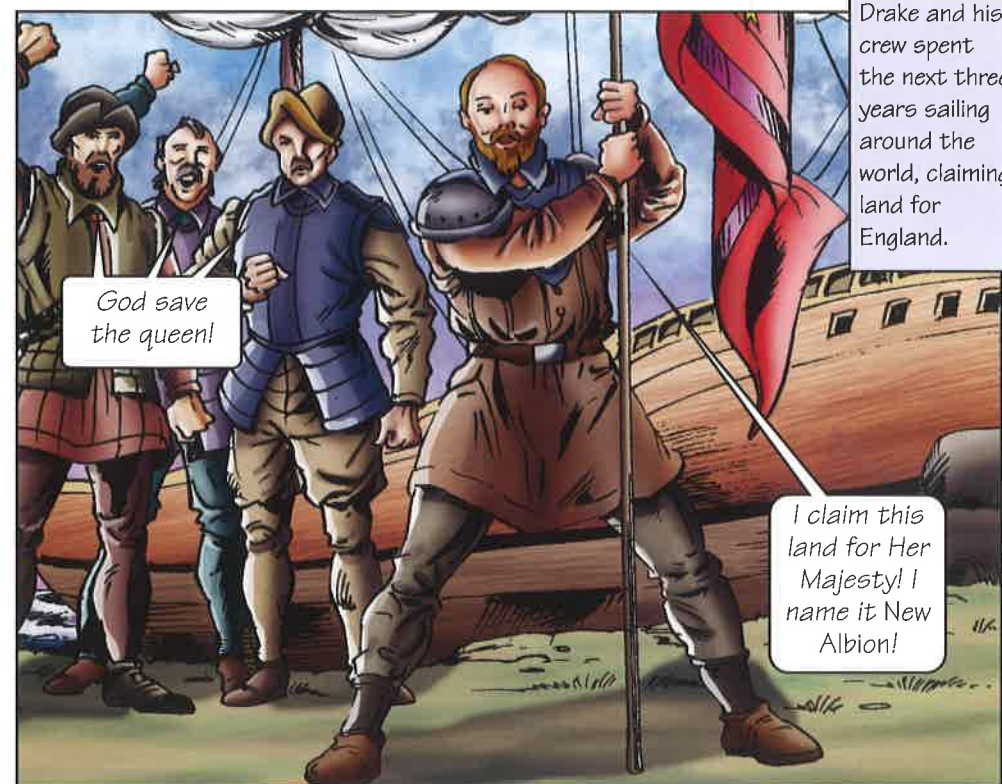
Your Majesty, my ships will return loaded with treasures for your glory.

Drake set sail and attacked the Spanish treasure ships.



That was easy. The Spanish did not expect us to attack.

We should continue our voyage and find new treasure for Her Majesty.



God save the queen!

I claim this land for Her Majesty! I name it New Albion!

Drake and his crew spent the next three years sailing around the world, claiming land for England.

Drake and his crew were away for three years. Fresh supplies of food were always needed.



At last, some real food. No more biscuits or salted beef.

Move faster! We must get back to the ship before nightfall.

Elizabeth I was delighted with the treasure that Drake brought back. In April 1581, she knighted him.



I am Your Majesty's servant.

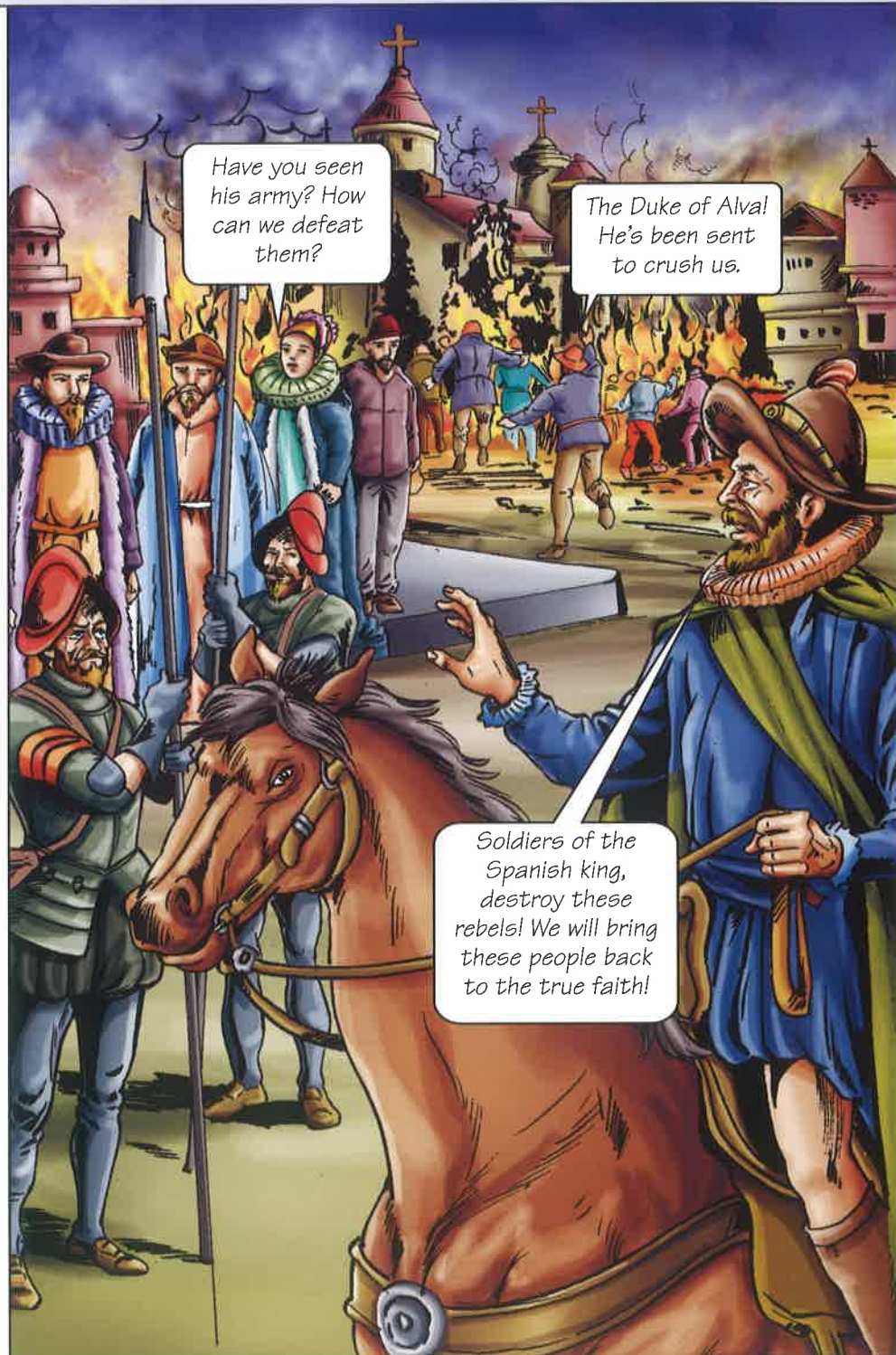
Now, you are Sir Francis Drake.

## FAST FACT

One hundred sailors left with Drake in 1577. When they arrived home in 1580, only 56 were still alive.



Philip II controlled a Protestant part of Europe, called the Netherlands. They wanted to be free of Spanish rule. In 1572, the people of the Netherlands begin to fight their Spanish rulers.



The Dutch rebels fought hard, but they needed help. They looked to Elizabeth I, the Protestant queen.



Elizabeth I sent the Earl of Leicester with an army to fight the Spanish.



In London, Elizabeth I read an update about the rebellion.



In Madrid, Philip II also read about the rebellion.

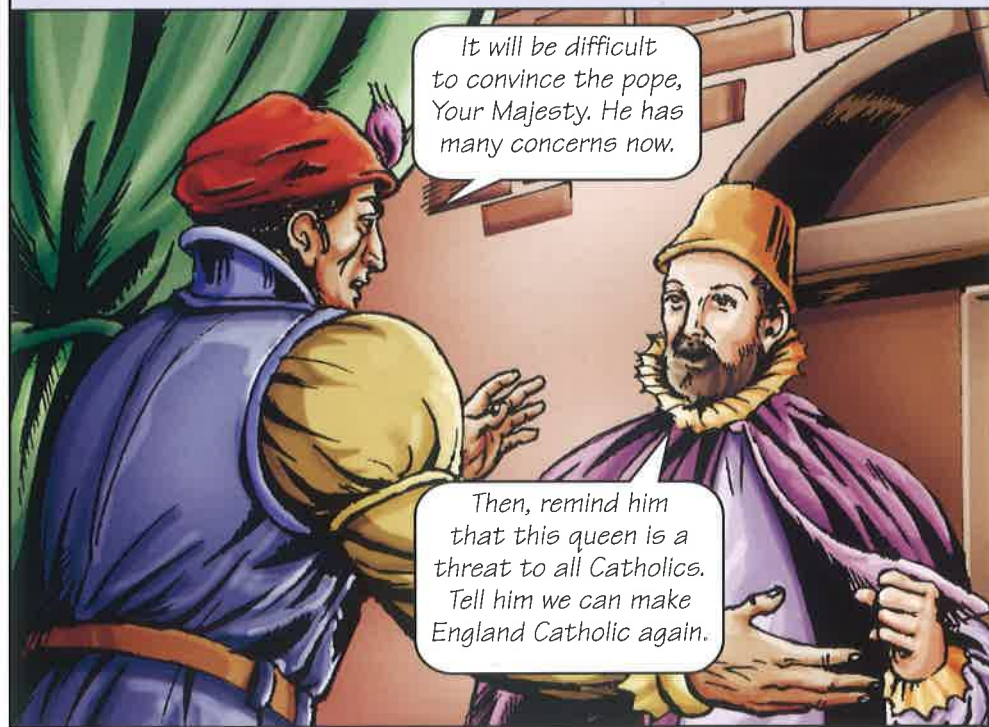


#### FAST FACT

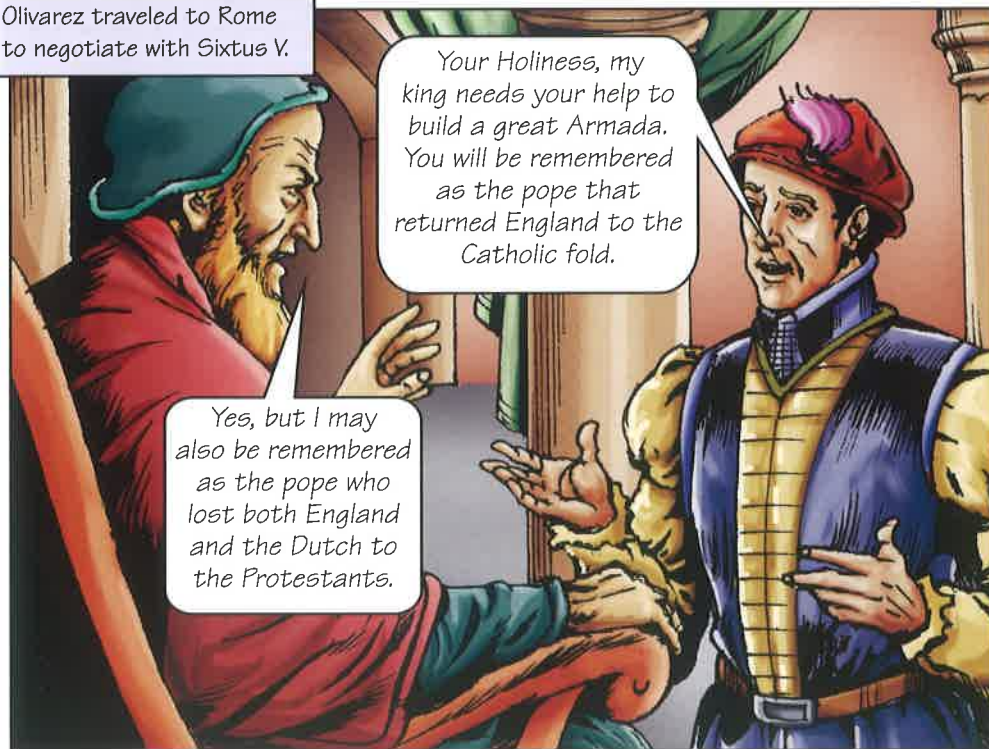
The Dutch Revolt lasted from 1568 to 1648. The revolt is also called the Eighty Years' War.



Philip II began planning an invasion of England. He needed the help of Pope Sixtus V. He sent Olivarez, his ambassador to the pope, to Rome to speak with the pope.



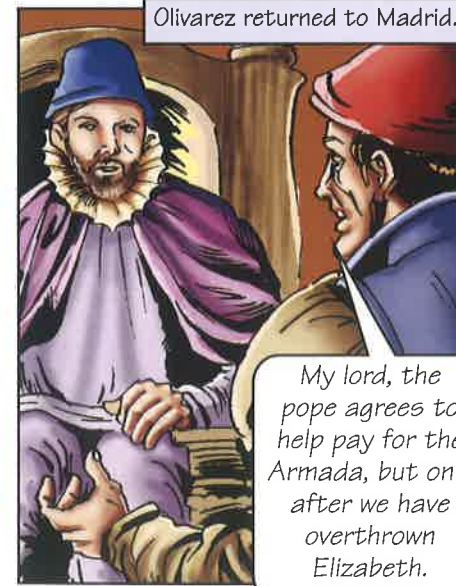
Olivarez traveled to Rome to negotiate with Sixtus V.



Olivarez convinced Sixtus V to help by telling him that the English Catholics would rise up in revolt once the Armada set sail. Olivarez was wrong, and the expected revolt never happened. The English Catholics remained loyal to their queen.



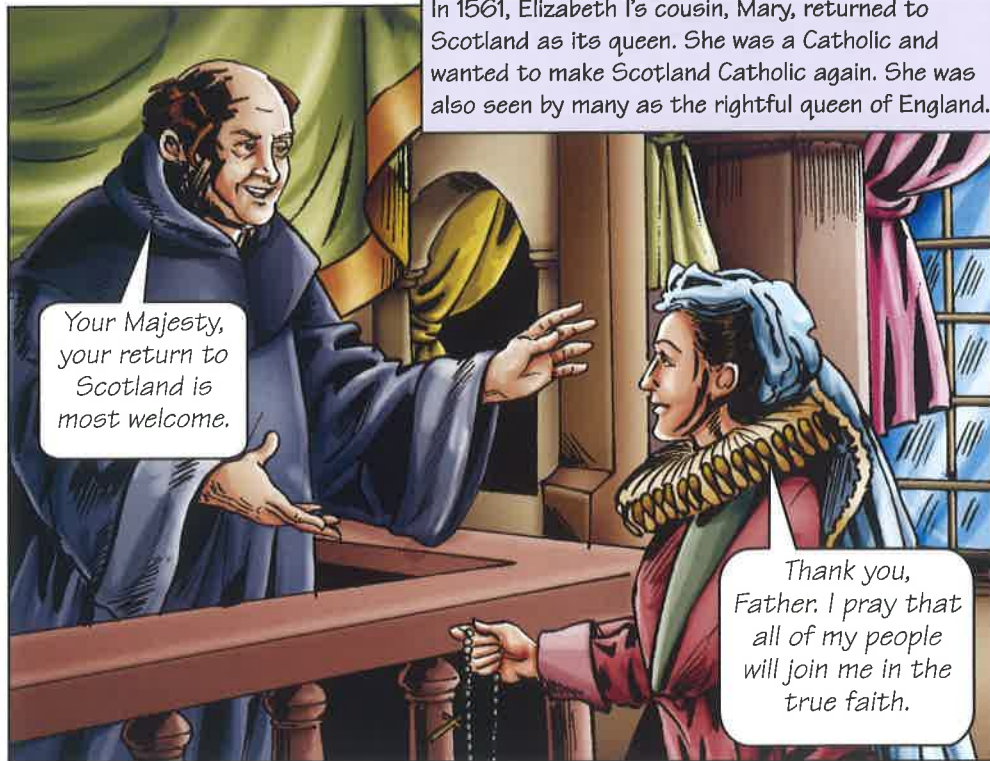
Olivarez returned to Madrid.



#### FAST FACT

Sixtus V finished the dome at St. Peter's Basilica and rebuilt much of Rome while he was pope.





In 1561, Elizabeth I's cousin, Mary, returned to Scotland as its queen. She was a Catholic and wanted to make Scotland Catholic again. She was also seen by many as the rightful queen of England.

Your Majesty, your return to Scotland is most welcome.

Thank you, Father. I pray that all of my people will join me in the true faith.

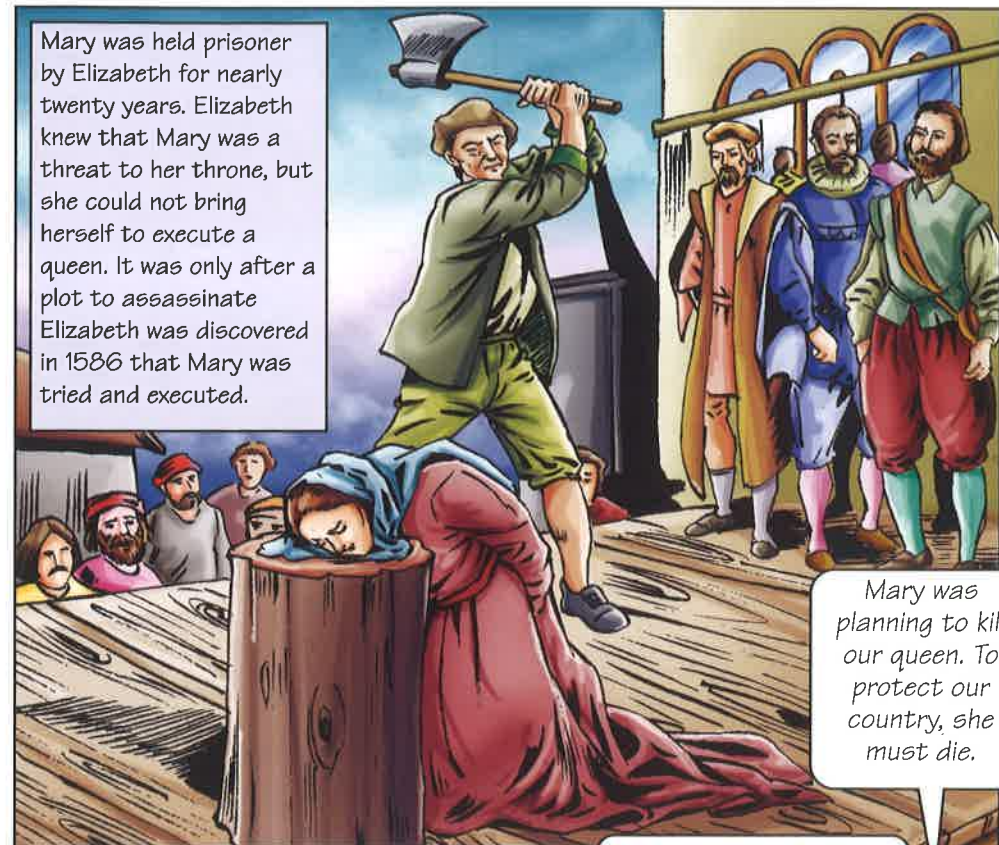
However, Scottish nobles did not want a Catholic Scotland. They began to plot against her.



We must stop her. Will you join us and rise up against her?

She has married the Catholic Lord Darnley.

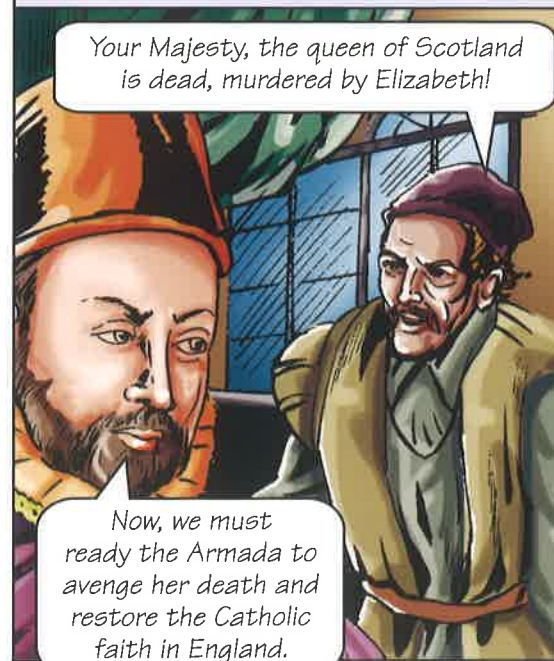
Although Mary managed to defeat this rebellion, she was suspected in a plot to murder her husband. The Scottish nobles imprisoned the man she wanted to marry. In 1568, Mary was forced to seek help from Elizabeth I.



Mary was held prisoner by Elizabeth for nearly twenty years. Elizabeth knew that Mary was a threat to her throne, but she could not bring herself to execute a queen. It was only after a plot to assassinate Elizabeth was discovered in 1586 that Mary was tried and executed.

Mary was planning to kill our queen. To protect our country, she must die.

News of Mary's execution reached Madrid.



Your Majesty, the queen of Scotland is dead, murdered by Elizabeth!

Now, we must ready the Armada to avenge her death and restore the Catholic faith in England.

Mary is meeting her death like a true queen.

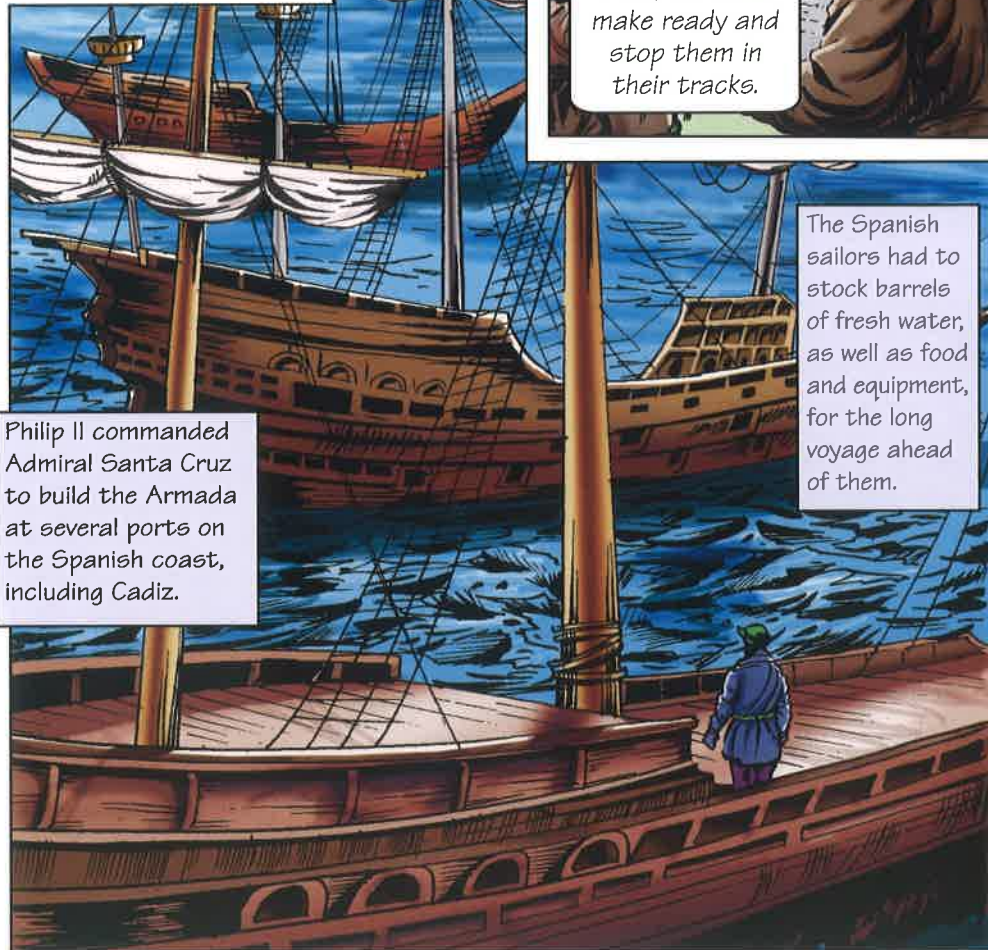


I wonder what the Spanish will do now.



# PREPARING FOR THE ARMADA

The English knew that they had to slow down the preparations of the Armada so that they could prepare their defenses. In April 1587, Drake was sent to Cadiz for a surprise attack on the Spanish fleet.



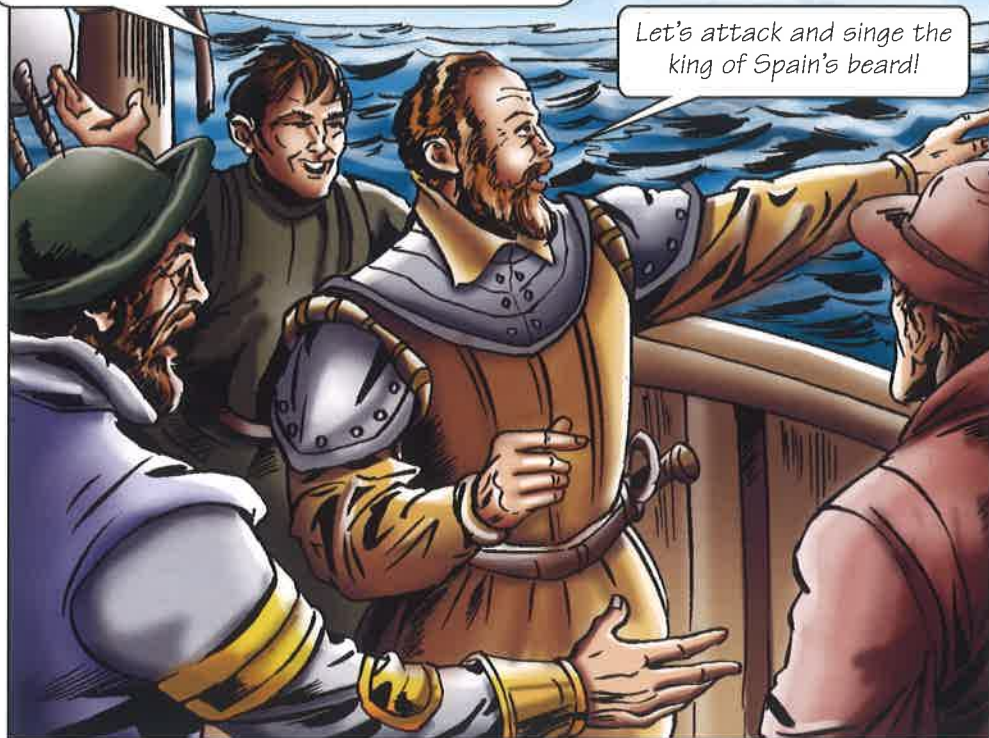
Santa Cruz died in February 1588 before the Armada was ready. Philip II appointed Medina Sidonia to take his place. Sidonia did not want the job.

The English naval commander, Sir John Hawkins, was responsible for building the new ships.





Look at those ships at the port of Cadiz, Sir Francis!  
They are just waiting to be sent to the bottom of the sea.



Let's attack and singe the  
king of Spain's beard!

The Spanish were unprepared for Drake's  
attack. They could do little to stop the  
speedy ships under Drake's command.



The English!  
The English  
are attacking!

Our ships are not  
ready to sail!  
How can we defend  
ourselves?

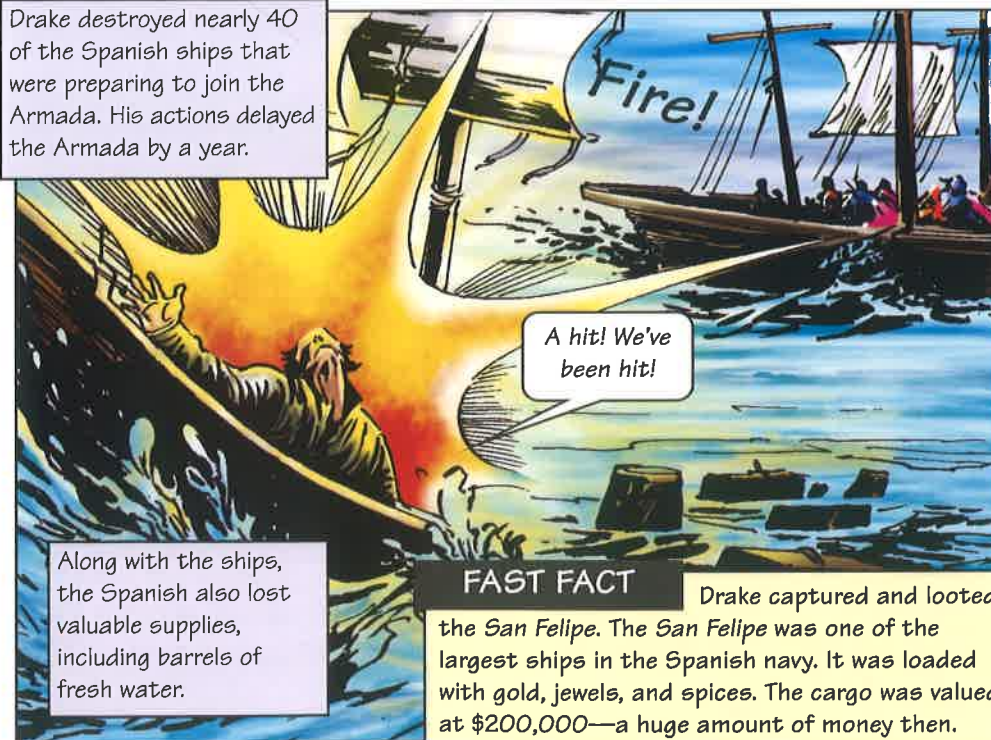
The English cannons were more powerful  
than the Spanish cannons. Drake could  
fire at Spain's ships from a safe distance.



Steady, lads! Wait until  
I give the order to fire.

Tell the men to keep their  
distance. The Spanish ships  
must be kept far away from us.

Drake destroyed nearly 40  
of the Spanish ships that  
were preparing to join the  
Armada. His actions delayed  
the Armada by a year.



A hit! We've  
been hit!

Along with the ships,  
the Spanish also lost  
valuable supplies,  
including barrels of  
fresh water.

#### FAST FACT

Drake captured and looted  
the *San Felipe*. The *San Felipe* was one of the  
largest ships in the Spanish navy. It was loaded  
with gold, jewels, and spices. The cargo was valued  
at \$200,000—a huge amount of money then.



# THE ARMADA SETS SAIL

The Armada finally set sail in May 1588. It took two days for all of the ships to leave their ports. Medina Sidonia watched the ships sail away to sea. He was on one of the last ships to leave.



I have done all that I can.  
This great battle now begins.  
Soon, we shall have a great  
victory over the English.

20



Captain, we should  
lower the sails. This wind  
will tear them apart.

However, soon after leaving, the Armada sailed into a storm.

No, we  
cannot delay  
any more!  
Continue sailing  
for Corunna.

The Armada stopped at the port of  
Corunna in northern Spain. They made  
repairs and replenished their supplies there.



Come on, you lot!  
We can't afford to  
delay any longer!

Don't worry. Soon, we'll  
be in England, and you  
will have all the food  
and drink you want.

I hope these  
supplies last us.

The Armada finally set sail for England on July  
12, 1588, two months after first leaving port.

## FAST FACT

There were about 130  
ships in the Spanish  
Armada. Only 40 were  
battleships.

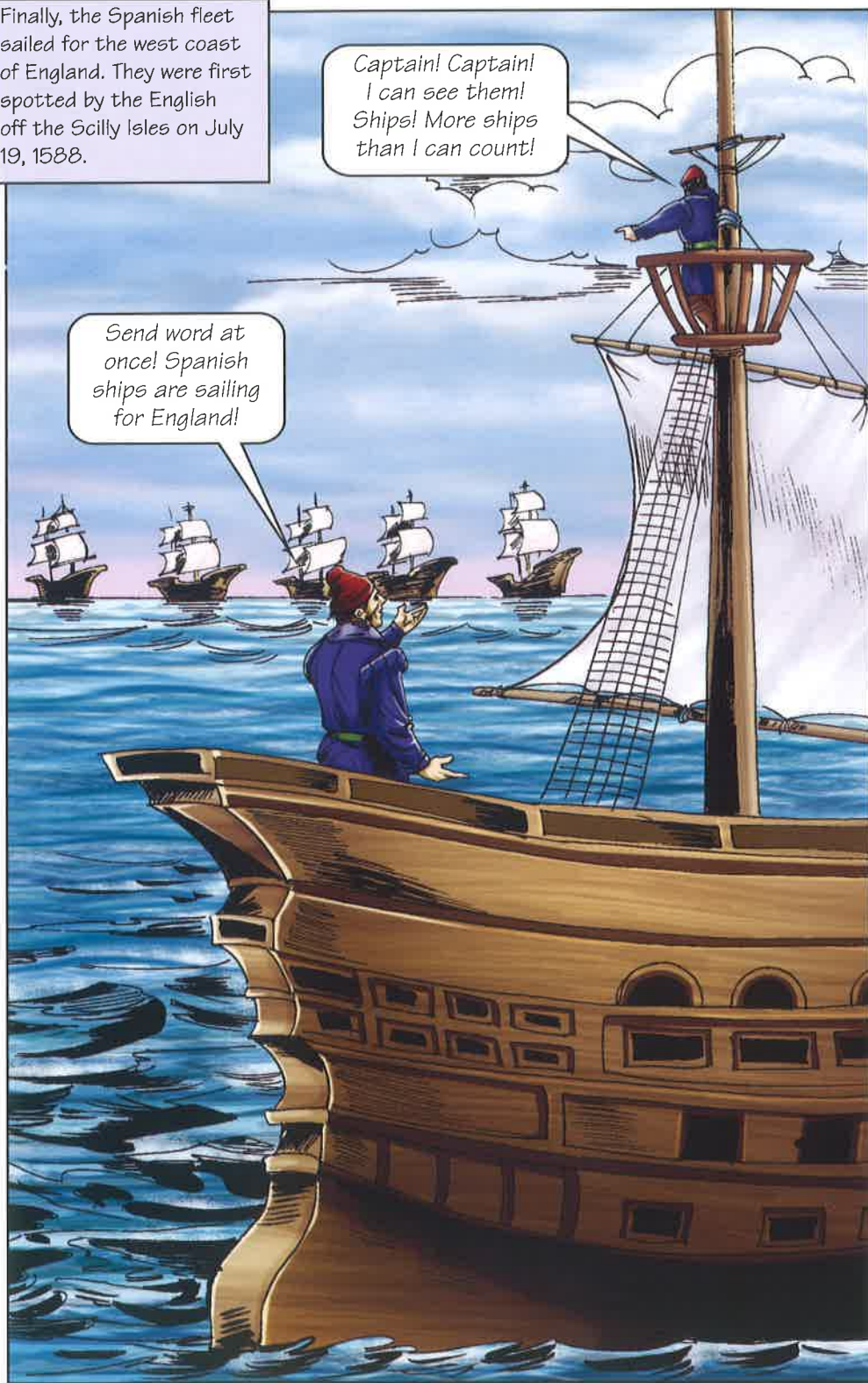
21



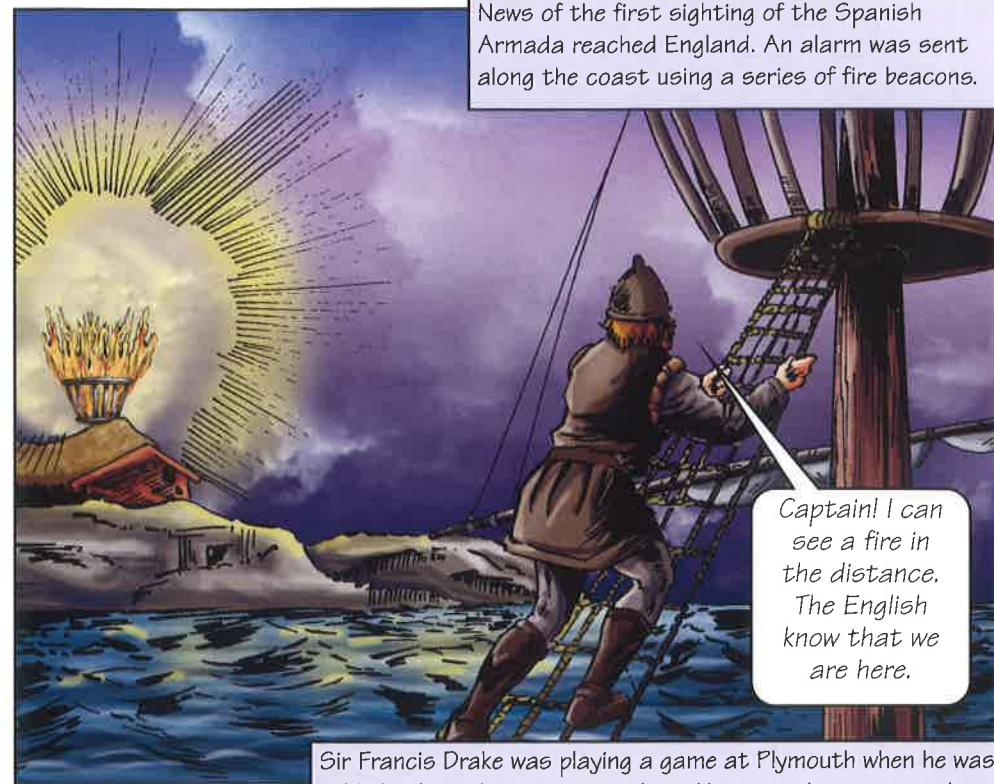
Finally, the Spanish fleet sailed for the west coast of England. They were first spotted by the English off the Scilly Isles on July 19, 1588.

Captain! Captain!  
I can see them!  
Ships! More ships  
than I can count!

Send word at  
once! Spanish  
ships are sailing  
for England!



News of the first sighting of the Spanish Armada reached England. An alarm was sent along the coast using a series of fire beacons.



Captain! I can  
see a fire in  
the distance.  
The English  
know that we  
are here.

Sir Francis Drake was playing a game at Plymouth when he was told the Armada was approaching. He seemed unconcerned.



There is no  
need to hurry.  
We can finish  
this game and  
beat the  
Spanish, too.

Sir Francis,  
you must  
come quickly!  
The Spanish  
fleet has been  
seen sailing  
this way!

#### FAST FACT

Each fire beacon had one watchman. The watchmen were not allowed to have dogs, as they were seen as a distraction.



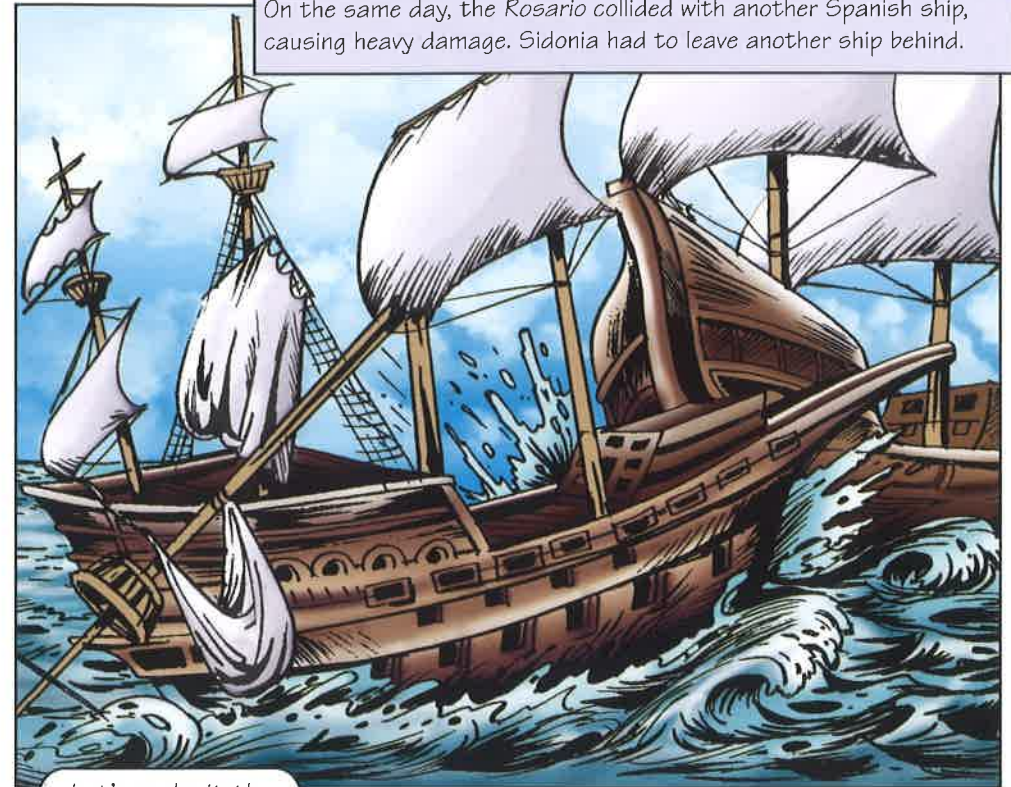
On July 21, the English and Spanish ships fought their first skirmish. Little damage was done by either side. However, the Spanish suffered their first loss when gunpowder on the *San Salvador* exploded. The *San Salvador* was badly damaged.



Medina Sidonia had to decide what to do.

We must take the supplies from the *San Salvador* and leave the ship. It is too badly damaged.

On the same day, the *Rosario* collided with another Spanish ship, causing heavy damage. *Sidonia* had to leave another ship behind.



Let's make it the first Spanish ship to sail to the bottom of the sea!



The *Rosario* was a tempting target for Sir Francis Drake. He commanded some English ships to leave the fleet and attack the *Rosario*.

However, Martin Frobisher, one of the commanders of the English fleet, was not pleased with Drake's decision.



He should have stayed with the rest of our ships. He is nothing but a pirate at heart.

#### FAST FACT

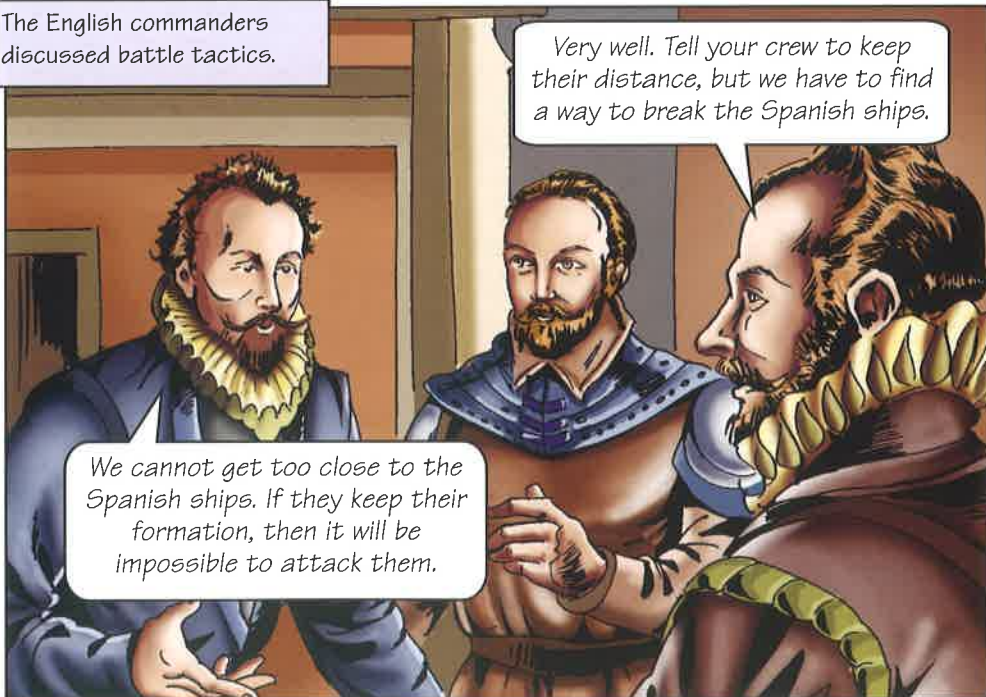
The *Rosario* was one of the biggest ships in the Spanish Armada. It had 46 cannons and 300 soldiers.



On July 21, the Spanish fleet managed to organize itself. It formed a giant crescent-shape over 7 miles long. This formation made it very difficult for the English ships to attack.

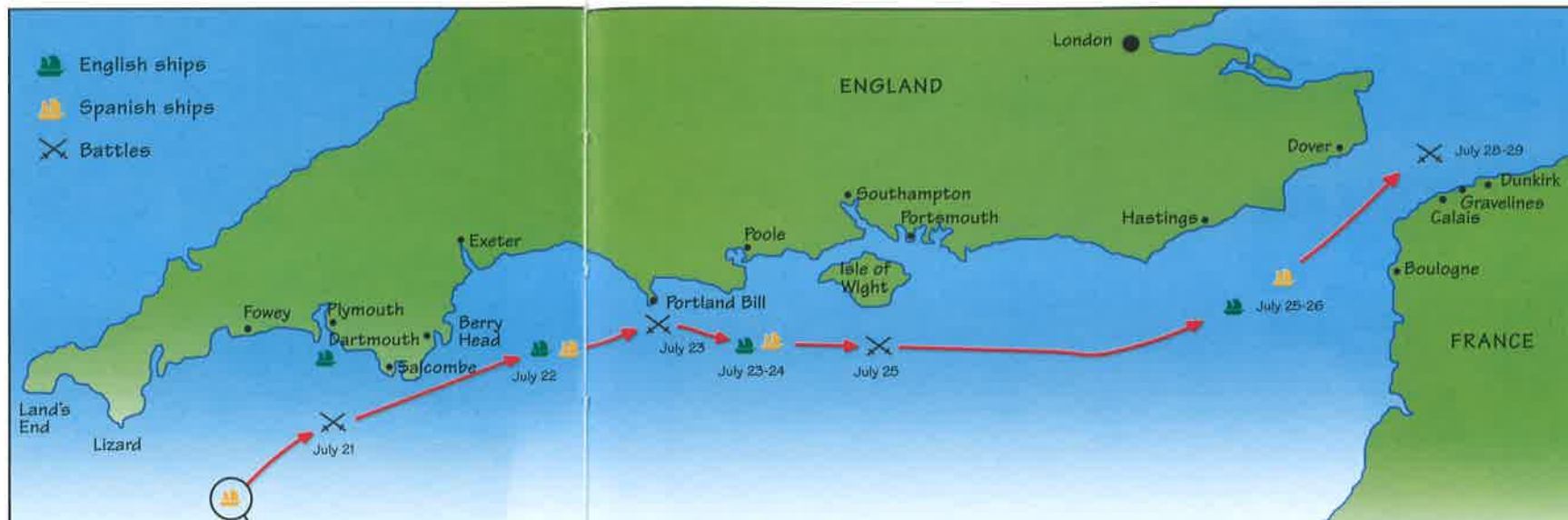


The English commanders discussed battle tactics.

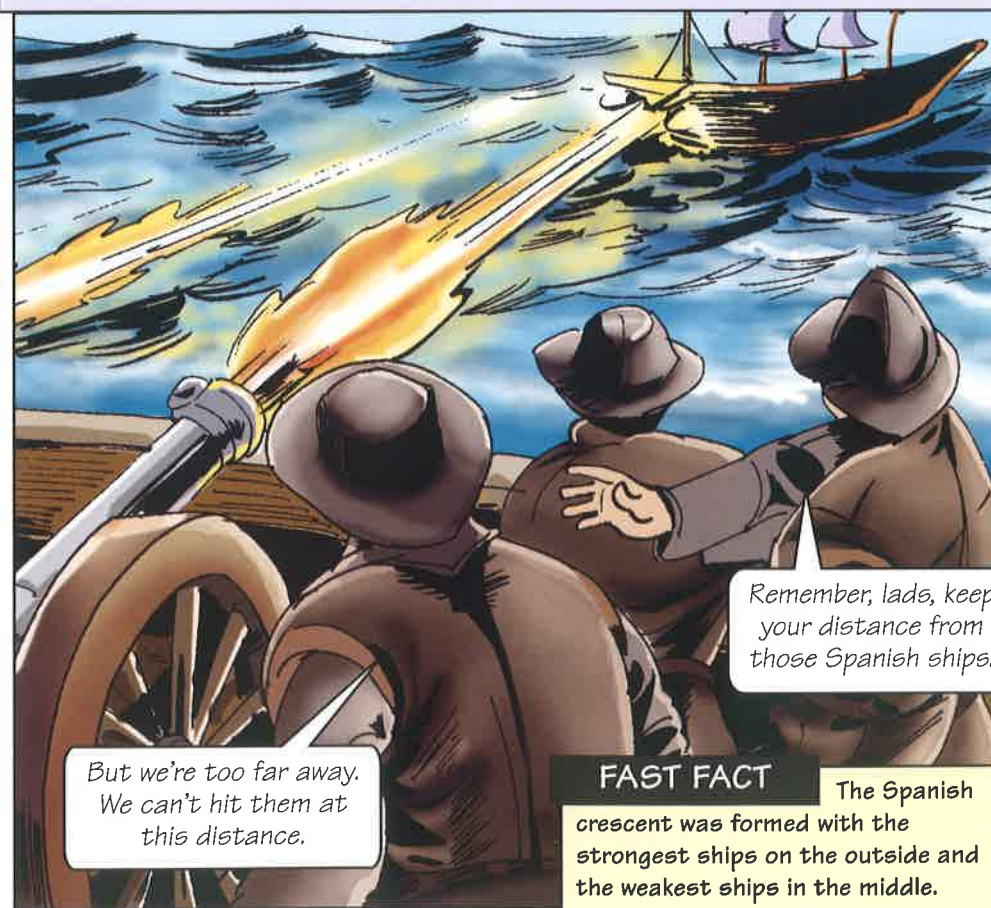


We cannot get too close to the Spanish ships. If they keep their formation, then it will be impossible to attack them.

Very well. Tell your crew to keep their distance, but we have to find a way to break the Spanish ships.



The Spanish and English ships skirmished at Portland Bill on July 23. Two days later, they fought off the Isle of Wight. Neither side was able to gain the upper hand.



But we're too far away. We can't hit them at this distance.

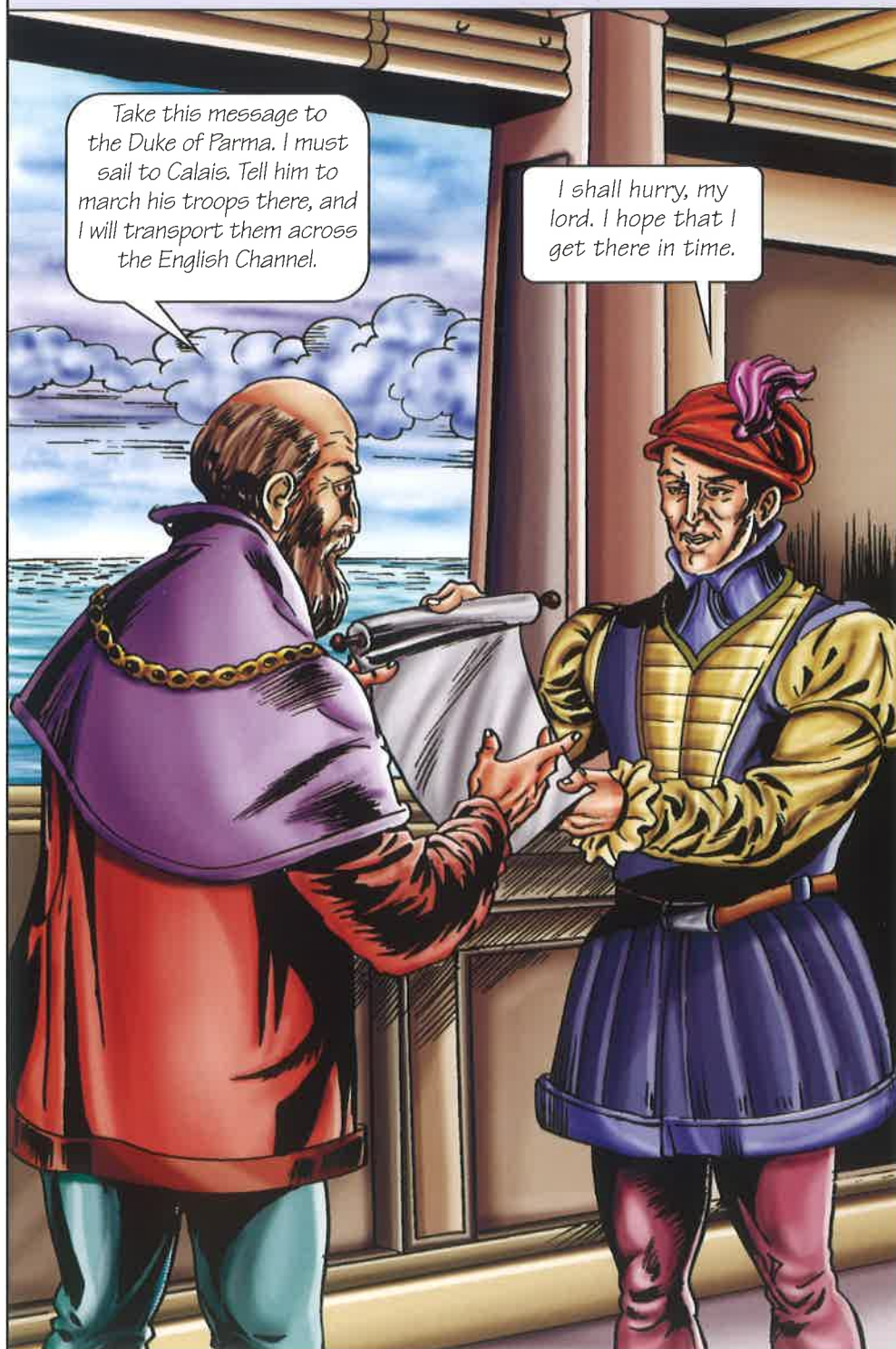
Remember, lads, keep your distance from those Spanish ships.

#### FAST FACT

The Spanish crescent was formed with the strongest ships on the outside and the weakest ships in the middle.



On July 26, Medina Sidonia sent a message to the Duke of Parma, who was waiting with Spanish troops to be taken across the English Channel and invade England.



Take this message to the Duke of Parma. I must sail to Calais. Tell him to march his troops there, and I will transport them across the English Channel.

I shall hurry, my lord. I hope that I get there in time.

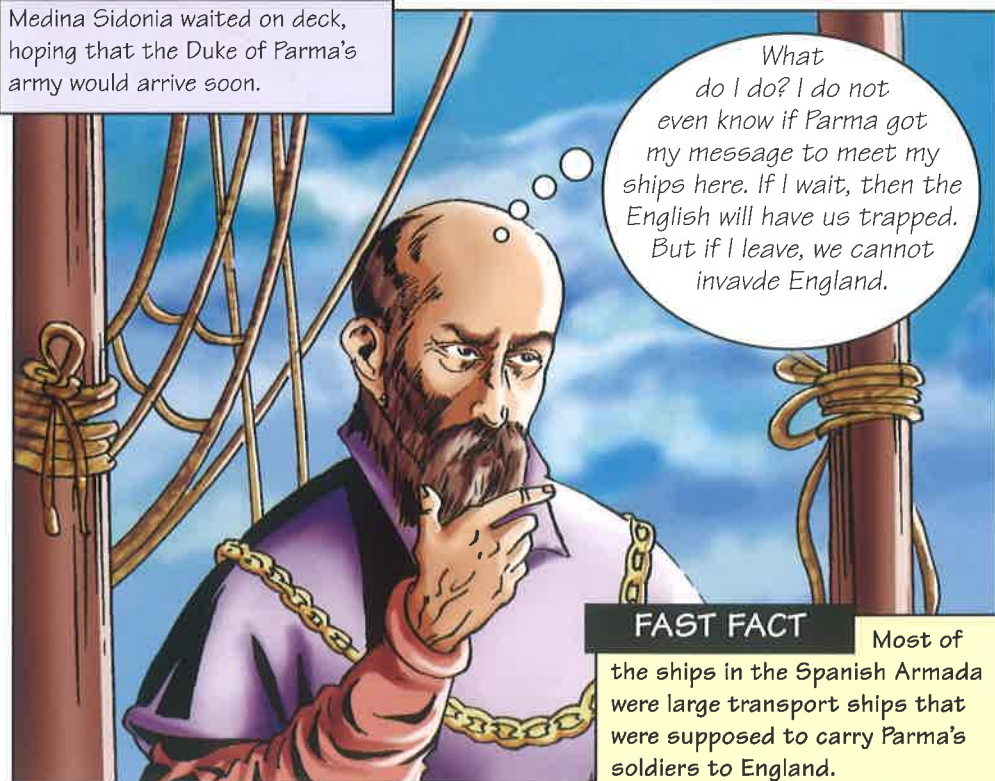
The Armada arrived at the Port of Calais the next day.



Where are the troops? They are supposed to be waiting for us here.

They had better hurry. The English are waiting for us, and we cannot stay here too long.

Medina Sidonia waited on deck, hoping that the Duke of Parma's army would arrive soon.



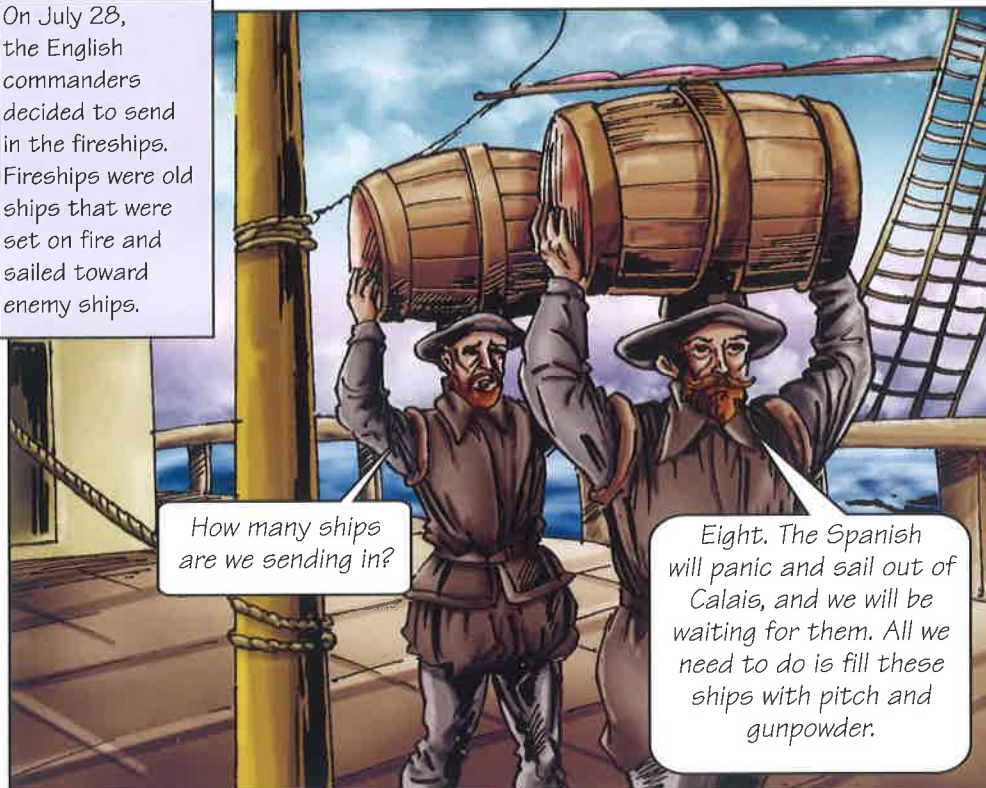
What do I do? I do not even know if Parma got my message to meet my ships here. If I wait, then the English will have us trapped. But if I leave, we cannot invade England.

#### FAST FACT

Most of the ships in the Spanish Armada were large transport ships that were supposed to carry Parma's soldiers to England.



On July 28, the English commanders decided to send in the fireships. Fireships were old ships that were set on fire and sailed toward enemy ships.



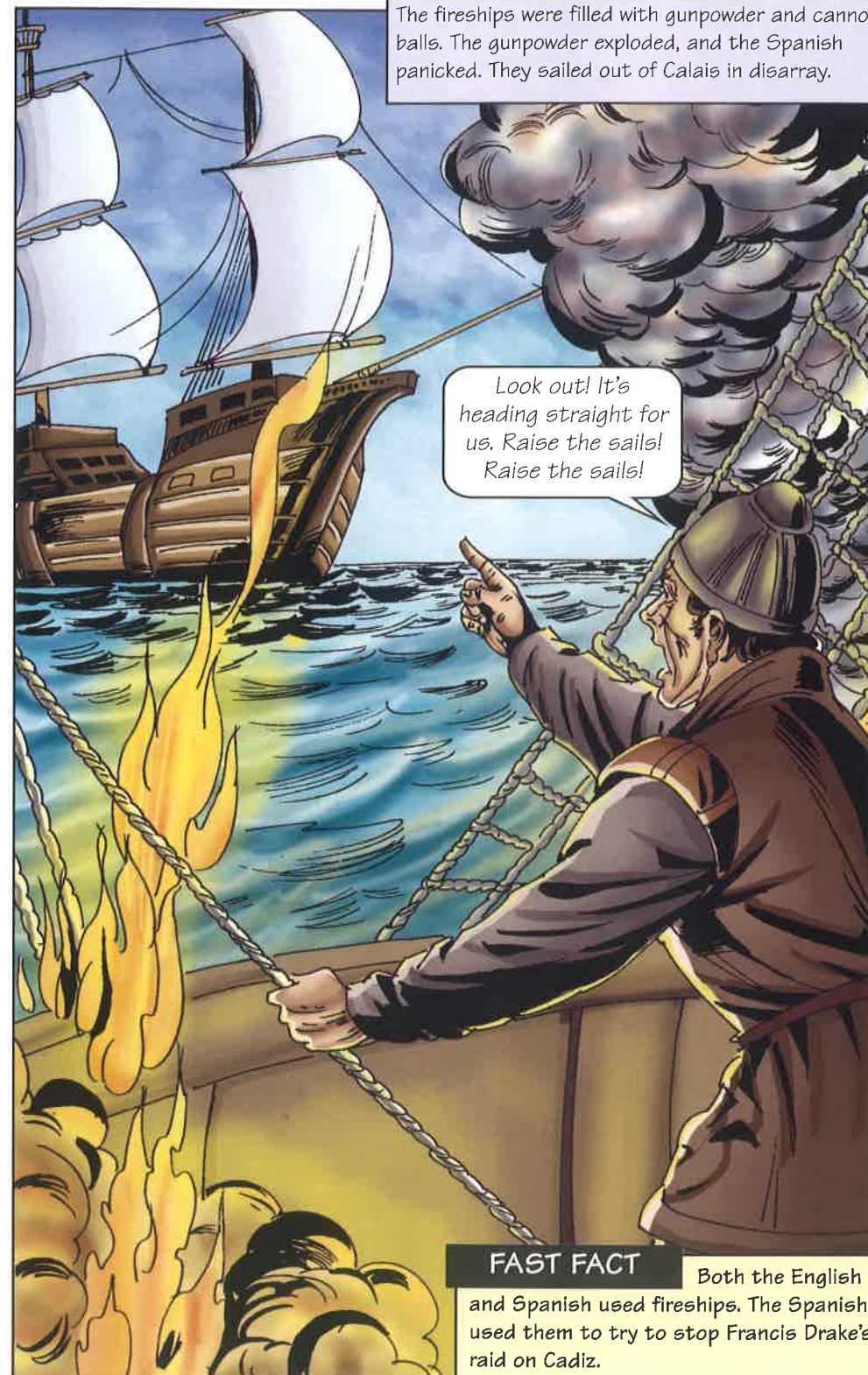
How many ships are we sending in?

Eight. The Spanish will panic and sail out of Calais, and we will be waiting for them. All we need to do is fill these ships with pitch and gunpowder.

The fireships were sent toward the Spanish ships. The Spanish reacted by using long hooks to push the ships away. At first, they were successful.



The fireships were filled with gunpowder and cannon balls. The gunpowder exploded, and the Spanish panicked. They sailed out of Calais in disarray.



Look out! It's heading straight for us. Raise the sails! Raise the sails!

#### FAST FACT

Both the English and Spanish used fireships. The Spanish used them to try to stop Francis Drake's raid on Cadiz.



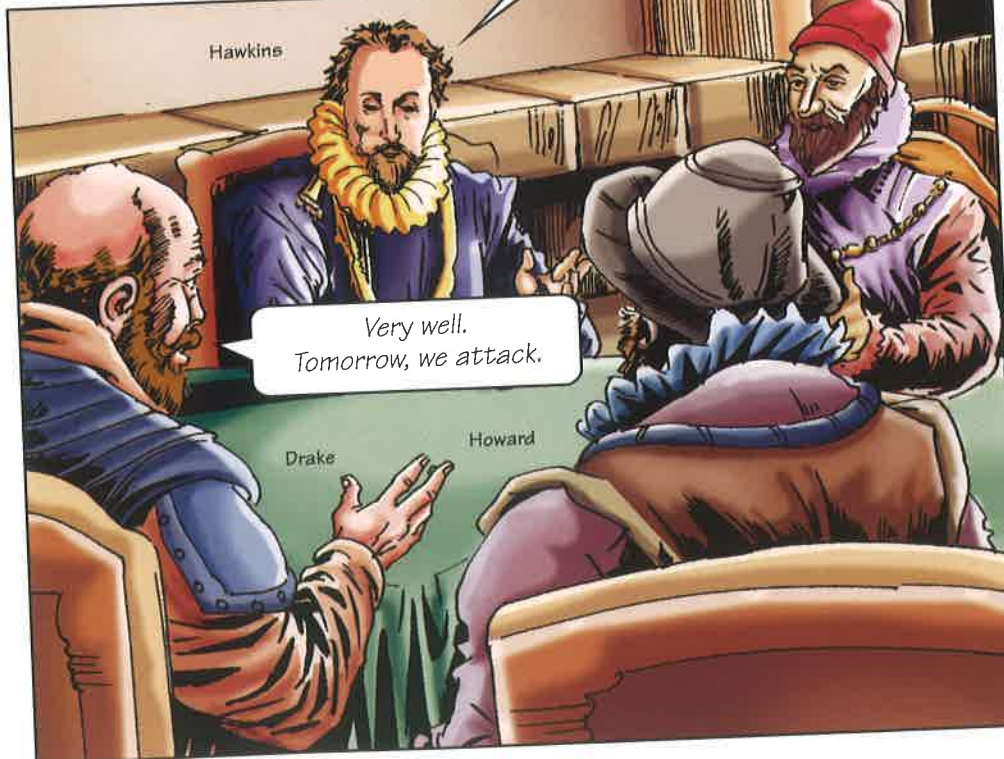
# THE BATTLE OF GRAVELINES

With the Armada out of Calais and the Spanish fleet scattered, the English commanders had to decide on their next move. Drake, Frobisher, Hawkins, and Howard met to plan their strategy.



I agree. We should also split our fleet into four groups. That will make it easier to hunt the Spanish ships down.

Keeping our distance makes no difference. We must go in close and attack the Spanish at close quarters.



Very well. Tomorrow, we attack.

Supplies on the English ships were running dangerously low.



There's not much left. How can we fight the Spanish without weapons?

Put the ammunition there, lads.

More English ships arrived, and they were split into four groups.



Yes, my lord. Now they must listen to our needs.



You must take this message to England at once. All of our ships are low on cannon balls. I cannot fight the Spanish with empty guns.

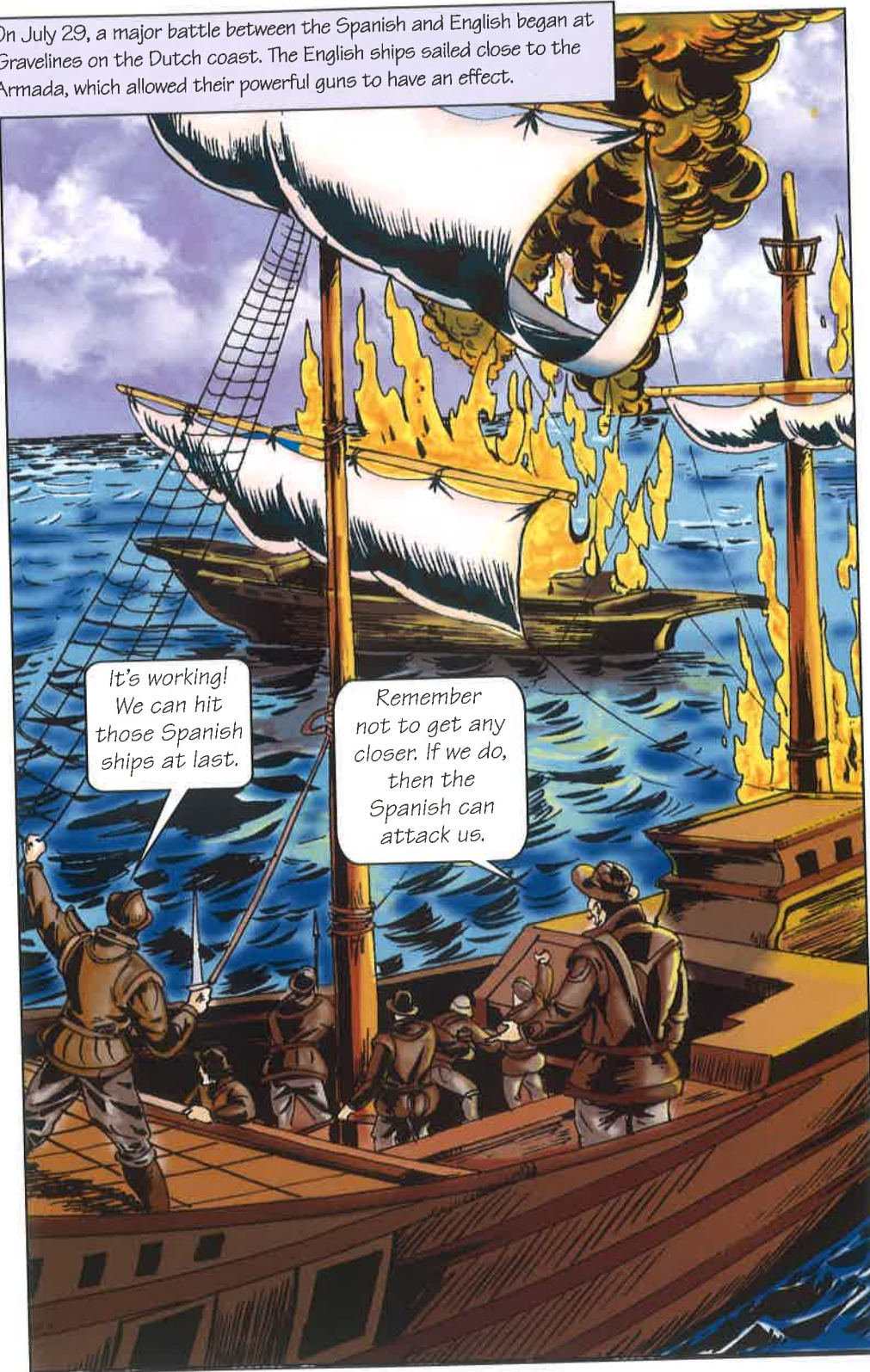
Lord Howard was very worried about the lack of ammunition. He had already asked for extra supplies, but all of his messages had been ignored.

## FAST FACT

The English fleet had 2,000 cannons. The Spanish fleet had a total of 1,000 cannons.



On July 29, a major battle between the Spanish and English began at Gravelines on the Dutch coast. The English ships sailed close to the Armada, which allowed their powerful guns to have an effect.



It's working!  
We can hit  
those Spanish  
ships at last.

Remember  
not to get any  
closer. If we do,  
then the  
Spanish can  
attack us.

The Spanish ships tried to sail closer to the English ships, so the Spanish sailors could board and overpower the English ships. But the Spanish were unable to reach them.



Aaargh!

Don't come  
any closer!  
Otherwise,  
you will  
taste English  
bullets!

The wind is pushing us northward. The English ships cannot be captured, and we have lost several of our own. Without Parma's army, we can do nothing. Order your ships to sail around this country and back to Spain.

Medina Sidonia saw that the Spanish could not win this battle. The Armada had to sail into the North Sea.



This is truly a sad  
day for Spain.

#### FAST FACT

The large, slow Spanish ships used slaves as rowers.



The Spanish ships sailed northward toward Scotland and the North Sea.

We have no choice!  
The English are behind us, and the wind is against us.

We cannot sail around Scotland!  
The rough seas will drive us into the rocks.

Continue northward!  
There is nothing else we can do.



Why can't we catch up with them and attack?  
Our ships are much faster than theirs.

The Spanish do not know that we are low on ammunition.  
We must continue chasing them, but we cannot attack.

Lord Howard made a decision.

There is no need to chase the Spanish any more. They are no longer a threat to our land.  
Tell the captains to sail for home port.

The English ships continued to pursue the Armada but kept their distance.

When the Spanish ships reached the Firth of Forth in Scotland, the English turned back. Now, the Spanish had to sail around Scotland and Ireland to return home.



# TOWARD THE END

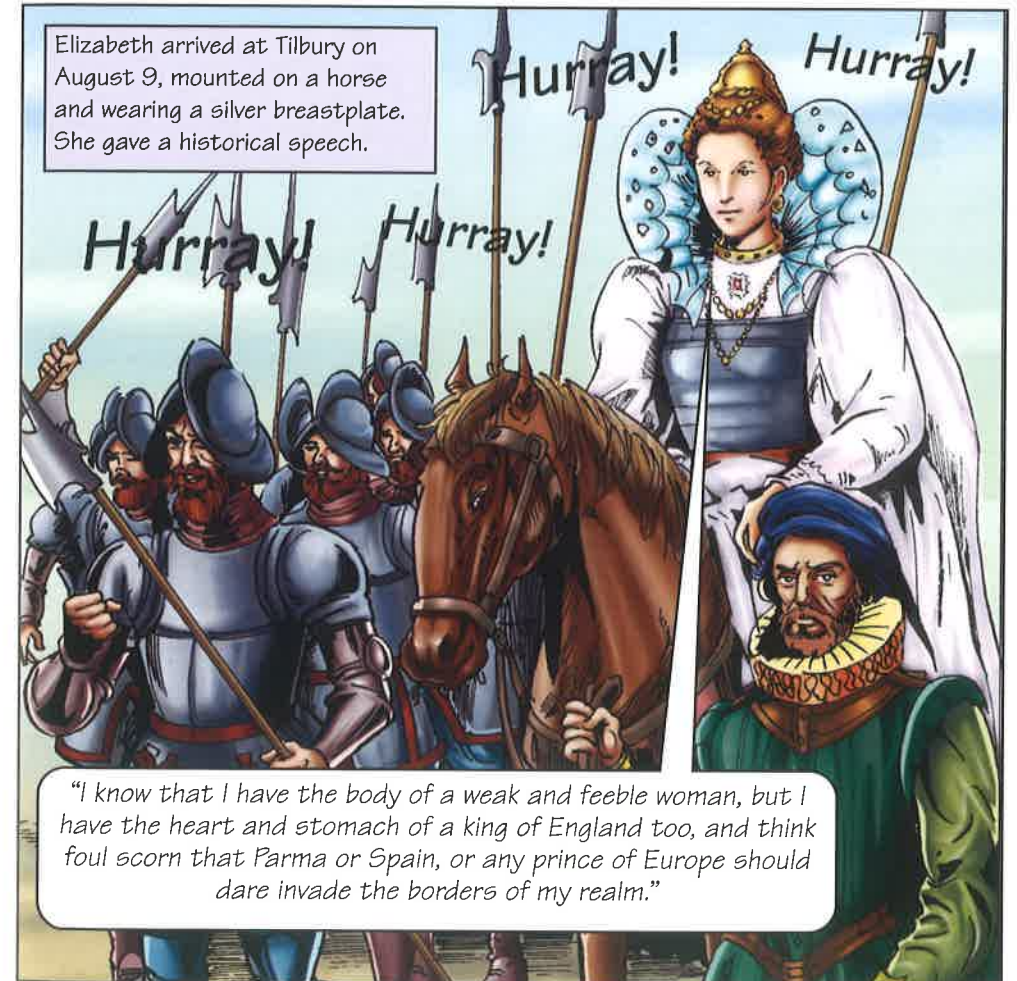
While the Spanish ships were being chased toward Scotland, English troops at Tilbury waited for news. Despite being advised to stay in London for her own safety, Elizabeth I insisted on meeting her troops.



Queen Elizabeth I sailed in her royal barge to Tilbury to inspect her troops.



Elizabeth arrived at Tilbury on August 9, mounted on a horse and wearing a silver breastplate. She gave a historical speech.





Meanwhile, the Spanish sailors knew that they faced new perils by traveling around Ireland and Scotland.

The English ships have stopped chasing us.

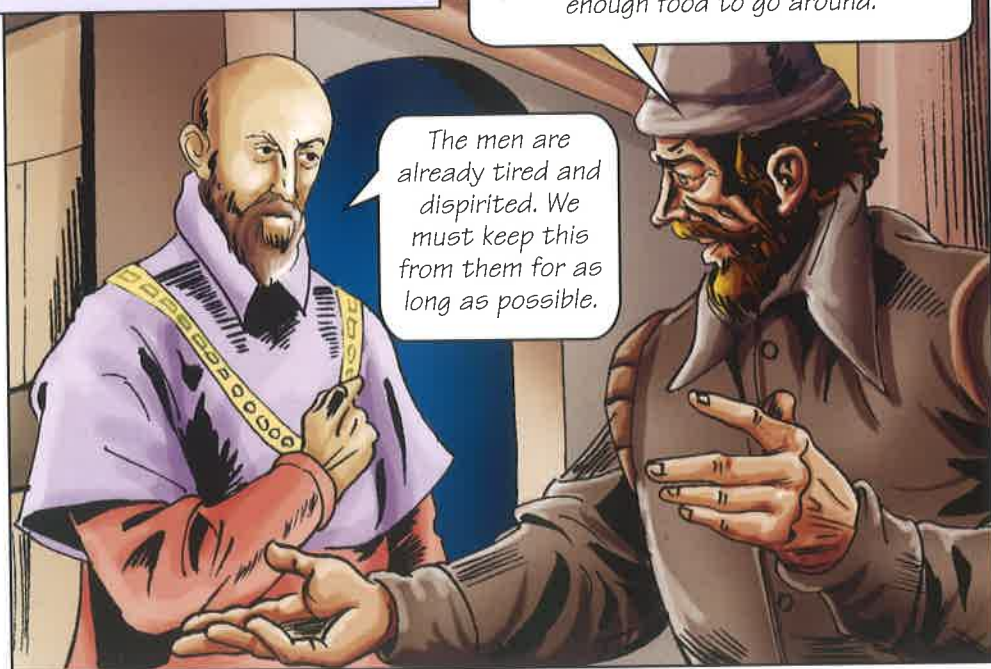
Yes, but they have left us to the dangerous seas around Scotland and Ireland. We might not survive the voyage home.



Sidonia was warned about the stormy seas. He was also given some more bad news.

My lord, the supplies are running low. We have very little fresh water and not enough food to go around.

The men are already tired and dispirited. We must keep this from them for as long as possible.



The Spanish sailors soon found out that they were running out of food and water, so they took drastic action.

What are you doing? Those horses belong to the king. You cannot throw them overboard.

What use are they now? We cannot use them to fight the English. They are drinking our water.

Throw them over the side.

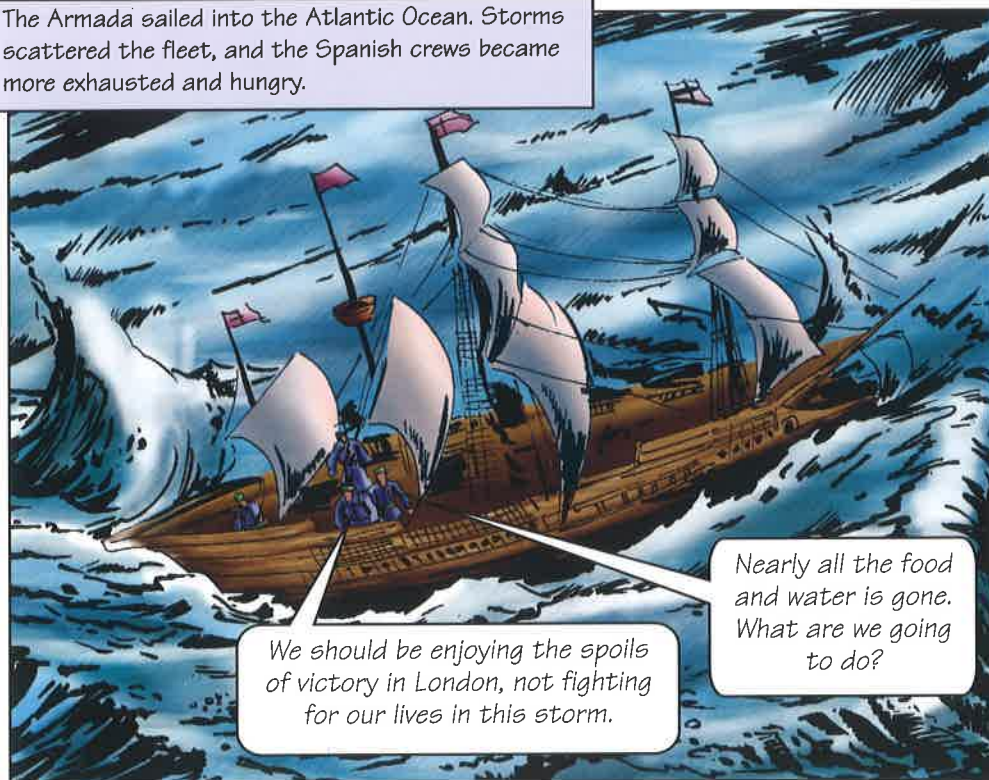


#### FAST FACT

Three Spanish ships tried to sail to Norway. They were never seen again.



The Armada sailed into the Atlantic Ocean. Storms scattered the fleet, and the Spanish crews became more exhausted and hungry.



We should be enjoying the spoils of victory in London, not fighting for our lives in this storm.

Nearly all the food and water is gone. What are we going to do?

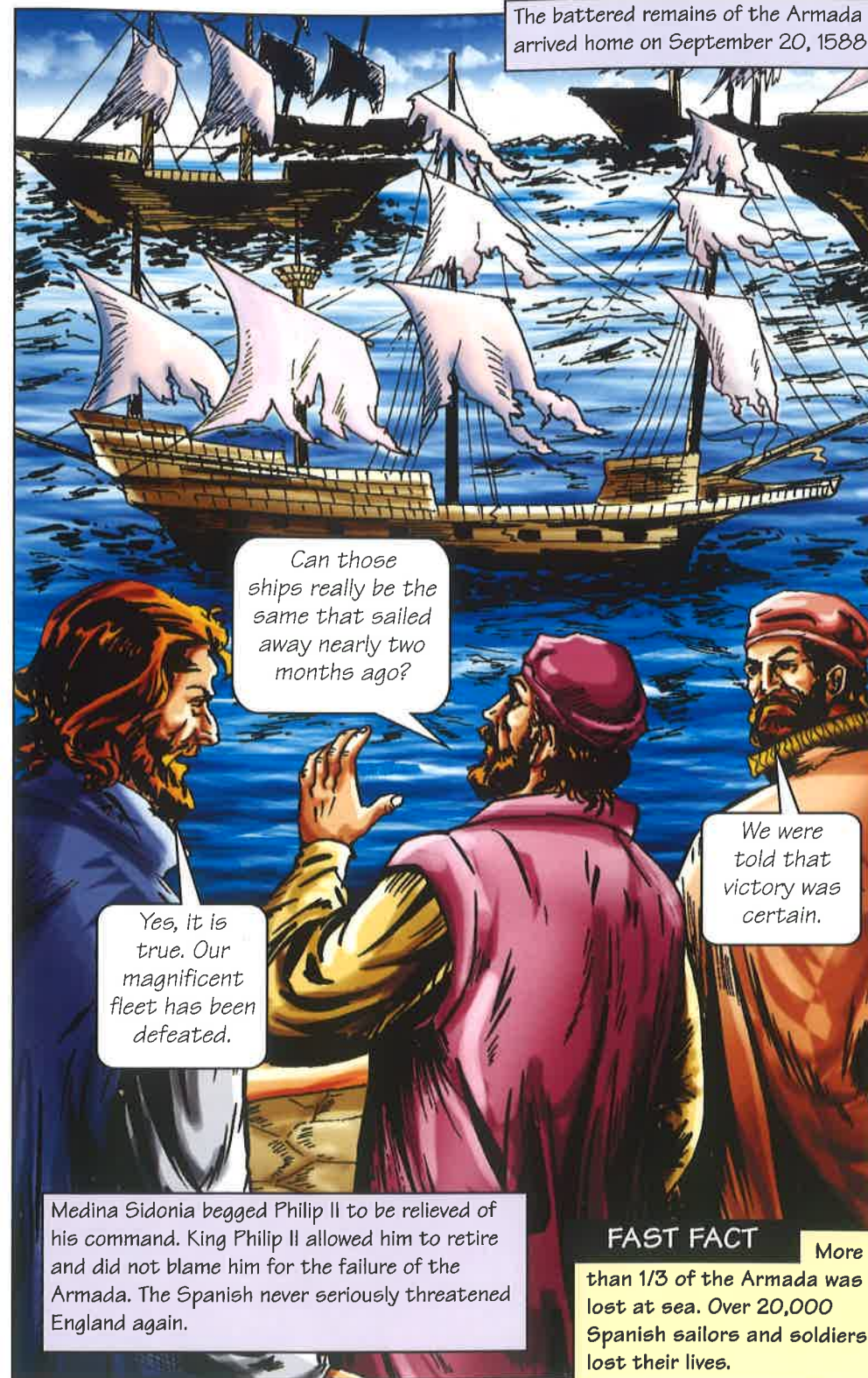
The Armada captains did not have any maps of the western Irish coast. They did not know about the treacherous rocks that awaited them. Many ships were wrecked. Many Spanish soldiers that made it to shore were hunted down by the Irish.



Spaniards!  
Over there!  
Don't let them  
get away!

Run for your  
lives! I have heard  
that the Irish show  
little mercy to  
foreigners!

The battered remains of the Armada arrived home on September 20, 1588.



Can those  
ships really be the  
same that sailed  
away nearly two  
months ago?

Yes, it is  
true. Our  
magnificent  
fleet has been  
defeated.

We were  
told that  
victory was  
certain.

Medina Sidonia begged Philip II to be relieved of his command. King Philip II allowed him to retire and did not blame him for the failure of the Armada. The Spanish never seriously threatened England again.

#### FAST FACT

More  
than 1/3 of the Armada was  
lost at sea. Over 20,000  
Spanish sailors and soldiers  
lost their lives.