

"we the willing, led by the unknowing, have done so much for so long with so little that we're now capable of doing anything with nothing."

boat captain's saying, origin unknown

*"You know," I said, "my relationship has much in common with the way you feel about the boat. It's something cobbled together of old parts and new parts, something left to work too hard a little too long so it has a permanent flaw, a weakness in the chain binding it together. Bits we can neither replace nor repair are attended only with abandoned hope. But it is a lovely life with a lively heart, and where else but aboard the CounterAttack can dark underbellies and bright hopes, tensions and laughter, anger and joy, happen in perfect synthesis, every day? This is a voyage producing, in its very wake, friendships and experiences and bonds as true as the rotation of the very earth."*

*And so began this morning, a Tuesday, anchored in the Bat Islands, this conversation with the captain in the quiet early hours. His boss was my husband, and the three of us would, it seemed, be perpetually at sea.*

*I learned a great deal in the time aboard that boat, not the least of which were a) things are never the way they seem, and b) I'd read way too much romantic literature.*

