

"I thought you said we were going hiking." "We are! It's just.... 1000 times more dangerous!" The two cats spoke back and forth. Vernon didn't exactly seem excited as he pulled on his protective suit. The guide at the top base of the planet had explained just how dangerous the Ichor of the planet was, explaining they were finding heat signatures that weren't theirs. The blue, white, and orange cat struggled to pull into his suit, trying to aggressively stuff all his fluff into it, making Vernon sigh. "Chedder- ch- chedd-" he tried to stop him, the cat frantically getting faster as he tried to pull it on "CHEDDER. Stop moving. Let me help." He reached out, grabbing at the parts that were getting stuck, helping him slide comfortably into his suit. "Heh, thanks Vern, I thought I wouldn't be able to fit," he laughed as an announcement rang out, "WE ARE NOW APPROACHING THE CORE PLANETS SURFACE! PLEASE BE PREPARED WITH ALL YOUR ITEMS AND YOUR ICHOR SUIT ON AND READY!" Vernon and Cheddar both looked at the speaker, then each other. The two of them slung bags onto their backs and donned helmets as Vernon pulled a small book from his bag, taking a seat as they felt the ship start to descend to the ground.

As the ship opened its doors, Chedder bounded out, excited to see the core planet. Vernon was a bit more hesitant, book in hand as his eye caught the sea of ichor nearby, "Vern! The camp is set up over here!" His friend called out, taking the cat out of his thoughts. "Right, I'm coming, I'm coming.." he replied, a bit enraptured by the black sea as he started to follow his friend. The camp already seemed busy, some treating this like a vacation, others already seemed terrified as they approached a tent and a table labeled 'check in', Cheddar scribbling his name and then Vernon's before they were pointed towards a tent, "let's go put our stuff down, then we can head out, okay?" Vernon already seemed distracted; he wanted to see the different foliage and how it reacted with the Ichor, still seeming to zone out, staring into the distance. "Helloooooo? Vernon? Skire to Vernon?" The cat shook his head. "Oh, sorry, yeah, let's go," he smiled, Cheddar smiling as well before bounding into their shared tent, two makeshift beds on each side. "The only requirement is that while we're out, we have to collect some samples of different things," Cheddar held up a bag full of vials, each labeled with something different. "The camp is also the only place we're allowed to take off our suits, apparently, the Ichor is highly dangerous." Vernon sat at the edge of his bed, sketching in his sketch while Cheddar explained, "Huh? Oh, okay," he replied, distracted by what he saw, making Cheddar laugh, "Alright! Let's go then because you already seem excited to see the stuff around here." Cheddar smiled again, grabbing the vials and Vernon's hand, pulling him along.

Cheddar dragged Vernon along, the artist seeming entranced by the plants he saw, trekking through a barely carved path between bone-like metal. "There is no biological chance that these plants should be alive right now... barely any sun and water made of Ichor... It's just not possible at that, what purpose do they serve? They're riddled with Ichor, so it's toxic to us... who does this feed?" He spoke mainly to himself as Cheddar stopped to stare at the black vines, the Cat pulling out a small knife and cutting off a small piece of its branch and leaf, then carefully sliding it into one of the vials. "When we go back, tell them we broke this one." "WHAT?! Are you crazy, Vern?! You know how much trouble we could get in?! That's a horrible idea!" Vernon laughed, "ya know, I thought you'd be more for me doing something a little crazy. The cat slid the vial into his bag. "Y-yeah! But not full-on potential biological warfare! Dude, that's like,

government crime, not like.. petty theft!" Vernon shrugged "Well, good thing you're not gonna say anything right, Cheddar?" The other cat seemed nervous but nodded as they continued forward the path eventually opening up to a beach like area ichor waves crashed on crushed metal sand even some smaller ichor made creatures crawling along the path "woahh... Vern! Check this out" he ran forward the crunch under him loud as he looked up, watching the sky swirl around them "its amazing isnt it?" Vernon replied, following along with Cheddar, being sure to scoop up some of the metal in a vial as well as carefully dipping another in the ichor, shaking it off, and cleaning it so none got on them. "There all our samples got well... except the plant one.. right Vern?... Vern?" Cheddar asked the cat next to them, staring off into the sea, "Vern?" "We need to leave..." "What? Why?" Vernon pointed out to the sea, the waves twisting and turning as suddenly a large bone, metal, and ichor creature rose from the sea of black, it looked like it was fused with multiple eyes and creatures that found it unfortunately in its path, it let out a garbled bellowing roar as it started to head inland towards the two cats both Vernon and Cheddar screaming as they bolted back the way they came "THIS WAS A BAD IDEA THIS WAS A BAD IDEA THIS WAS A BAD IDEA!!" Cheddar screamed as they ran all the way back to camp. The two panted hard, trying to catch their breath as other campers watched on in confusion. "We need... to tell... the.. camp leader..." Vernon puffed before dropping to the ground out of breath, "big... scary.... Monster..." Cheddar puffed out as well before falling on top of Vernon with an OOF. Many of the other campers watched in confusion before continuing about their time, the faint roars in the distance from the way they ran.