

Chaos had heard of there being a need for magic casters. He knew the element of magic very well and was wanting to assist in any findings that the fellow researchers had discovered about the ichorous planet called Core. He was also curious to see what the other magical casters would do as well regarding this new form of magic. He had chosen to transform into his human shape, long black hair with tinges of blue on the tips to match his spines that he typically sported. He was a rather handsome fellow when he transformed into this shape, but he rarely used it. He has yet to try it by using magic and would like to see if there would be any changes to his abilities while human. He wore a typical black shirt and dark cargo pants to match and walked over to the research center after having himself a cup of coffee from his favorite shop in town. Getting here, as usual, took time, but he truly didn't mind the walk and much preferred it since it allowed for him to have time to think over the choices he had gone with in participating. He was aware that this could possibly result in things not going as planned, as with any type of magic. He mentally prepared himself for these things, hoping that everyone else with him would also be aware that this was expected and at least try to prevent any significant disasters occurring. It was a normal thing for Chaos to feel at least a little nervous since he had anxiety that always rattled his conscience to its core. He hated it, because mostly these thoughts were irrational or silly. His hand lingered on the door handle as he contemplated on if he should really continue. He's taken many risks before revolving around magic and this would prove to be a once in a lifetime opportunity he was certain. With a little sigh, he opened the door and found that the entire hall had been full of scientists and magical casters alike. They were standing around and chatting, which genuinely confused Chaos. Wasn't this supposed to be some kind of recruitment and not a party..? He frowned and started to back away but before he could exit, someone walked up to him. A scientist who had a badge and everything stating her name and occupation. She offered her hand to him and smiled, "You must be Chaos? I can see our invitation has gotten to you in time. We've heard a lot about you from your mentor. Surely you'd like to humor me and tell me all about it? We typically interview each candidate and I have no doubt that you will exceed our expectations." She said, and Chaos hesitantly shook her hand, "Ah, right. I don't really boast about my abilities. I'm just here to offer support if it's needed. Otherwise I'd prefer not to be surrounded by others. It can be a bit overwhelming for me." He admitted, not trying to come off rudely, but he already just wanted to disappear. "Why does it look like a party here anyways?" He asked curiously, "Isn't this supposed to be a research testing facility?" The woman smiled and let out a brief chuckle, "Well, research testing facilities typically look bland and cold. We wanted to take a more lively approach considering this is more or less a celebration of not only the breakthroughs, but for the future of magic as a whole." Chaos nodded with pursed lips. He was listening to what she had said, and yet it had only made him more nervous. "So why do you need magic users?" The woman adjusted her glasses and nodded, "Well, ahem. You see, Ichor seems to possess its own unique magic and we need those that are more familiar with it to help us with retrieving the samples that we need from Core. It would require going back onto the planet and retrieving this data in order to bring it back and be utilized by Skire. The issue and why we need you guys is simple." She paused for effect, "Protection." Chaos swallowed hard. What did that mean? He cocked his head a little to one side to show that he was still very confused by what she was saying. "So, Ichor, as we know it, is a relatively new magic to us, the Skireans, because we have only just begun. By 'just begun', I mean less than 10 years of scientific research. Now with science comes magic. As is the way

with Skire and its people. We have somehow found a way to merge science and magic onto the same sort of scale without being two entirely different entities. So..." Chaos began to zone out on what she was saying at this point and simply nodded, listening to her scientific babbling. Eventually she finally came to the more important information regarding the entire thing. She then began to explain his duties, what it would entail, and what kinds of creatures he would likely encounter along the way. This would be a far more interesting exploration and Chaos kind of liked the idea of there being some kind of risk to it. He listened to her intensely and even wrote down notes, having pulled out an empty notebook from his bag to write down key things she told him, especially about the various types of creatures that existed and would likely attack versus the more docile species there as well. Most of which didn't even have a name or any kind of identifier in science, but they had all been given names that Chaos could use to explain each one well enough for others to know of. He sighed and looked over his notes before she began to go off about all of the different biomes that Core apparently had and how there was much more to the planet than met the eye. He quietly nodded and continued to let her talk until it was time for them to be interviewed. This had been the part that he dreaded the most seeing as they were individual interviews that could take a long time to review. Chaos had been one of the first to be interviewed to his surprise since they were going in alphabetical order. The man that interviewed him for the expedition seemed very uptight and sophisticated, definitely not one to go into deep space travels and battle off hostile creatures on an alien planet. He seemed to Chaos, to be more or less like that of a lawyer. It was a little jarring. "So, we've sent to you a letter stating that we were looking for proficient magic users. Having been recommended by your mentor, we expect to see good things come of you. Have you heard of Core at all?" He asked, looking Chaos dead in the eye. The CCCat gulped slightly and nodded, I've been there, actually. I've taken samples of my own and many, many detailed notes of the venture. There is a lot more to that planet than we know already and continue to discover now. It's only the surface. I think that we will soon come to realize that." Chaos admitted, having a very matter of fact tone in his usually monotone and deep voice. "You seem confident in those words and I admire that." He said as he wrote down what Chaos had just said in shorter terms. "So you're aware that Core is a possibly deadly place considering we know very little about it." He stated, and Chaos simply nodded. "I know that they're primarily nocturnal and do not stir until the sun sets and the two moons are appearing into the sky for a twenty hour long night." This seemed to have caught the man off guard and for the first time since he sat down with Chaos, did he falter. "Twenty hour... Nights?" He seemed very perplexed by this information. Chaos nodded and began to shift in his seat, pulling out yet another book, but this one seemed weathered and beaten. A black ink stained the front of the cover, only to be assumed that it had been Ichor at some point but has since then been wiped away. Chaos opened the thick notebook and began to quietly flip through his notes. "I've already given most of these to the facility to read over, but from your reaction it seems that maybe my notes have been lost." He said calmly as he flipped to the page which detailed each cycle of day and night, sitting the book down and sliding it over to the lawyer-looking man. He took the book in his hands and began to read Chaos' detailed and complex notes, how he categorized each topic and wrote down exact timestamps for the events that occurred during these cycles. His jaw dropped slightly as he looked at the little diagram that Chaos had sketched in boredom at some point like he was looking at fine art. "How fascinating. Did you stay outside for each of these entries?" Chaos looked at him like the question he had

just asked was silly. "Of course. The creatures that live there aren't as volatile as one would think. It's really only when you disrupt them while they're sleeping, which I had learned the hard way by disrupting their sleep cycle while studying some plants. I think that being fearful is understandable to some degree, but we know very little about these creatures. Perhaps they are not as dangerous as you and your colleagues have implied. It's best to go in with an open mind. I was also scared to go into the ocean on a ship, but I went and nothing happened to us there... I think that while the ichor and the things that have adapted are a little scary looking or seem threatening, are not by nature. They are just surviving like any other kind of species we see on our own planet..." Chaos said plainly as the man listened to what he had to say. "I think we need you on our expedition then. To keep everyone informed and show them which species are truly harmless and which ones we should avoid." He said, handing Chaos the book back. "You seemed to be way more informed on things than I had expected. What is your magic level?" Chaos smiled softly, "Level three. I can cast pretty much anything that has to do with the element of fire." Chaos moved back in his chair and lifted his hands, cupping them together before closing his eye. A spark of fire began to conjure from the center, floating. It then grew in intensity and Chaos opened his eye to see that the flames had nearly encased the entirety of both of his hands. He quickly snuffed it out with a mere thought and looked over at the interviewer who had been clearly impressed. "I can do far more than that, but I'd rather not burn your nice, fancy facility down that's full of specimens and valuable research." He said with a grin and the lawyer-interviewer nodded, "Of course. I wouldn't want for that to happen, obviously, as this is my building. I've put quite a lot of crowns into having it built." Chaos' eye widened slightly, "You're the founder? Wow... I never would have known." The man looked at Chaos, trying to figure out if that had been a compliment or mere sarcasm. "Well, ah... Anyways, I think that you have found yourself a career here with us. Consider yourself to be hired and part of the staff team. It will be a pleasure to work with you and if you ever need anything, my name is Phantom. I know, silly, but... It is actually my given name due to how I look." Chaos didn't know until just now that the Skirean had albinism. He smiled and nodded, "Thank you for the opportunity, Phantom."