

Winter is quite a unique season. The days become shorter day by day as the cold takes hold of plants and animals.

Winter wasn't unknown by the Nautipod. Marlin has been roaming Skire for a bit now. Not as long as others of his kind or even his sister, but long enough to have experienced all seasons.

This winter was especially harsh. With the broken land that had to budge with the ichor seeping through its veins, many lost their homes or have to repair them. Marlin occasionally went from place to place to help out, seeing the sorrow of the people turn into smiles was always something that made him happy.

This day though, he stumbled out of the city. Large hills and meadows of snow greeted him outside, their white beauty blinding him as the sun danced in the sky with its light. Marlin slowly made his way through. Every step he took made the snow crunch and creak like an old wooden floor. It felt relaxing just wandering through this landscape. No thought was left about what happened just two months ago, everything felt at peace.

"Watch out!" a voice from the distance called, but Marlin was faster. With a swift motion he moved his head to the side, just as a snowball barely missed its accidental target. Marlin didn't expect to become part of target practice.

Out of no where, multiple Skireans poked their heads out of makeshift snow fortresses. He stumbled right upon a snowy battlefield. Strange that he didn't notice this.

"I'm so sorry!", the same voice from before exclaimed, "I didn't mean to almost hit you."

The orange and white CCCat in front of him looked a little worried, almost expecting Marlin to be upset at them. "Oh, it's okay. I didn't expect to run into a snowball fight."

His eyes glanced around at the others, all of them ready to continue their game. With all the chaos that had been happening around, they instead seemed to have a great time taking their mind off things. That's when Marlin had an idea. His attention shifted back to the CCCat in front of him, curiously watching the Nautipod's next move.

"Say...", Marlin asked with a bright smile, "do you guys still have a spot left for one more player?"

The CCCat smiled and nodded. "Sure! You're welcome to join my team! We are winning after all." They chuckled and nudged Marlin's side before heading back to their fortress. "Come! Let's finish this snowy battle!"

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