

EXPEDITION

CAST: CAZETTE & TERMITE

LOCATION: CORE PLANET

AFTER THEIR MOST RECENT RETURN FROM THE CORE, THE DUO COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL EXCITEMENT. EXCITEMENT TO WANT TO GO BACK AND HUNT FOR MORE SPECIMENS FOR STUDY. LAST TIME THEY GOT PLENTY OF PLANT SPECIES DOCUMENTED ALONGSIDE AN ICHOR BEAST FIN, HOWEVER, THIS TIME THEY WERE ON THE HUNT FOR OTHER MATERIALS. MINERALS WERE THE MAIN FOCUS OF THIS EXPEDITION, AS THEY LOADED UP THEIR SHIP THEY MADE SURE TO GRAB A SPECIFIC CASE KNOWN FOR COLLECTING MINERALS WHILE ALSO GRABBING EXCAVATION TOOLS.

THEIR EXCAVATION TOOLS WERE: ONE PICKAXE, A COUPLE OF DRILLS, A FEW BRUSHES AND TWO SHOVELS.

AFTER THE SHIP WAS PACKED UP WITH ALL THEY COULD HOPE TO USE ON THEIR VOYAGE, THEY SUITED UP IN THEIR GEAR BEFORE GOING TO THEIR POSITIONS. **CAZETTE** PROUDLY WALKED UP TO THEIR CAPTAIN'S SEAT, WRAPPING THEIR FINGERS AROUND THE WHEEL WITH FAMILIARITY. **TERMITE** SKITTERED OFF TO THEIR BAY TO CONTINUE GETTING ITEMS PREPPED, AS THEY WERE JUST AN INTERN WITH THE PROMISE OF A FAVORABLE CAREER.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, THEY WERE OFF! IT ONLY TOOK MOMENTS, BUT THE SHIP TOOK OFF WITH ELEGANCE.

UPON REACHING THE CORE PLANET ONCE MORE, **CAZETTE** WATCHED THE TERRAIN BELOW, SEEKING SAFE LANDING WITHIN AN UNDISCOVERED (TO THEM AT LEAST) LOCATION FULL OF MINERALS. AFTER WHAT SEEMED TO DRAG ON FOREVER, THEY FOUND IT! A SPOT JUST RIGHT FOR ALL THE BEST REASONS, MINERALS GALORE!

THEY WIGGLED THEIR SHIP INTO AN OPTIMAL SPOT CLOSE TO THE, WHAT SEEMED LIKE, MOMENTOUS MOUNTAIN. **CAZETTE** THEN LEFT THEIR SEAT VACANT, RUSHING DOWN TO THE BAY IN WHICH **TERMITE** WAS LOCATED. A SKIP IN THEIR STEP

SHOWED THAT THEY WERE ANTICIPATING A GRAND TIME, AND HOPEFULLY THEY'D COME AWAY WITH A LARGE BOUNTY AS THEY HAD WITH OTHER TRIPS DOWN.

ICHOR BUBBLED NEARBY, THREATENING TO LEAK ACROSS A THIN STRIP OF LAND THAT PROTECTED THE DUO THAT WAS NOW UNLOADING SUPPLIES ALL ACROSS THE NEAREST ZONE OF LAND NEXT TO THEIR SHIP. **CAZETTE** PAID NO MIND TO THE ICHOR BEHIND THEM, WHILE TOSSING OUT THEIR TOOLS.

TOSSING ON BACKPACKS, THE DUO STARTED OFF ON THEIR JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAIN WHICH WAS NOW MORE THAN A FEW PACES AWAY. IT TOOK THEM LITTLE TIME TO GET FROM POINT A TO POINT B, BUT OH BOY WAS IT WORTH IT. THE TWO LOOKED AT TOWERING MINERAL DEPOSITS THAT SHONE BRIGHTER THAN MOST THINGS ATOP THE CORE PLANET. LIGHT BOUNCING FROM EACH STONE JUMPED ACROSS TOWERS OF STONE, LEADING THE TWO DEEPER INTO WHAT SEEMED TO BE A NOW NEVER ENDING MINE.

TOOLS AT THE READY, THE TWO DOVE IN HEADFIRST TO EXTRACTING AND PRESERVING THESE DEPOSITS. GENTLY EASING THEM INTO CRATES PACKED FULL OF SOFT MATERIAL TO MAINTAIN OPTIMAL CONDITION. THEY PACKED CONTAINER AFTER CONTAINER FULL OF CLOSE TO PRISTINE SAMPLES THAT WOULD HOPEFULLY TURN INTO DIVINE ACCESSORIES FOR THOSE OF SKIRE AFTER PROCESSING WAS COMPLETED.

THE TWO GREW TIRED FROM THE LONG DAYS WORK, KNOWING NOW THEY'D NEED TO HAUL IT ALL BACK TO THE SHIP THEY DECIDED TO SIT DOWN AND EAT THEIR RATIONS. THEY SAT AND ATE WHILE TALKING ABOUT TALES OF THEIR PAST ADVENTURES TOGETHER, PONDERING WHAT THEY COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY WITHIN OTHER EXPEDITIONS BUT ALL WAS JUST HINDSIGHT AND THEY KNEW IT. IT WASN'T FOR THE WEAK TO COME DOWN TO THE CORE, AND THOSE WHO DID TAKE THE RISK KNEW IT ISN'T WITHOUT REWARD BUT COULD ALSO LEAD TO A GREAT LOSS.

AFTER THEIR MEAL THEY PACKED UP, GETTING ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT ALL TIDIED UP, HOOKED UP AND ALL TOGETHER IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE ONE LONG (BUT

ORGANIZED) TRAIN OF ITEMS. TOOLS ALL IN ONE BAG, AND CRATES AND BAGS FULL OF THE DELICATE MINERALS FOLLOWED. THE WEIGHT WAS TOO MUCH FOR JUST ONE OF THE TWO, SO THE DUO HAD TO HAUL IT TOGETHER, PULLING WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT TO MAKE IT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND ULTIMATELY BACK TO THEIR SHIP.

WHAT FELT LIKE EONS, BUT ONLY TOOK A FEW MERE HOURS, CAME TO THEM REACHING THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN. THEIR SHIP WAS IN SIGHT NOW AND THAT LED THE TWO TO BEING DETERMINED, SPEEDING UP THEIR PROCESS **CAZETTE** LET GO OF THE TRAIN OF ITEMS AND RUSHED OVER TO THE SHIP, HOPPING IN AND MANEUVERING THE SHIP CLOSER TO WHERE THE TWO WERE AT TO MAKE IT EASIER ON THEM TO LOAD EVERYTHING BACK UP. **TERMITE** WADDLED OVER, STACKING BOX AFTER BOX NEAR THE LOADING BAY OF THE SHIP WHILE **CAZETTE** TOOK INVENTORY OF ALL THEY HAD OBTAINED.

IT WAS DARK BY THE TIME THEY FINISHED CATALOGUING AND LOADING, THEIR SHIP WAS ALMOST AT MAX WEIGHT CAPACITY IF NOT A LITTLE OVER, BUT NOW THEY COULD RELAX AND ENJOY THE TRIP BACK TO SKIRE. THEY STRAPPED BACK INTO THEIR FAMILIAR ZONES, AND BEGAN THE ASCENT BACK TO THEIR KNOWN LIVES WITH PLENTY OF LOOT TO SHARE WITH THOSE AROUND THEM.

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