

It was entertainment.

Then it became genuine curiosity.

Curiosity became an interest.

Now, Vacant found himself in the companions of a cccat named Caligosto, or Cali, and a crook named Ravine.

The pair crossed paths with the nautipod in the woods. They didn't see him at first, but Vacant saw them. Boredom was starting to consume his entire being when the dark nautipod saw two figures trudging through the otherwise empty woods. Curious, Vacant followed them. He hadn't meant for them to see him, but when they did he kept his distance. He stood at the edge of their camp and just stared. Other times, he would creepily peek out from behind a tree...just watching. Staring. Unblinking. It didn't take long for Vacant to become hooked on their reactions.

The stiffening of their bodies.

The silence that fell over the cccat and crook.

The eyes that either widened in surprise or narrowed in suspicion.

Then the reactions grew more agitated and hostile.

They started to confront him from a distance.

Once they tried to chase him off only for Vacant to return a couple minutes later.

Then...the strangest thing happened. The pair weirdly got used to the nautipod "haunting" them, and their reactions plateaued.

The "haunting" didn't stop after Ravine and Caligosto left the woods. The 'haunting' continued even after they got an apartment together.

Vacant didn't let four walls and a ceiling stop him. No, he found ways to slip into the apartment. The pair would find Vacant randomly sprawled on their couch, or staring at his reflection in their bathroom, or just creepily standing in the corner of a room and just watching. Vacant's dark body blended in with the shadows in the room, and oftentimes Caligosto and Ravine wouldn't see him until a pair of glowing unblinking eyes looking straight at them.

Again, for unknown reasons, Ravine and Caligosto grew used to Vacant's presence. Gradually and naturally, Vacant just ended up moving in with the pair...without any announcement or discussion the strange duo became a stranger trio.

Now, Vacant found himself living with two other beings. It was...a strange experience. A new experience...an unusual experience...but not...a bad one.

Sure, Vacant sometimes struggled sharing space with not one but two other individuals. He had to learn how to compromise and communicate. The biggest obstacle for him, however, was learning to live with different personalities, opinions, and needs.

Ravine was a traumatized individual haunted by the screams and wails of his tragic past. Vacant often struggled to get a read on the crook, for his stoic countenance masked any and all emotions. Despite the stoicism, Ravine was a protective fatherly figure, paternal at times, even to the fully grown cccat and nautipod.

Caligosto on the other hand was a reserved cccat who seemed to carry a burdened past of his own. Most of the time, Vacant co-existed with Caligosto peacefully, but the nautipod often found himself on the other end of the cccat 's short temper.

Once Vacant integrated into the group and became more than just a creepy bystander, he started to adjust. It was not easy at first, and at times he still found himself struggling with personality clashes. He had to adjust to Ravine's stoicism and learn to accept his protectiveness. Vacant grew accustomed to Caligosto's short temper and learned what triggered the tempers. In addition, Vacant had to learn to voice his opinions, needs, and wants. The nautipod is not a very vocal individual, so he often found himself growing frustrated or annoyed by the other two when they did know what he was thinking.

Sure, there were times when the all three got into arguments, and Vacant sometimes found himself questioning his companions...but...despite the struggles...it was better than being alone. Vacant had lived a good portion of his life alone, and now he was ready to walk through the next part of his life his life with his companions.