

This is a collaborated piece between Aberrantkapro and Dillyweed.
Split-submissions are defined by a thick line and a word.

Which character | (WRITTEN BY)

Submission **one** starts here. *Focus character: Zheis*

Zheis | ([DILLYWEED](#))

It was cold in the first room they entered and Zheis doubted it would get any hotter as they ventured further into the area. There was a clear layer of frost on every wall and ice crystals hanging from the ceiling. He made sure to not stop directly under one as it seemed to almost threaten him with its existence. It seemed like a very quick, easy breeze would knock it down. Sure it was only ice, but it was *sharp* ice. Zheis shook his entire body so that the scruffs he had on him floofed up. He needed all the help with keeping his heat up that he possibly could. They had barely been there more than a couple of minutes and he was already feeling the ice cold room biting his skin over and over again. It made him want to move around. That biting feeling. It felt like it crawled under his skin. Zheis walked over to the computer. It had a thin layer of ice on it. The screen looked frosty and even if it worked he doubted he could see any vital information on it. The keyboard was hanging from the table, dangling still as he moved past it to look at the papers. There was a small stack of papers on the table by the computer screen. Even the papers looked like they had been frozen together. More paper was covering the floor all around the table. They were frozen into the floor by now. Looking like they were part of the floor. He tried to glance at them to see if he could understand anything but the papers were either blank, upside down or the ink had faded with time as they got frozen. He tried scratching carefully at them but there was a rather thick layer of ice above them. Not just frost covering the top so he quickly gave up and kept walking. There were more computer screens but none of them seemed to work and he doubted that he and Fudge would be able to find any that actually worked and gave them any useful information. He shook his head and walked to the door. There was so little they could actually find in this first room that he doubted they should waste any of their body heat keeping at it. He pushed open the door a bit extra so that he could pass without any of his many horns touching too much of it. He glanced back at Fudge. They had gotten to know each other at least a tiny bit in the control room.

“I’ll be heading in here.” He called. Feeling relieved that they didn’t have to whisper anymore. The other room was a bit different. Many more tables and computers but there were also big pods standing at one side of the room. This looked like they could find more interesting things in. He carefully stepped into the room. The same cold feeling as the other one. Maybe even colder. But it could be his imagination sparkling in his head. This room was, after all, quite a bit bigger. (523)

Fudge | ([ABERRANTKAPRO](#))

The utah was starting to shiver as the odd pair now made it through to a much colder area than the control room where they had previously been. They had to escape somewhere as

neither of them seemed to feel like trying to fight, so heading back towards the exit seemed to be the best cause of action.

She didn't remember everything being so cold before, but surely this was the same place as she had gone through on her way down, maybe she just took a different turn? She wasn't sure. All she knew is that she had no time to stand still or her feet would surely freeze to the floor just like all the paper and posters scattered about. She looked around, curious about all the seemingly dead electronics. Despite having done a great job in the control room, she doubted they could do anything at all to fix these machines, which was a shame.

Zheis called out to her and she looked over as the green herbivore spoke and then entered a new room, and she followed him in without hesitation.

Well in the room she could spot a lot more interesting stuff and started to scout the room. It almost felt even colder in here and the frost and ice almost burnt the soles of her feet as she walked. She tried to distract herself from the discomfort by looking at the various frozen specimen tubes. They were so frosty that one could barely see what was inside, but after staring at enough of them she started to realise that inside those tubes were multiple different specimens of dinosaurs that roamed the island. What in the world were they here for? She could make out another utah in one of the tubes, it looked so peaceful in there, as if in an everlasting slumber. It was almost a beautiful, yet grotesque sight to see. Was the fellow dinosaur dead? Alive but in deep sleep? Had it ever been alive at all? She had so many questions, yet no way to get answers.

Fudge shook her head in an attempt to snap out of her thoughts, as she knew she would never get to know what had happened or what could happen, and she left to the other side of the room to look at whatever was over there instead. She occasionally ruffled up her feathers in an attempt to keep frost and cold out. She hated the cold and would prefer to not have to experience it more than necessary, but for some reason she felt compelled to continue exploring the deep frozen area. She wasn't sure what it was herself, but something was motivating her.

She gently dragged her sharp claws over some frosted folders and binders, and accidentally knocked one down on the floor in the process. As it hit the floor, the thin layer of frost and ice shattered and the binder opened with a crisp crunch. She looked down in it and could vaguely make out a photograph of what looked like a juvenile theropod. She could tell it wasn't a utah like herself, it was way too big for that, so her second guess was that it was an acro.

Carefully she flicked the pages in the binder, and eventually she found an eerily familiar looking dinosaur. It looked like a much smaller, and hence younger, Nidhogg. However, he was confined in a tube just like the other dinosaurs in this room. Though it didn't look like he was frozen, which suggested that this area was once just a normal workplace.

"Zheis, I found something. It looks like Nidhogg." Fudge said after staring at the image in disbelief for a while. She almost felt like her eyes were playing tricks and needed a second pair of eyes to confirm whatever was there. She couldn't trust her own senses right now.

(650 words)

Zheis | ([DILLYWEED](#))

Zheis, I found something. It looks like Nidhogg.

The speed at which Zheis turned seemed too fast for a dinosaur of his wide figure. But he quickly realised that Fudge wouldn't have sounded so casual if it actually was Nidhogg that had somehow followed them here. Zheis walked up to her and looked down at what she was looking at. From what he had seen of Nidhogg it certainly looked like him. He had to tilt his head to be able to look down at the paper properly, all of his horns tended to be in the way for him.

“And look at that thing beside him.” Zheis said. There was a human by the side of the tube that Nidhogg was shoved inside. It was hard to see the face of the human as the binder had frost damage that had eroded her face by now. But the human was standing beside the tube holding some sort of clipboard in her hands, looking at Nidhogg in the tube. Zheis almost wished that these images could move. It could tell them so much more than what the image did. Why was he in a tube? Was it this room? It looked like it. There were computers everywhere, and all the other cryopods standing by the wall were still there. Beside the one that Nidhogg was in. Zheis left Fudge to keep looking through the book as he walked up the tubes. The one in the middle was empty. It really looked like it could have been Nidhogg in there. But it was hard to believe that such a big creature ever came from such a small tube. Obviously there had been traces of humans all through the facility. There were pictures in the break rooms and documents everywhere in human writing. But seeing them interacting like that with dinosaurs. What they were doing in here could be hidden for the rest of existence.

Zheis looked over at the other tubes. There were still dinosaurs in there. He hadn't looked so closely yet but now he could see the shapes through the frosted glass of the tube. They looked just as if they were asleep. Sleeping inside the icy tubes. As if they could wake up any moment. Except of course that they didn't move at all. There were no breaths, no jerking off a leg. It was perhaps the only thing that truly gave them away. It made it so much easier to believe that they weren't alive. It made it easier to leave them there.

Zheis shook his head. There was no reason to dwell in these frozen creatures after all he had to tell himself. He turned back to Fudge. They had to keep looking around. Standing still too long could mean death for them in this extreme cold.

He walked up to one of the tables and carefully tried to open one of the drawers on it. The ice and frost made it hard to do without accidentally ripping the whole table from its place. He could hear the ice break when he tried to jerk it. And the legs of the table scrape against the frozen floor. The drawer didn't want to break. The wood most likely had been expanded inside the drawer during the time it took to freeze this entire place.

“I think most of these are completely frozen through.” He said to Fudge as he looked around the room. If they could heat the tales up he could probably jerk it out. **“Perhaps we should continue to the next room and see if we can find something else. But save that book.”** He said and nodded to the book with the picture of Nidhogg. (621)

((1794 words total)) Submission **one** ends here.

Submission **two** starts here. *Focus character: Fudge*

The odd pair flicked from page to page once Zheis had made his way over, Fudge really couldn't believe her eyes, it all felt so surreal. How could creatures so small contain something so dangerous and vicious? What could they do so well to handle such a terrifying beast? Did they create him, and if so, why?

Fudge could feel a headache creeping up on her, she just kept getting more and more questions, but no answers were in sight. After a while Zheis started moving over to where she herself had previously been looking at frozen dinosaurs. She shook her head, she needed to stop looking at all these eerie and menacing pictures, while she did want to know what had gone down here, she also didn't. Some things were better left unknown.

Once again, she started to look around all the clutter, hoping to find something else that might be useful or fun among the mess. When finding some heavy and frosted boxes, her interest peaked and she did her very best to get them open, but it was very hard. Frustrated that she couldn't get it open with her bare hands, she started looking around for any tools of sorts to aid her, and after pattering around for a while she managed to find a crowbar. She of course had no idea what this curved metallic object was, but she figured that it might work like her own bent claws, without the risk of breaking.

She once again approached the heavy boxes and did her best to hack away some ice to lodge the crowbar under the frozen shut lid. After some intense struggling and jumping on the crowbar, a loud crack could be heard and the iron bar fell to the floor. Shocked, Fudge jumped back a bit before approaching to see what she had uncovered. Pushing the lid open, a hiss could be heard as it depressurised. Inside were a lot of small, shiny pods. They were cold to the touch and had no visible way to open them up.

Intrigued, Fudge picked one out of the box and inspected it. She rolled it around a bit, stepped on it, scratched it, even chewed on it carefully to not hurt her teeth, but it was to no avail. Annoyed, she put it back and looked over to Zheis, who also was struggling to get something open, but he seemed to have given up.

"Most of these seem to be frozen through" he said, and Fudge nodded in agreement. He then suggested they move on and encouraged her to bring the binder they had previously looked through, so Fudge went ahead and closed it before scooping it up in her mouth, holding it carefully so as to not damage it with her sharp teeth.

The odd pair made their way to the next door room and fudge shuddered as she saw what was in there. There weren't cylindrical tanks like in the previous room, but instead gigantic ones built into the walls. The biggest one was broken, glass and ice scattered in front of it. She could only imagine that was where Nidhogg had escaped from. She looked over at Zheis in slight terror before pressing forward to explore the rest of the room.

Many tanks were way too frozen to see through the glass, but one one of them thought she saw some long necked, finned creature, an Aristo. She had never seen one before so she herself had no idea what it was, but there were multiple signs and pictures, some posters with some information about said species and so on. Not that she could read or understand human words, but she could see a more clear picture of the creature thanks to them.

She looked around a bit more and could also find some posters next to a frozen tank, it looked like across on the images, so she immediately came to the conclusion that this is where they all came from initially, and that they eventually just moved on to greener pastures. Who would want to live here, after all?

"Zheis, something really messed up has for sure happened here long ago. Whatever they did here wasn't safe." Fudge declared as she made her way over to some dead computers and monitors on the wall.

All of the machines and screens were glittering from all the frost, it almost looked magical. If only it wasn't such a dangerous place, Fudge would maybe even be able to appreciate everything in here, but that unfortunately couldn't be the case now.

She gently touched some screens and buttons, hoping they would work, hoping they might tell them something, but it was all for nothing. She sighed, disappointed that there was nothing she could do, nothing she could find out.

She placed the book on a table and started looking through it again to maybe find some clues or information. She was determined to learn at least something. (832 words)

Zheis | ([DILLYWEED](#))

The next room was even bigger. Everything was bigger. The tanks weren't cylindrical anymore. They looked like big windows in the wall. The biggest broken. Shattered glass on the floor had been completely covered in ice. Zheis walked up to it and knocked his horn carefully on the edges as he glanced inside it. There had been some liquid in here but now it was just simply ice. He could see a faint tint of green like some of the tubes had had. He simply shrugged and shook his head. This was all so weird. Creepy even. What could they have been doing here? What was with all these frozen dinosaurs inside of tubes and walls. This entire place got under his skin. Made his nerves dance. He took a careful lap of the room. Looking at all the posters on the walls. Most of the ink had faded by the years and the frost that covered everything in the rooms didn't help it either. He could see some words on them but he didn't understand any of it. The pictures were all too faded to be able to see what they were portraying. Zheis kept going. There were more screens on the walls here it seemed. Bigger screens. And one big wall that was just empty of anything. He stopped to look at it. There was nothing special about it really, it was just empty except for one small vent up in the top corner. It was obscured by frost and ice and most likely didn't blow much air anymore into the room. Zheis eyes moved to the ceiling. There was a random box hanging on the roof. It was either pointing at the empty wall or at the big, window tank on the opposite side. He wondered why the box would be hung in the middle of the room like that. But he sadly didn't see any way that he would solve that mystery. After having taken a slow round around the room he arrived back at Fudge who was looking into a tank with a dinosaur in it. There was information all around the tank. But he couldn't read any of it. He tried to look in on the dinosaur. As closely as he could get. The fins and the long neck. He was sure that he had a vague memory of having seen something similar at some point but couldn't fully remember where. He shook his head.

Zheis, something really messed up has for sure happened here long ago. Whatever they did here wasn't safe.

"Well." He said slowly as he gave the room a long glance. **"You can say that again."** He looked back at Fudge. There was no doubt in his mind that whatever these creatures were doing here with these dinosaurs; it was stupid and dangerous. Yet there was a tiny bit inside of him that wanted to continue looking. Find answers. Look for clues and solve the big mystery of what the humans were doing in a place like this with dinosaurs like these.

He could see that Fudge was going around touching things. Buttons and everything alike. It was quite clear just from looking at the cold room that anything that used to work was either so frozen that it wouldn't start or so broken by the coldness that it would never work again. Zheis for one believed in the second one. He thought everything in the room, including the dinosaurs still in their tank, were dead. Completely dead. But it didn't hurt. At least he didn't believe it would. To just explore and press as many buttons in here as they possibly could. He looked around the room and went up to some computers and remotes. Trying to press anything he could grab. One of the remotes fell to the floor and he accidentally stepped on it. He was quite sure that the clicking sound meant he had broken it. Could you break something that was already broken? He asked himself when he could hear the sound of something buzzing. He stopped in his tracks.

“Can you hear that Fudge?” He asked her quietly. **“That buzzing sound? It started when I stepped on this thing.”** Was something alive? (708)

((1540))

Submission **two** ends here.

Submission **three** starts here. *Focus character: Zheis*

Fudge | ([ABERRANTKAPRO](#))