

“Are we there yet?”

Oddity smiled to itself at Kitty's question, which had been repeated maybe some dozens of times since the duo left their home for Meteor Lake.

Kitty was still young and had much of Skire to explore, and Oddity was all too happy to be a part of each journey. It was very nostalgic, being able to revisit all of the places that Oddity itself had visited as a younger wormling. That had been by itself, though. Oddity was glad that this time, it could share this experience with family.

“Almost,” replied back Oddity, having said *this* phrase an equal amount of times. It grinned at the eager huff Kitty let out in response.

“I'm just so excited to get there! I've always wanted to meet a nautipod! Is it true that they've been here since the meteor first formed the lake? Do you think anyone living there remembers that happening?” Kitty bounced with every step, hopping from foot to foot and wagging their tail. Their excitement was palpable and infectious, and Oddity couldn't help a small delighted flick of its tail.

“Maybe we'll just have to ask around and see what everyone knows? I'm sure you could chat with vendors in Luelor, I hear everyone in town is very sociable.”

The pair continued to travel along the cobbled path toward the Lake, up the lip of the crater created by the Meteor. The Lake existed in a sort of natural bowl structure, with the various settlements fanned out both around the edges of the vast lake itself and nestled into the cliffs around its perimeter.

When finally the lake came into view over the lip of the hill, Kitty's excitement layered on so thick that Oddity could practically *feel* the vibrations radiating in warm, electrifying waves off of their fur like static sparks. Pride gripped Oddity's soul as they stood side by side to take in the view.

From their view of the whole lake, the pair took in the explosion of life and colour ringed all the way around the water and dotted into the cerulean waves and sandy cliffsides. Reds, blues, and yellows complimented each other in a bright, tropical welcoming toward anyone who laid eyes on the fishing settlement. Boats drifted lazily to and fro through the water, with Skireans of all backgrounds and lifestyles either enjoying the lovely day out on the water or hauling impressive aquatic catches from the depths.

Meteor Lake drew in residents and visitors from all corners of Skire as a whole, inviting everyone into its playful, electric atmosphere. There was something for everyone here, whether it be for the bustling fishing economy or the promise of a peaceful beach life of retirement.

Established branches of the settlement were connected by an extensive network of wooden boardwalks and dock extensions to park vessels or fish off of. Buildings and market stalls lined

the shore side of the boardwalk, facing out toward the bright blue water and offering a beautiful view of the lake while one did their shopping.

Residential areas were more tucked into each other, with fishing huts and cabins build up and out over time as the community expanded, some even built more out into the lake with connecting bridges that could bring them back into town. Other residences were built into the sturdier cliffside of the basin, constructed to follow the natural shapes of the Meteor's impact zone.

Kitty's eye sparkled with delight as they took in every possibility at once.

"Can we go? Right now? I can't wait any longer!" They looked just a moment away from bolting all the way down into the basin full speed.

Oddity smiled and nudged their shoulder, twining their tails together. "Let's go, I can't wait to show you everything. Where do you want to go first?"

"I'll have to see when I get there! I wanna see it all!"