

In this chapter, a tense situation unfolds as the protagonist encounters a group of colleagues near the main lock, including Marshall, Dugan, and some Security personnel. The atmosphere is thick with anxiety as a monitor reveals a blackened mass in the lock, identified as Gallaher, who has suffered severe injuries after an assault from an unidentified creature, later determined to be "creepers." The crew's desperate measures to control the situation led to venting plasma into the lock, a decision that left Gallaher critically wounded.

As the protagonist processes the urgency, Berto reveals that the attackers are creepers, creatures with formidable mandibles capable of causing devastating damage. Dugan expresses surprise over the lack of concrete data on these creatures and urges the protagonist—who has had unsettling personal encounters with the creepers—to assist in procuring vital information. The urgency escalates as Marshall orders the team to gear up and prepare for a thorough scan and eradication of any creepers in the vicinity, stressing the dangers they pose to the colony.

As the group heads out, other characters exhibit a mix of skepticism regarding armor use in snowy conditions, with Dugan adamantly arguing for its necessity after witnessing the lethal power of the creepers. The protagonist shares some trepidation, recounting personal trauma but ultimately gearing up for action. The soldiers embark into the harsh, cold environment of Roanoke, reflecting on past failures in similar situations, hinting at the hostile nature of the planet.

The narrative shifts to the protagonist's internal contemplation of the precarious situation. As they prepare for potential confrontation with the creepers, the threat becomes painfully real when Dugan finds himself ensnared by one of the creatures. Tension peaks as Dugan disappears beneath the snow, and the protagonist, alongside Cat, must react quickly to fend off the threat and escape with evidence of the encounter, fighting against the odds in the bitter cold and amid the chaos of their dire straits. The chapter ends with a cliffhanger, leaving readers anxious for the outcome of their struggle against the creepers.