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The chapter opens with Berto, the pilot, reflecting on the chaotic events of a recent sortie where three people died, eliciting a cold reaction from Cat, who is visibly affected. Tension fills the cockpit as Cat confronts Berto about his failure to warn them about the presence of deadly creepers, which ultimately led to the mission's grim outcome. Berto, seemingly embarrassed, apologizes but tries to justify his actions, leading to a heated exchange with Cat.

After the landing, Cat and the narrator confront Marshall, their superior, regarding the incident. Marshall is incensed, pressing them to explain why they prioritized their survival over helping Mr. Dugan when they were supposed to retrieve a creeper. The narrator attempts to articulate their reasoning, citing the mission's objectives and their judgment at the moment. Marshall, unimpressed, continues to scrutinize the duo, delivering harsh threats and emphasizing the significance of their actions given the dwindling colony population.

Frustration lingers post-briefing as Cat and the narrator digest their grim day over a meal. The cafeteria is filled with a tense air as survivors grapple with their losses. Cat expresses her disdain for Marshall's insinuation that her judgment could be clouded by personal feelings towards the narrator, asserting her professionalism. During their meal, Cat and the narrator joke, though the weight of recent events hangs heavy.

After the meal, the narrator shares tender moments with Nasha, exploring their complex relationships grounded in humor and past threats from their superior. In a heavy yet light-hearted manner, they dissect the bizarre nature of their colony's recent losses, voicing concerns over the mysterious creepers that managed to breach defenses without detection.

The chapter closes with the narrator haunted by unsettling dreams and visions from Midgard, revealing a troubled psyche amidst a dangerous reality. Overwhelmed by feelings of disorientation and fear, they confront the trauma of their existence and the uncertainties surrounding their survival in the unforgiving environment of the colony.