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In a dimly lit cafeteria, the protagonist, Mickey, shares a meal with his friend Berto, who playfully encourages him to indulge in the food available. Despite the atmosphere being slightly tense due to the presence of Security personnel, Berto, trying to ease the mood, orders rabbit meat, which shocks Mickey, but Berto insists that he's not willing to starve himself. Mickey feels out of place as the group's subject of ridicule. As they order food, Mickey can only keep his choices under a thousand kcal, hence settling for potatoes, fried crickets, and a small salad.

Berto reminisces about a daring aerial maneuver he performed in a flitter weeks earlier, claiming he gathered bets on his ability to fly through a narrow rock formation. Mickey, initially impressed, becomes furious upon realizing the gamble involved risking his own life for mere calories. Berto brushes it off as no big deal, but Mickey's frustrations boil over as he realizes that their friendship has been tarnished by this reckless behavior.

Their tension escalates when Darren, a member of the Security team, confronts them at the table. Initially trying to dismiss it, the situation escalates as Darren pokes Berto, pressing him. Berto retaliates, leading to a physical confrontation that quickly spirals into chaos with Security personnel joining in. Mickey finds himself tackled to the ground as he tries to help but is overpowered.

The aftermath unfolds in Marshall's office, where the two friends contend with the consequences of their actions. Marshall, the authority figure, probes them about the fight. Berto captures the mood of the incident as a misunderstanding, deflecting blame towards Darren. Adjusting the narrative and leveraging surveillance footage showing Berto's reckless stunt, Marshall critiques Security's judgment while resolving that Berto must face increased scrutiny, reduced rations, and additional work duties. Berto's previous antics and disregard for rules weigh heavily as Mickey shares in the consequences, receiving a ration reduction for merely being associated with Berto. In a tense atmosphere, both walk away realizing their precarious positions within the colony.