

In this chapter, the dynamics of power and fear are portrayed as characters—Mickey, Nasha, and Eight—are marched down a corridor by two goons. As they descend the central stairs, tension builds; Nasha challenges their captors about the legality of their actions, which leads to a hostile exchange where the bigger goon dismisses her threats. Instead of being taken to a cyclor or a dungeon, they find themselves in a Security ready room filled with weapons and snacks, an odd setting for prisoners. The goons leave them, warning them to stay away from the equipment, provoking Nasha to attempt accessing a locker unsuccessfully.

Amid the precarious situation, the trio contemplates their predicament. Nasha jests about their possible demise while Eight reassures her that as a crucial atmospheric pilot, she is not in immediate danger. The camaraderie among them reveals their shared anxiety and fatalism; Mickey reflects on the immutability of their situation—they are trapped in a dome that feels more like a cold jail than a safe haven on a harsh planet called Niflheim. Nasha's attempt to joke about her fate reveals underlying tension, as they all realize the precariousness of their lives.

As time passes, a new goon named Lucas appears, revealing to Mickey and Eight the gravity of their situation—Marshall, the authority figure, is upset about the emergence of two versions of Mickey. This eventually leads to a confrontation in Marshall's office, where Marshall's anger is palpable. He accuses them of theft and misjudgment regarding their existence as multiples. The chapter escalates as Marshall declares that both of them must go into the cyclor, while also casting suspicion on Nasha's involvement.

The narrative culminates with Marshall's ominous claim that their shared life might cost them their existence, marking a significant turning point in their struggle for survival. The characters confront the reality of their situation—a possible and disturbing end, intertwined with the notion of identity and what it means to be human in a brutal environment. Mickey's reflection about the cyclical nature of their lives encapsulates the existential dread hanging over them, leading to uncertain fates ahead.