

In the chapter, the narrative unfolds about the unexpected arrival of spring on Niflheim, approximately a year after the colonists' arrival. As temperatures rise, snow melts, revealing exposed soil that quickly becomes covered with lichen, hinting at potential agricultural growth. The reason behind this seasonal change remains unclear; mission planners had anticipated a stable climate due to Niflheim's nearly circular orbit and negligible axial tilt. However, upon investigation, it turns out they ignored a previously documented periodic variation in stellar output attributed to the sun's marginally variable nature.

At first, the colonists delight in the change, but concerns arise regarding potential extreme weather fluctuations. Fortunately, conditions stabilize to a comfortable climate, promoting agricultural testing outside the habitation dome. Amidst this positive shift, the protagonist, Mickey, decides to explore outside with Nasha, although they still need rebreathers due to low oxygen levels. Their journey leads them to reminisce about Midgard's arid desert and potential life rapidly responding to rare precipitation, drawing a parallel with Niflheim's budding biosphere, where new plants and creatures emerge.

As they venture away from the dome, Mickey reveals his secret intent—checking on something important near the creeper-infested area. After navigating the landscape, they uncover an entrance to an underground tunnel, where Mickey retrieves a concealed bomb that was once left buried there. There's tension as Nasha questions the nature of the bomb and why Mickey kept it hidden from their superiors, particularly Marshall, who would have deemed it a threat.

Mickey explains his reasoning for leaving it with the creepers as a protective measure against potential use against their colony. After securing the bomb again, they ponder the implications of its hidden existence, acknowledging the risks involved. With no immediate plan for the future or contingencies should Marshall remain alive, Nasha expresses her concerns about their precarious situation. The chapter concludes with the couple deciding to return to the dome, leaving the explosive secret behind as a significant yet unresolved concern.