

Ice ice baby

By Aylin Sajark

"Are you sure we need to be here?" Aylin whined from under the extra blanket she pulled around her before they left the shuttle, "It's only a little better than Hoth on a summer day."

Ankira smirked under her helmet, "I got more reason to whine than you do. You asked me to join up after your boss sent you here."

There was no reaction, but the puff of fog leaving the blankets told her enough. She didn't mind the cold as much as Aylin did, her original home planet was cold as well, but she did wonder why she got asked above Zehsaa.

Whatever the reason was, they are here now, standing on an ice plateau. Their scanners didn't reveal much when they got close to the planet only that it mostly consisted of ice and oceans, but there was a signal from there as well, which peaked their interest in the planet.

"So... which way are we going?"

"My early scans showed some electrical activities not far from here, so I guess we will go there first," Aylin answered.

"Very well. Leave the blanket here, it will slow us down."

"But!"

Ankira turned towards Aylin who sighed and dropped the blanket. "Fine, you win."

With that the two of them set off, the rest of the team stayed behind and did some onsite readings and other analyses.

They had been trudging through the snow for some time now. Aylin had stopped complaining that it was cold as the exercise had warmed her up. Ankira held a scanner up to see if the signal was still around. It was, but the strange thing now was that they were directly above it.

"Hey Aylin, we are at the strongest point of the signal, but it seems it comes from underneath us."

"Underneath us?" Aylin looked down at her feet and frowned, "You mean there are caves under the snow and ice?"

Ankira shrugged, "Seems that way. We only need to figure out how to get there."

Aylin looked back down the trail they left in the snow and sighed softly, "I don't want to walk back the whole route again." She turned towards Ankira and grinned, "Why don't we dig into the cave?"

Ankira stared at her for a few moments and shook her head, "You can't be serious. Even if it would work, we have no idea how far the drop into the cave would be."

"We don't know if we don't try," Aylin said as she had already dug quite a hole, "Come on and help me."

With a sigh Ankira started to help Aylin with the digging of the hole in the snow. It took them longer than expected to reach the ice layers beneath it, but when they did they could see almost clear ice. Aylin took one of her tools and started hacking away at the ice. Lucky for them the ice wasn't as thick as the layers of snow had been and with the help of a few blaster shots they had a hole they could look down through.

Below them they saw buildings and some dim lights, they could hear some sounds of machines too.