

Submission #4

By [pyanry@gmail-com](mailto:pyanry@gmail.com) / 12 April 2023

A Mission to the Unknown

When I gazed upon the shimmery stars that filled the dark atmosphere, I pondered what mysteries it holds. “Space. A wonder on its own.” I whispered to myself, while staring off into the distance. “Attention space cadets! We’re on a mission to discover a new planet!” yelled the captain on board while staring at us. I bolted to the communications room and looked for anything unusual on sonar.

One of the cadets, ~~called~~ Naomi discovered something that was drifting in space. “Captain! An unknown object ahead! It looks like some kind of lifeform.” Naomi announced, curiously looking at it, while pointing towards it. As the captain instructed me to take a look and bring it in, I quickly suited up my space gear and opened the reinforced iron door. Floating, I contained it in a super high tech cage that automatically caught the lifeform. All the other cadets were shocked by what it was. It was a green bud with luminescent yellow bulbs around it.

can use more vivid imagery, 'although the shell appeared tough, cracks began to form along the smooth surface.

The dull thumps from inside became clearer as the sound of cracking began echoing through the cabin.'

Making ~~weird snapping sound,~~ it hatched into an unearthly beast. It had twenty yellow glowing eyes, scaly lime green skin that faded into aquamarine, razor sharp teeth and a glowing orange tail. “In my fifty years of experience in space, I have never met a lifeform that is some sort of species that could live without oxygen!” exclaimed the Captain, staring at it with amazement in his eyes. After testing it in the lab, we made the world’s first discovery of an unusual lifeform ~~that is~~ outside our planet. In honour of our discovery we all agreed that the species will be called Hydralocous Zenosis or Hydra for short.

a unclear whether Hydra is the name of the species or of the single creature, should be 'the hydra' if species

All of the sudden, Hydra started to get aggressive! He started destroying important equipment in seconds, easily taking enormous bites into everything and turning it into dust. Naomi rushed to the weapons room while chaos was happening in the lab. She brought a tranquiliser gun and shot Hydra in the tail. As soon as he fell asleep, she gently placed him in the containment room and slowly crept towards the lab. As soon as the captain entered the lab, he was shocked about the destruction that was caused. Shattered pieces of beakers, test tubes, microscopes and other items were destroyed. "What happened here!" the captain yelled while looking at the mess. "Hydra's aggressive behavior was the cause of this, sir." Naomi apologized with an ashamed look on her face.

I called the captain when I discovered something strange on sonar. We were far out of our solar system and I found a large spherical object that was about the size of Jupiter. Squinting his eyes, the captain realised that I discovered a planet! Pondering, I thought to myself "What if this is Hydra's home?".

"Land the ship Naomi! Cadets, suit up!" instructed the captain. "Sir yes sir!" replied the cadets. As I suited up and entered this new planet, I had a strange feeling in my gut. It was like a close connection that I had never felt before. It was peculiar indeed, but then I started to notice patches of green appearing on my skin in a flash. All of a sudden, a flash of light went through my mind showing me that I was part of the species.

As the cadets were taking samples and finding more about the planet, I rushed to the captain and I told him about how Hydra and I could be related. "You have a great imagination, but you should be understanding more about the planet." said the captain, laughing hysterically. After that, everything started to look blurry and my skin was turning yellow. The pain felt unbearable and everything turned black. "Captain! One of the cadets just fainted" yelled Naomi with a scared look on her face. "Cadets! Back to the rocket and take her to the health room!" instructed the Captain.

As I slowly opened my eyes I saw twenty of everything and all of it was yellow! My skin was scaly but I couldn't understand a single thing that the cadets were saying. When I went to the mirror in the room, I looked like Hydra but a human! As I walked towards the containment room I saw Hydra awake. "Before you went on the planet, I was trying to tell you that you weren't like the other human cadets. Since you have realised that you are not what you think you are, you have reached the ability to talk with other Creptilius Weratra or the Creptili for short." whispered Hydra. Wide eyed, I turned my head towards the planet realising that I was part of an unearthly species...

Feedback: Overall a compelling and engaging narrative. There could be more use of sensory imagery aside from just visual to engage and immerse the reader into the story.

Structure: The story flows well and has a clear structure. Some transitions could be improved, for example, 'All of a sudden, Hydra started to get aggressive!'. This is quite abrupt. It would be good to set the scene prior to this happening.

Narrative: There could be more elaboration when the character is entering the planet, communicating clearer as to what is happening and how the character has come to the conclusion that he is part of the species. For example, why doesn't he conclude there may be an alien disease that's causing the changes that are happening.

Grammar and Vocabulary: More descriptive language could be used, especially sensory language. How does the character experience their surrounding through their senses?