

Kapok

by Augustine Persing

On a world far far away lives little red-orange men about three feet tall; Neolites they are called. They live on the planet Neutron (which is a gas giant) in floating city states. They breathe neon gas. Now these city states are always at war over a nearby moon with very valuable resources. This moon does not have neon in the atmosphere, so the neolite have to bring it with them.

Kapok is a young corporal in the Navy. One day on his way to the moon to deliver supplies to his faction's outpost he was ambushed. Kapok escaped, but with a lot of damage to his ship. He crash landed on the moon and survived. As always, the ship was equipped with neon. All his communication devices shorted out in the crash, so he got out of the ship, put on a suit with a standard one-hour-and-thirty-minute supply of neon and looked around. As he was only three feet tall it took him one hour four minutes to walk a mile. He walked fifty feet and saw that the ship was about three miles away from his outpost. He stared back to his ship to get more supplies. Just then he heard a hiss then BOOM: the ship had exploded! All his neon went up in a glowing mushroom cloud of red-orange gas hovering over where his ship lay with all of his supplies.

"Why?!" he cried out in despair. The only thing he could do was attempt to walk to the outpost, knowing he did not have enough neon to make it. Half way through the journey he began to pass out. The last thing he remembered was a bright light.

Kapok woke up a few days later in a hospital bed. He sat up and saw his sergeant and asked him how he got here. The sergeant said, "We saw the explosion of your neon. So we went out and followed your footsteps till we found you."

There is always a rainbow after every storm.