

as I slide off and into cold, empty space.

Entry 7:

Today is an incredible day. The dark folds of space never looked so beautiful because today, a reason to live got tangled up inside my net. It was another book!

As I brushed the glossy cover and turned the pages, I saw pictures of tall poles with many long protrusions and translucent green appendages hanging from them. I have named them *Green Tops*. There was an immense tub of liquid that I call *The Blue* that had curious beings with webbed fingers living in it. There were also depictions of stretches of flat land that were covered in *white* sand with spiky green things growing out of it! In this strange place dwelled tall *orbwalker* creatures with four limbs, unlike any of the other beasts! How peculiar! And the sky there is blue! *Blue!!!*

Entry 8:

I've been thinking about The Place From the Book a lot, and the more I think about it, the less appealing it seemed. I mean, it's too good to be true. Is it really likely that such peculiar beings could exist? And how is the sky blue? There's no way to explain it. It's probably just the work of someone with a very, very big imagination...

Entry 9:

I had another dream last night. I dreamt that I was in The Place again, but this time there were the strange orbwalkers with four arms that I saw in the book. They were standing in a green field surrounded by "green tops." I tried talking to the orbwalkers, but they ignored me, like I was invisible. I tried waving at them, shouting, throwing things, but they ignored me. In a last-ditch effort, I ran up to an orbwalker and tapped it on the shoulder. Suddenly, it crumbled into sand. Red sand. Then everyone else turned to sand before me. The "green tops" toppled and disintegrated into red sand. The blue sky peeled off, revealing black space behind it, and to my horror, I realized that I was back home, alone with dark skies and sand and empty once more.

Entry 10:

They touched down on the surface of my orb this morning. The four-limbed *nofaces*. At first, I thought it was another dream, or maybe just my imagination, but then I felt a tremor in the ground and lifted my head to see flames rippling out from a huge cylinder. Something distorted the red air as sand sprayed everywhere. As the vessel came to a stop, some bizarre clicking noises came from it, and out stepped four towering orbwalkers. Their skin was white and puffy with strange brandings everywhere. Hard panels jutted from their chests with long, thin, multicolored strings extending and wrapping across their bodies. Their faces: empty pits, tar-black, like my sky. They loomed over the dunes. Stomping up dirt, they marched towards me, all the while stabbing the ground with sharp sticks, like they were trying to kill my orb. I stumbled away from them and hid behind a large dune.

Entry 11:

I've been observing the orbwalkers for a few days now, but today I blew my cover. I stuck my head out too far and one of them noticed. It shrieked, ran towards me, and shot a net at me into my chest. It stung.

The net dug into my skin as they hauled me towards them like I was sprubble. Their hollow faces glittered. Kicking like a dying twinkler, my arms flew up, ripping through the net and punching through the noface's dark, empty visage. It crumbled, revealing an inner layer that looked similar to the face of the orbwalkers from The Place! I watched, horrified, as its body toppled, red dust swirling over its convulsing body.

The other orbwalkers released the torn net. Dashing back to the vessel, they splashed sand and rocks into the dark air.

"Wait! Take me with you to The Place!"

The orbwalkers ran faster. *Slam*. The ground shuddered once more. Flames spurted from the undersides of the tank as it hovered above the ground. The door slammed, merging into the vessel once more as I clawed at it, my teeth clattering as the vessel screeched to life and lifted up. I saw the twinklers spin and blur before I hit the ground.

And as the vessel disappeared back into the darkest crevices of space, I realized that I had sealed myself in this world, far, far away from ever reaching The Place.