

Extract 2 from Red Mars (reference word: water)

But one night in his room her nerves were jangling, and lying there, unable to sleep, worrying about first this and then that, she said, "Do you think it would be possible to hide a stowaway on the ship?"

"Well, I don't know," he said, surprised. "Why do you ask?"

Swallowing hard, she told him about the face through the algae bottle.

5 He sat up in bed, staring at her. "You're sure it wasn't. . . ."

"It wasn't any of us."

He rubbed his jaw. "Well... I suppose if he were getting help from someone in the crew. . . ."

10 "Hiroko," Maya suggested. "I mean, not just because she's Hiroko, but because of the farm and all that. It would solve his food problem, and there's a lot of places to hide there. And he could have taken shelter with the animals during the radiation storm."

"They got a lot of rems!"

"But he could have gotten behind their water supply. A little one-man shelter wouldn't be too hard to set up."

John still hadn't gotten over the idea of it. "A whole year in hiding!"

"It's a big ship. It could be done, right?"

15 "Well, I suppose so. Yeah, it could, I guess. But why?"

Maya shrugged. "I have no idea. Someone who wanted on, who didn't make the selection. Someone who had a friend, or friends..."

"Still! I mean, a lot of us had friends who wanted to come. That doesn't mean that. . . ."

"I know, I know."

20 They talked about it for most of an hour, discussing the possible reasons, the methods that could have been used to slip a passenger on board, to hide him, and so on. And then Maya suddenly noticed that she felt much better; that she was, in fact, in a wonderful mood. John believed her! He didn't think she had gone crazy! She felt a wash of relief and happiness, and threw her arms around him. "It's so good to be able to talk to you about this!"

25 He smiled. "We're friends, Maya. You should have brought it up before."

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