The Farther One Travels

Splat!

Gooey purple liquid erupted from her chest, smacking against the clean wall.

He wrung his cloth and watched the water beneath swirl with ugliness. Hopelessness washed over him, and he dropped it into the bucket, pressing his palms into his eyes.

He couldn't face the figure wheezing behind him. He couldn't look into her eyes, now dull from the dust of this godforsaken planet. Anger bubbled in him. Anger at this place, this world, hell, even at those stupid enough to fund their mission.

A silver vial caught his eye, sparkling with the end it promised. It was time.