

PART 4 – READY TO MINE

P4T4 VLOG 4

Airlock engaged. Here I stand.

A world in black and white.

One boot print here will last a million years. Are you alright, Tazz? Do you copy?

Copy MIC. It's just...so vast and lonely. It looks abandoned. I feel as if I shouldn't walk on it.

(sound of breath)

I feel like a slow clumsy animal.

The Earth looks so small down there....so blue....so precious

My breathing sounds loud inside my helmet. The beat of my blood pumping pulses in my ears.

Do you have a visual of your vehicle?

Yes, MIC. Just going over there now.

Movements are hard in my suit; I bounce and grey sands puff out in clouds around me. It feels like I'm half-flying. I stamp, I leap, I swivel. Wow. I am light as air on the Moon's surface; I could be on a bouncy castle. I feel about 5 years old.

The mining area is a quick drive from here. I settle in the seat of my Moon buggy and familiarise myself with the controls. Two cameras operate at the side and top of the vehicle, swivelling to check for obstacles.

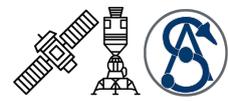
Good to go.

The Moon buggy will stop automatically if it detects a hazard.

Brilliant.

It's not like roads at home, then. No other cars. Yippee! I'm steering across the bumpy surface towards the parked equipment with the Mineralec Logo.

It's incredibly easy. And fun. No road. Big fat insulated wheels. I risk speeding up, bouncing over the surface, dust flying up in clouds. It seems so strange to think these rocks I've come to collect have



been undisturbed for two years since they were excavated by the machines. Nothing moves on the Moon unless it's struck by something.

I arrive at our boxes of rocks. They've been mined in the nearby craters and caves. My company are expert in designing robotic machinery which can drill and excavate here without the need for humans to be present. We won't be certain we have Dysprosium until I can analyse the samples back on Earth but there's a dark bluish glint that makes my heart leap. There are 20 small crates. I busy myself collecting four at a time and ferrying them back to the ship.

Gazing back at the Earth from here is the strangest loneliest feeling. The Earth is more beautiful than I had ever realised.

(I further day spent on Moon's surface for research).