



PART 5 – A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

PSTS – VLOG

So much of our life on Earth is about the balance between the natural world and the people. Even my mission is about gathering something that people need to live their lives. How would we live without our Smartphones? Now I'm leaving the Moon, the Earth down below me seems more extraordinary but also fragile. So fragile.

I feel very small in the universe. I'm not sure where these words came from but they sum up how I feel.

I'm the Woman on the Moon, looking down at the Earth
No man here, just bits of space kit up ahead
No world of cheese, rice pudding, honeycomb
Only grey and black rock, dusty, dry
And, of course, the Earth hanging in the sky

When I look down, when I see the oceans, The rivers; the green and blue beauty of Earth
Brown pollution clouds my view
Wish I could gather up our Earth
And hold it to me, safe
A great blue bauble, tarnished by time

So, reaching out my protective gloved hand
Across the black velvet sky
I pluck our planet, like a plum
Dust it off, clean it and hang it back there in the sky
Never to die.

What is this? I don't understand. What am I to do with this?

Don't worry MIC. It's just a poem. It's something humans do.

Preparing for lift-off. All systems are go.

Successful mission, Tazz?

I'll tell you when we get home MIC.

I've sealed the Moon rocks in liquid nitrogen-filled containers. Moon rocks are often amazing. I have a piece of one encased in Perspex in my office and it is staggeringly beautiful. The mineral is a midnight blue, like sky at night. It looks like someone shattered glass then pressed it all back together into a dark snowflake. But, when I cut a thin slice and put it under a microscope, I find rose pink clusters and blood red and grassy green tubes and flecks.

When I entered the ship through the airlock, the moon dust fizzled on my boots and a burning bonfire smell filled my nose. That's the smell of the Moon I'll take away with me. I'm letting myself think about home. Now I have the rocks safely collected, there's no reason not to. We've completed the checks.