

What's the Difference?

Grace's hands trembled as she escalated off the shuttle.

She had been briefed on lunar life, curious about it. Many Earthlings had migrated to the Moon's middle for an even climate in 2069. A Concierge-Bot saluted her, asking how many rocks she desired to detonate under the Sun for oxygen. "8 for today."

Some Lunetians were launching a satellite. It carried rocks containing water and oxygen, aiding exploration for life. It was easy to launch from the Moon: less gravitational force.

"Crater number?" the Concierge-Bot asked. *16034 in Colony 50*, Grace thought. "Mario will escort you." A Luna-Bot emerged, whispering, "Grace Welsh? Come with me."

"This is your new crater. Space real estate pioneered dwelling in lunar hollows immune to harmful rays. Look around." Botanists used lunar soil to grow crops, trees and plants. Hydrologists discovered that lunar water came from stones which never received radiation. A photo in Grace's crater revealed these scientists had won the Nobel Prize for making human life on the Moon possible. Now humanity had two options.

It would be hilarious if I could use my phone! Grace wondered. "Of course, you can!" cried Mario. "Lunar dust is electrically charged. Electrical engineers use it when dealing with currents."

"How do you know what I'm thinking?" she inquired.

"We've adapted to reading thoughts. Talking wastes precious oxygen!" Mario laughed.

Coming to the Moon would give other worlds the chance to survive here. Grace relaxed, because now she knew.