



Far from Tranquillity

By Ai Austin



On Satellite Belt K, high above Earth, lived two bright teenagers, Kemlo and Krillie. One morning, a message buzzed through their K-Pads. The Apollo 11 Offworld Heritage Site on the Moon needed their attention. Officials were worried about the increasing number of tourists.



Their mission was clear: assess the site's integrity. With a nod to each other, they headed for the launch bay. Soon, their sleek, two-seater green Space Runabout was ready. Kemlo took the controls, Krillie checked the navigation, and with a gentle hum, they departed Satellite Belt K, the vast, beautiful Moon hanging in space ahead, their destination.



The journey was swift. They landed the Space Runabout a little distance from the Apollo 11 site, the lunar dust settling softly around them. From their cockpit, they could see it all: the original landing stage, now with a replica ascent stage, making the Lunar Module look just as it did when Armstrong and Aldrin first set foot there. Nearby, two large Space Excursion vehicles and a group of brightly suited lunar tourists stood about fifty metres away.



Time to get a closer look. They donned their full spacesuits and globe helmets, the airlock hissing as they stepped out onto the lunar surface. The silence was profound, broken only by the crackle of their comms. They walked across the dusty terrain towards the tourist group, observing their respectful distance from the historic landing site.



The tourists were well-behaved, but as Kemlo and Krillie looked towards where Neil Armstrong's iconic 'First Step for (a) Man' remained as clear as the day it was made, they saw the potential for future issues. A stray child, an over-eager visitor – the site was vulnerable.



It was time for phase two of their mission. They turned and walked back to their Space Runabout. From its cargo hold, they retrieved two large carry bags, each surprisingly light in the low lunar gravity. These bags held the solution to their dilemma.



With their bags in hand, they began to walk in a wide circle around the Lunar Module, carefully placing tennis-ball-sized blue neon globes on the ground. One by one, the globes formed a perfect hundred-metre diameter ring, a shimmering blue outline against the grey lunar dust.



Once the circle was complete,
Kemlo tapped his wristband.
'Komputer, connect to Satellite
Belt K Control,' he instructed.
'Globes in position and ready for
activation.' A moment later, a
voice crackled back, confirming
receipt.



Back on Belt K, the command was given. Instantly, an almost invisible shimmering barrier, ten metres high and a hundred metres in diameter, sprang to life around Apollo 11. Kemlo and Krillie watched from outside the new perimeter, the tourist group and their vehicles now safely beyond it.



Inside the Space Runabout, helmets removed, Kemlo and Krillie looked out. The tourists still had clear views of the Lunar Module, but the heritage site was now protected. Suddenly, a group of children in bright spacesuits began running towards the barrier, bouncing off it like a vertical trampoline in the low gravity. Kemlo and Krillie laughed. The new barrier was already leading to some new 'Lunar Fun and Games'.