

Show Me Heaven

This is good but it needs to get darker, with more foreboding. The idea of the last line should act as a contrast to the reader's idea that what really happened is something bad.

Hi honey,

I've just packed everything up and I'm about to leave. I'll be sad to say good bye to this one as it's been one of the most beautiful systems I've been to. If you liked the last set of pictures have a look at the ones I've put with this mail.

The downside is the length of the report for this one. It took me three days to complete in the end. There was the much geo' data the probes had collected that I had to verify and then there was the usual notes on the failed signal. I know I've complained about the size of the pod before, but you really can't believe how difficult it is to spend three days eating, sleeping and writing in this thing. By the end of the second day I had almost decided to go for another trip out.

Still, it's all done now and I'll be out of here in about 15 minutes. This next site will be my last for this tour so I should be home in less than a week. Three months away from you has been far too long, but isn't it always.

I hope everything's okay back home. If you get chance send me a mail so I've got it when I revive. Give my love to your parents and think of me when I'm passing back through the hub.

Ciao

Thanks for the mail. I've been awake for two days now and I've read it so many times. Jimmy winning at sports day must have been brilliant. Tell him I want to see him re-enact that race again when I get back. The vase you have got for Roberta sounds like just the thing she'll like, so many you've finally made a good choice. <wink> You know I'm glad it's you going to that party and not me, I just couldn't stand another evening of hearing about how wonderful David is and what talented artists he is. I can see it now, "Oh, and you should see David's latest piece. I've told him so many times that he should have won the Robertson award. Don't you agree? The way he can capture movement with just a couple of brush strokes. Did I tell you about that etching he sold last year to the government? It's going on display in Concourse One, you know." Ha! If I had to hear that story one more time I'd be beating her with that vase. She'll probably have all her fawning friends there as well. Make sure you don't have too good a time, now, will you. <grin>

This new system seems interesting. The probe has picked up some interesting signals. You know I'm never one to get excited about some speculative readings, but these do look good. It would be so

good to find a signal that isn't just another anomaly. I can say for sure that it's not a glitch with the sensors, so I'm feeling hopeful.

I finished setting an adjustment that will bring me in closer to the planet. Hopefully I'll then be able to get a clearer idea of what's there.

Keep well, my love and don't give in to the children too easily. (It's no use denying it, I know you always do when I'm away. <wink>) I'll send another mail again in a few days when I'm packed up and heading home.

Ciao.

I know I said I wouldn't be sending you another mail until I was about to come home, but this is so exciting. Not only have I confirmed the signal and found its source but I've also found what looks like a structure.

I set a course to bring me in to a closer orbit around the planet I thought the signal was coming from, but when I got closer I found that it wasn't on the planet at all, but a small asteroid in orbit. There is plenty of debris out here so it could have been what remains of a ring that was never forming around the gas giant. I'm not certain as, to be honest, I've been concentrating most of my imaging on the structure on the rock.

That's right, a structure! I'm not sure what it is yet as I've not got close enough, but I'm pretty sure it's been constructed on the rock and from what I can tell it's not Human in origin.

My whole body is tingling with excitement. If there was enough room to jump around in this thing I would be. I can't find any signs of life and there aren't any signals from anywhere else in the system so I'm not sure what to make of it. My mind is in overdrive with theories.

I'll tell you more when I know more myself.

I'm breaking about three protocols with this message, but to be honest I don't care. What I've found is beyond anything I imagined I would ever discover.

I got in to a holding orbit over the asteroid this structure is on and was able to get a few closer look. I was able to confirm, even from that distance that this wasn't anything of Human design. The way it spread across the rock made it look more like a piece of moss. I was pretty certain then that it would go deeper in to the asteroid and this was confirmed when I got down there.

That's right I've been out to see it. How could I not. Anyway C&C confirmed I could go take a look. I might be the first person to discover signs of alien life. I'm pretty sure if this exists there will be other things out there to find. C&C have already confirmed that they've started firing off further ships. Once I've done with the initial investigation they'll be sending out a scientist – probably a few in fact, one after another.

When I first saw the structure up close it didn't appear to have any doors or other access points, not things we'd recognise anyway, so my first trip down was just going to be a fly over. The thing is all full of dips and depressions that don't look like any kind of building I know and when I was flying over it I got an even stronger impression of it being some sort of growth. That did bother me until I found the door.

It was on the side of dip that I hadn't been able to see in properly from the pod, but as I floated over it in the suit it was easy to spot. A door with an access panel! Now that did freak me out, especially when the panel turned out to be just a large button that when pressed opened the air lock.

The inside of the structure is just as odd as the outside. I won't bore you with the full run down I've done, but I'll tell you a few pertinent points. What bits I've seen so far are all just tunnels that have the same strange organic look as the exterior. There isn't any light in there and I couldn't find any sign of anything that had been engineered. I didn't get that far in, but I didn't find any rooms. Just one long corridor that then branched off to a couple of others. Each one wound along deeper in to the asteroid.

I'm going to try to get some sleep now. I didn't get much sleep last night, I kept being woken up by dreams of the thing. Weird, mixed up dreams, with you and the children in as well. I guess the excitement is getting to me.

I'll speak more tomorrow.

I think the strangeness of this thing is starting to get to me. I've had another night where I've feel like I've spent more time awake because of my dreams than I have asleep. I'll be happy to be out of here if I'm being honest, and C&C have confirmed that tomorrow will be my last look around. Apparently there is now a queue a k long waiting to get out here. I've got one more bit of the structure to check out and then I'm packing up.

There will be revive time and de-briefings but I should be back with you and the children in a few days.

I've spent what seems like hours in that complex now. It goes on for far longer than I thought, the entire asteroid is riddled with tunnels, and now I've found rooms as well, in some cases caverns. For the trip today I just went straight in and started mapping out the place. I tried some imaging of the

tunnels last night so I knew a bit more of the structure before I went in, but the outer shell just blocks everything, so today I used measurements on the suit to plot everything out.

The tunnels that I thought went on for miles yesterday are actually a lot shorter than I presumed. I must have been tired or overly excited at the end of yesterday when I was going through them, as it didn't take me long to find some of the rooms. Most of the rooms are empty. There's certainly no sign that anyone or thing has been there before. As I got deeper in to the complex though I found the most beautiful place – a large cavern with plants in it.

It was like walking in to a forest. I have no idea what the planets in there are and when I'd got the drone to take some samples back to the pod it was unable to match them with anything in the records. Imagine walking down these strange looking corridors, all dark and closed in and then stepping in to a large room sunlight seeping in through a canopy of leaves. I got the pod to swing around to the other side of the asteroid and find out how the light was getting in, but it couldn't find anything. I'm guessing there is some kind of window in the rock that is blanked from outside view. The plants in this mini forest are producing oxygen as well. I couldn't detect it before as I hadn't come far enough in to the tunnels, but the air samples showed it to be there. Enough for a human to live in if I dared take off my suit.

The forest wasn't the only think that I found today – at the centre of the complex I discovered what appears to be the central hub. A number of the tunnels lead up to it and each has a large door that I couldn't find the opening mechanism for. By my measurements it is about fifteen metres across, and although it's difficult to tell from the outside I'd say it is circular. Hopefully I can find some clues as to who created this structure or what it was for if I get in there tomorrow.

I've already started getting everything ready for when I leave. I'm filled with a mixture of longing to be back with you and away from this strange place and excitement at the thought of what I've found.

Ciao

I've dictated this message from the suit and I'll get the drone to take it back to the pod. I want you and everyone to know about this as soon as possible.

I've done it! I've got in to the central room and I can't describe what I've found. It's beautiful. Like I imagine seeing the sea for the first time would be - something so vast it stuns the mind. I won't be coming back. There is no need to. You have to get C&C to let you come. Bring the children. Everyone has to come.

I will wait for you on the other side, my love. I'll always wait. We have found Heaven.