

OUT OF THIS WORLD

by Robert L. Crowe



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Buzz and Tom are alone onstage. It is the surface of the Moon.

BUZZ: Well, you paid for a trip to the Moon ... and here we are.

TOM: When I paid the tourist agency for a ride to the Moon with you astronauts, I bought a round trip ticket. Here I am on the Moon, and the space ship left without us. *(shows piece of paper)* See, here's my return trip ticket! I wonder if I can get a refund because I only traveled one way.

BUZZ: The refund is the least of your worries ... and mine, too. I still can't figure out why the captain left without us. He had to see our seats were empty. One of the items in bold print on the pre-flight checklist is ... "Where is everybody?"

TOM: I don't know but we're kinda lucky that the crew dumped all of this equipment and food parcels. Otherwise we'd have nothing but rocks.

BUZZ: Yeah, they did that to lighten the load of the space ship. There was too much weight for the rockets to launch.

TOM: Uhhh ... how much do you weigh?

BUZZ: I'm a little overweight. How much do you weigh?
(They both pause to think that this is the reason they were stranded, look at each other, then at the audience.)

TOM AND BUZZ: I think I get the picture.

BUZZ: Well ... we better build a place to live. We'll build a rock house. Help me stack some of these rocks.

(They walk as if rocks are tied to their feet.)

TOM: It's hard to walk with rocks tied to our feet. Is this really necessary?

BUZZ: If we didn't we would always be floating. Gravity is only 16% of Earth. Help me lift this.

(They easily move a rock, tossing it in the air to demonstrate the weight factor. They move a few rocks and stack them during these few sentences.)

BUZZ: And we're lucky we have these new see-through space suits. Those old suits made me look like a deep-sea diver.

TOM: Let's put this rock right here. Yes, this is the start of our castle ...

BUZZ: I think we can skip the moat but it will have a moon roof. And a TV room.

TOM: It will be a three bedroom castle.

BUZZ: Three bedroom? But there are only two of us.

TOM: Extra room in case of guests.

BUZZ: That's the spirit. A little dumb but a positive outlook.

TOM: Hold on. Enough work for now. Lifting rocks is still hard work, even on the Moon.

BUZZ: Maybe a shot of energy. Would you like a snack?

TOM: What do we have?

BUZZ: Some candy bars. Want one?

TOM: Sure, what kind are they?

BUZZ: Here. (*floats a candy bar to him*) A Mars Bar.

TOM: This will do, but I was hoping for an ice cream ... float!

BUZZ: Ice cream will freeze solid at night ... even without a freezer.

TOM: Yeah, I was surprised that there was night here on the Moon. On Earth, when we looked at the Moon, it was always the same.

BUZZ: That's because the Earth and the Moon turn at the same speed. When the Moon does spin away from the sun, night is 150 degrees below zero ... a bit chilly.

TOM: Yeah, a bowl of chili might taste good. I never had the chance to ask you ... tell me about your training to be an astronaut.

BUZZ: Well ... our motto is: Train. Adapt. Survive.

TOM: Train. Adapt. Survive. Well ... two out of three ain't bad.

BUZZ: Of course, our training was extensive. It would take a long time to explain it all.

TOM: I think we have some time.

BUZZ: OK. Very briefly. We learned to pilot the command ship, how to do repairs, how to function in a weightless environment, how to grow and harvest vegetables ...

TOM: Yeah, I may have to change my mind about spinach.

BUZZ: Because you can't trust the North Star anymore, we learned how to navigate using the stars.

TOM: That should be easier now. You're closer to them.

BUZZ: Another good thing is that we have our health. There will be no disease here because there are no germs.

TOM: Oh, yeah. No germs. No germs means we're safe. Lots of advantages here.

BUZZ: And ... great view of the Earth.

TOM: Looks fake.

BUZZ: (*gets a rock*) Here, help me with this. It will be the cornerstone for the pool room.

TOM: We're going to have a pool?

BUZZ: No ... a pool table ... if we can find some round rocks.

TOM: So, Buzz, tell me ... what did you do before you became an astronaut?

BUZZ: I worked in a newsroom of a TV station. I would gather the news from where-ever and type up a summary for the newscasters. But I developed a problem.

TOM: What kind of problem?

BUZZ: It started slowly. As I typed I would put an extra space between words. Then a few more spaces. Over a period of time I fell in love with the keyboard space bar and there would be a half-page blank between words. It was then I knew that I should join the space program. So I quit and signed-up for ... this.

TOM: Exciting. Sounds like the stuff for a movie.

BUZZ: Yeah. I wonder how it ends.

TOM: I have some more questions.

BUZZ: OK.

TOM: It's about time.

BUZZ: About time for what?

TOM: No. It's about time, time.

BUZZ: (*pause, looks at him*) What's the question?

TOM: I've heard of a light year but what about a dark year. It's dark half of the time here. How long is a light year here on the Moon?



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