Coventry Building Society's Young Writer of the Year competition 2024

The case of the missing rover

The clock struck midnight, it was the start of a new year and at the NASA control centre everyone was celebrating but the person looking at the sonar was weirded out. He darted to the control panel " Sorry to interrupt but rover 13 on the moon is no showing on the tracker! " Everyone gasped. The chief gracefully marched to examine what he heard. He fought to remain calm in front of everyone.But he had to tell the truth. " We need astronauts up there as soon as possible " he announced, still fixating his eyes on the data pad. Panic stricken, everyone sprinted to their stations, but my mind remained on what I could do this time, What could have made Rover 13 vanish out of existence? Without thinking, I bravely stood up and exclaimed, " I ' ll do it with Fabio! " My assistant and best friend Fabio was with me in all our missions. Fabio ' s face paled " But I didn ' t decide yet " he cried. " Well someone has to do it- there ' s always room for adventure! " I replied. " I won ' t say no to that " smiled Fabio.Two days later, the rocket gets ready to launch and in about forty minutes the rocket would be souring through the atmosphere. " Why do the suits have to be so heavy " complained Fabio. " They ' re spacesuits remember " I reminded him. " Soon, we ' re off to the moon! " I punched the air in excitement. I shut my eyes and held my breath as I prepared myself for take-off! The speaker bellowed, " 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 " " BLAST OFF " I could open my eyes and take one last look at the space station one last time. A gush of force hit me as the rocket flung into the sky.Three days later, Fabio and I finally landed on the very moon and carefully heaved ourselves off the ship. With each stride, small plumes of dust gushed like smoke. The heaviness of our suits gripped us down on the surface. The ebony ink of space blanketed us. " Fabio to control, do you copy? " his static voice pierced through. " Any luck there? " I ask Fabio.
He grinned " actually, yes there is…now where could that Rover be? " Fabio ' s eyes were glued to the cameras. " Umm, Omar, I think I found it " I carefully marched " How is it chewed and what is that glow? " I questioned. " Let ' s approach with caution " . " It looks like a green fossil " , whispered Fabio. " Why are there pickaxe ' s? " His voice shivered. " Could there be aliens? " " Don ' t be silly " I said. But then I saw something that did not resemble just any other crater. " Wait! I ' ve found an entrance to a hole in the ground, watch my back, because I ' m, going inside " Climbing inside, the small cavity in the moon revealed to be much more spacious than expected. Fabio peered down " Wait for me " he said and carefully grappled the walls that already had indents to grip onto. Clearly, someone had already been here. " Get your pocket knife out in case of an emergency " I firmly said. But what Fabio and I didn ' t know is that might be booby traps up ahead. We were two minutes in, exploring and scavenging until we came across two different swirling pathways. " Let ' s split up and go different ways and we ' ll use our headsets to communicate with each other " I commanded. Fabio replied " Alright, I go right, and you go left " " Make us proud " as I triumphantly saluted. We both went our own ways. Entering the tunnel, the blinding light illuminated the musty path ahead. Every hair on the back of my neck stilled, warning me to be alert…The silence was deafening. Until Fabio screamed. Trying not to panic, I shouted " Fabio do you copy, I repeat, do you copy? " Nothing but static replied. Fabio ' s hand stealthily poked my back. Letting out a breath of relief, I slowly turned around. " There you are, you scared – WAIT YOU AREN ' T FABIO! "

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