Moon’s Dark Side

by Kyle Eggleston

Chapter One

The moon didn’t have a planet to orbit after Earth’s destruction. It bounced around a bit until finding a place in the solar system. It now orbited the Sun.

Tom sat alone in his office on base Delta. It was usually found on the dark side of the Moon. Once every ten years, when the Moon would shift phases could the base be found facing the Sun. On those days, people would tend to hide deep within the Moon to avoid the sunlight which was too bright. The Moon, lacking a photosphere, had no way of protecting the inhabitants from the harsh light of the Sun.

Tom looked over his reports. It was always one report or another. Nothing mattered as much as his reports. That’s what he was told when he took over the job as lead Tribunal. Tom hadn’t heard back from one of his lead agents. This worried him. Seth was known to be punctual in his reports. Whatever John and Julie had done to him, well it had better be worth it.

Turning his computer off, Tom walked out of his office. He came to a stop at the main command table. The table was staffed by a handful of Tribunal members. The remaining members were elsewhere in the compound deep under the lunar surface.

"Sir." A woman said as she approached the table.

Tom nodded. "Yes Amanda, what can I do for you?"

Amanda, a woman in her early twenties with reddish blonde hair smiled. "Sir, it's been over twenty years since the remaining Earth inhabitants left the Solar System. We are alone here."

"Yes." Tom agreed. He looked over seismic reports. After their last moonquake, it hadn't been too stable in the lower sections of the station.

"Well, aren't we going to evacuate as well?" Amanda asked cheerfully.

Tom looked up from the report and laughed. "Why would we evacuate? There's no reason to leave. We are safe here."

"But the humans."

"Have left." Tom finished her sentence. "They deserted us. Good riddance!" He yelled. "There's no reason to go after them now."

"Understood." Amanda left the area and headed down below to her station. Who was she to argue with the leader of their group? She wasn't anyone. All Amanda knew is she followed orders of the Tribunal. Tom was the Tribunal, so she followed his orders without question.

Tom thumbed over the main computer terminal. The girl had a point. How long could they survive on the Moon? How long would they be able to accept there was no going back. Earth was gone. The orbital space station was destroyed. There was nothing that could be done about it.

One fortunate side effect of living deep within the Moon was everlasting life. No one on the Moon had aged over the twenty years the had been there. Tom had remained the same age he had been when he took the post. It was a very generous side effect. One he enjoyed greatly.

Down in a lower level, Amanda was walking among the internal generators checking their levels making sure the place didn't blow up. It was eerie down below in the guts of the station. There was no lighting leading to the different sections. Amanda had a flashlight to her disposal but it didn't seem to be enough most days.