



# Outer Space Email

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## Chapter One

# Lila Says Goodbye

Gwen and Lila had met on the first day of kindergarten and had been best friends ever since. Gwen was very upset when Lila announced she would be temporarily moving with her family to the moon. Her parents were scientists who had been asked to conduct experiments on the moon.

“Don’t worry,” Lila assured Gwen. “The moon has Space-Fi. We can write outer space emails to each other.”

The girls promised to keep in touch.

After Lila left for the moon, Gwen carried her laptop out to the porch every evening. She enjoyed looking at the moon while she was emailing Lila. It made her feel closer to her friend.

From: gwen@earthplace.com

Date: June 30, 2029

To: lila@moonnet.com

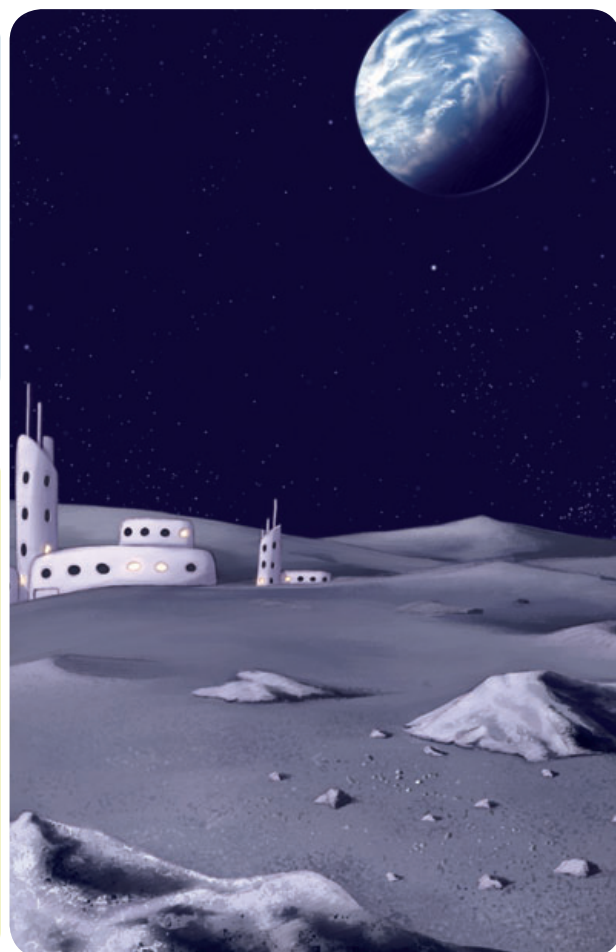
I miss you, but I’m excited to hear all about life on the moon.

From: lila@moonnet.com

Date: July 3, 2029

To: gwen@earthplace.com

The moon is very different from Earth because the ground is rocky and dusty. We are living on the side of the moon that always faces Earth, so I like to pretend I can see you from here.



## Chapter Two

# Lila on the Moon

From: gwen@earthplace.com

Date: July 4, 2029

To: lila@moonnet.com

I don't think I would like having the ground be rocky and dusty. I would miss seeing trees and flowers.

It was really hot today. The temperature was almost 100 degrees! My brother and I went skateboarding, but as the heat worsened, we decided to go swimming.

From: lila@moonnet.com

Date: July 5, 2029

To: gwen@earthplace.com

Here the temperature goes up way higher than 100 degrees during the day. We have to wear moon gear to protect ourselves from the heat.

I did something fun today, too. I jumped. Jumping on the moon is amazing! Imagine your highest jump on Earth, and now, imagine if you could go much, much higher. That's what it feels like to jump on the moon.



## Chapter Three

### Where Is Lila Now?

After many emails back and forth over a few weeks, Gwen went out to the porch, as she always did after dinner. She settled in with her laptop and began writing. The porch was lit by a full moon.

Gwen had a lot to tell Lila that day, so all her attention was on the computer screen. When she finally looked up, she saw something strange. There was a giant black shadow creeping over the moon. The shadow kept moving until the moon was completely gone.

Boink! Gwen looked down at her screen and saw that she had lost her Space-Fi connection.

“Oh, no!” she gasped. “I’ve lost my connection!”

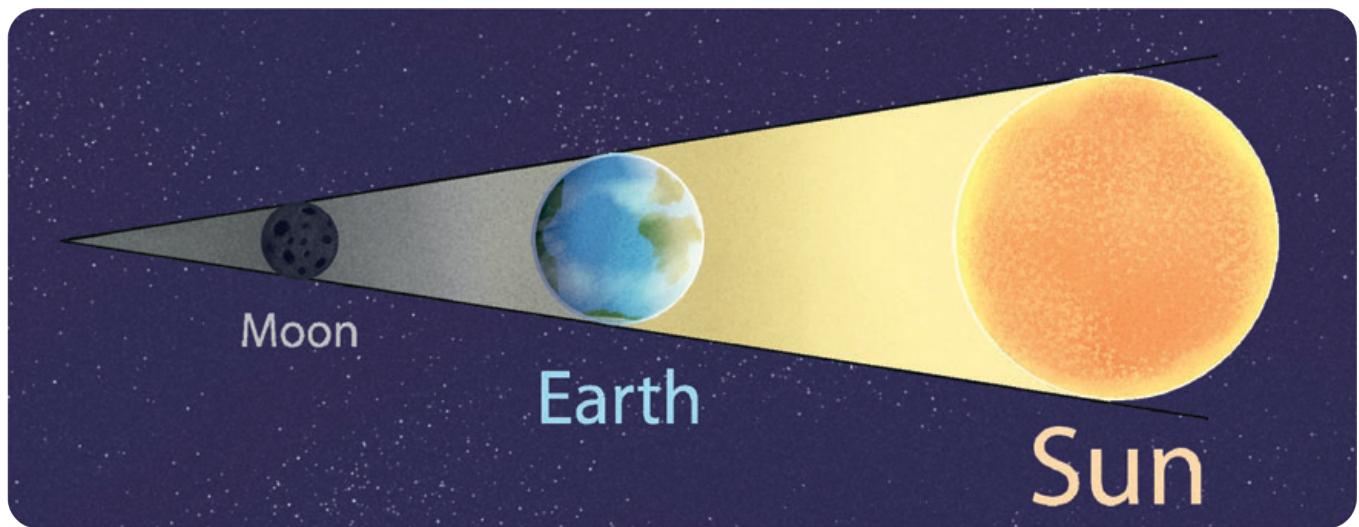
Gwen began to worry about her friend. She stood up and shouted, “What’s happening? Are you OK, Lila?”

Gwen was scared that the moon had disappeared and, along with it, her friend Lila.

After some time, Gwen began to see part of the moon again. Soon, she saw the entire moon. Boink! Her Space-Fi connection had returned as well.

Gwen sat, staring at her computer. She hoped that Lila would send her an email explaining what happened. After what seemed like forever, her computer dinged.





From: lila@moonnet.com

Date: August 5, 2029

To: gwen@earthplace.com

Gwen, you're probably wondering what happened. What you saw from Earth was a lunar eclipse. Mom explained that Earth lined up between the sun and the moon. This caused the earth to cast a shadow over the moon, making it seem like it disappeared.

I have other exciting news, too. My parents told me that we'll be coming home in less than a month! I can't wait to show you all the cool stuff I've gotten here.