

Greetings Club Member

Is it just me or has this Artemis II moonshot felt like a sequel that never lived up to the magic of the first novel? Like *The Lost Symbol*, Dan Brown's follow-up to *The Da Vinci Code*. Or Joseph Heller's *Closing Time* – the sequel to *Catch-22*.

All a bit underwhelming.

Disagree with me if you will, but I can't get excited about something accomplished 58 years ago.

This, despite a NASA PR team in adjective overdrive. Photographs of Earth are "amazing"; looking at the moon through the capsule's window is "wild"; there have been the obligatory "tense moments" and Artemis astronaut Jeremy Hansen, pondering, 'imagine what we are capable of doing next?'

Hmm... Let me think about that, Jeremy. Land a man on the moon perhaps?

The Apollo program was special. Five of the six missions landed on the Moon. Three had lunar rovers. Everyone returned to Earth and brought 382 kg of samples with them. All under a guidance computer packing 72 KB of ROM for instructions and 4 KB of RAM for data. By comparison, your mobile has in the region of 8GB of RAM and 150GB of ROM. **That's GIGS not KBs.**

And what of the name Artemis? Well, she was Apollo's twin sister and the goddess of the hunt, wilderness, wild animals and the moon. Even the folks at Disney would be blushing.

Finally, to those bibliophiles saying, 'funny, I don't recall Dan Brown's *Lost Symbol* or Heller's *Closing Time*,' ... worry not. Neither did I. Speaking of matters space, I'd rather settle for a copy of Andy Weir's *The Martian*. Self-published by the way, and adapted into the 2015 hit movie starring Matt Damon. And unlike Artemis II, the loo on the Hermes worked – all the way to Mars and back!

'til next time.

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