

Section 7 - Quest Orange

In World of Warcraft, the quests are all color-coded. Gray quests involve defeating people with fewer skills than yourself. They're very easy, but you don't gain much experience. Then there are green—a bit harder; yellow—harder still; orange—a lot harder; and red—Certain Death. I decided the best thing was to treat this whole thing as a quest.

Dr. Drax definitely gave us the impression that she was sending us on a gray quest. Maybe a bit green round the edges. But definitely not yellow or orange. And certainly not Certain Death.

For a start, we had loads of backup. She took us to DraxControl so that we could see for ourselves. It's a massive glass office, with huge plants and a little water fountain and dozens of people strolling round in white shirts, talking into headsets, reading their BlackBerries. They certainly looked like they knew what they were doing. "These are the clever people who will be steering your rocket," Dr. Drax said, "so you won't have to do a thing. The *Infinite Possibility* really is just a ride. And DraxControl is like the man in the fairground booth. All you've got to do is be sensible and enjoy the view for a few hours. Oh, and do one simple little thing for me."

And it did seem a very simple little thing. We had to press some color-coded buttons in the right order at the right time. That was it.

Because the *Infinite Possibility* is really a launch vehicle—that's why it's so big. It was carrying something into space. A payload. A completely cosmic payload.

"I'll explain it all to you," said Dr. Drax. "It's a kind of space minibus. I designed it myself. It's called the *Dandelion* because it doesn't have engines—just these big silvery sails that catch the solar wind, just like normal sails catch the normal wind, and blow it across space. A spaceship propelled by sunbeams—as quiet and traceless as a dandelion seed. Hence the name."

She showed us a model. It looked like a high-sided vehicle with lots of windows. Like an ice-cream van. Only with no wheels. And no ice-cream man.

Once it was separated from the *Infinite Possibility*, the people at DraxControl were going to steer the ice-cream van across space, round the back of the moon, and back to Earth by remote control. Then it was going to do a lap of the Earth and head back around the moon. And it was going to

keep doing that—one lap of the Earth, one lap of the moon—in a kind of figure eight, forever. It had comfortable seats that turned into beds. Dr. Drax's plan was that as soon as Infinity Park was opened, people would pay to get into a small rocket, dock with the *Dandelion* during its Earth orbit and stay on for one lap of the moon before going back down to Earth.

A sightseeing trip around the moon in an interplanetary ice-cream van.

E) How do you think Liam is feeling once he has seen Drax control? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. **Make sure you answer in a minimum of three sentences.**

GD) What are Liam's emotions? Find a quote to prove each emotion.

CHALLENGE:
Sketch a picture of what you think the Dandelion looks like.