

Virgil and Brains led Callie, Kat, and Christopher in the other monorail following the first group.

Brains noticed the curious looks on their faces. "We're coming to the Thunderbird Two bay. I think you'll like it."

Callie reacted almost immediately when the craft came into view. "Oh, wow! That's Thunderbird Two? I've never seen anything like it!"

"Just wait, Callie," said Virgil. "You're going to see what it looks like on the inside."

The professor felt like an excited child.

The monorail came to a stop in the hangar, where all five people stepped into an elevator, which went down to the floor.

Noticing the size of the craft, Callie wasted no time asking questions. "How do you get into Thunderbird Two in the first place? How big is that thing, really? How does it take off? How--"

"Whoa, slow down, Callie," Brains said. "We'll get your questions answered soon enough. Take it easy."

She blushed. "Sorry, I'm just excited."

Christopher smiled. "You definitely have that scientific curiosity."

"When I see something for the first time, I'll start asking questions in a hurry." She looked at the tour guides. "How do you get in there? It doesn't look like there's any door."

Virgil nodded. "That's right, Callie. I get to Thunderbird Two by flipping over on the rocket painting. From there, I slide into the seat of the craft. When others are needed, they take the passenger lift into the craft near the back of the cockpit."

"Next question: How big is Thunderbird Two?"

"It's 250 feet long and 60 feet high with a 180-foot wingspan," Brains answered.

Christopher whistled in disbelief. "That's bigger than any plane I've flown in my lifetime!"

"Repairing Thunderbird Two will be a real challenge!" Kat exclaimed.

After a good laugh amongst the group, Callie asked her next question. "How does it take off and fly?"

Virgil answered, "Before it can take off, the appropriate pod is needed. The conveyor belt moves

under Thunderbird Two until the proper pod is in position. Then I lower the cockpit and engines down around the pod, and it locks into place."

"What's next?"

"The cliff face swings out and opens downward, which allows Thunderbird Two to roll down the runway. Near the end of the airstrip, the runway is tilted up at a 45-degree angle to make it easier for the craft to blast off."

"But what about all that--"

"Exhaust?" Brains said. "A blast shield comes up behind the engines to give the force something to push against, channeling the exhaust away through ducts beneath the runway."

Callie smiled. "Then it blasts off into the sky, on its way to another rescue."

Brains and Virgil nodded.

"Any other questions?" Virgil asked.

"Just one. Some missions will require me to be here, right?"

"Right. There's a mobile laboratory near the back of every pod, and we will need scientific knowledge ever so often."

"I understand now. That's all the questions I have."

"In that case, let's move on to the lab, shall we?"

The group went back to the elevator and returned to the monorail to resume the tour.

\*\*Thanks to Tikatu for helping with technical aspects.\*\*

Post by TracyFan4Ever on 17/07/2004

---