Located in the United States of America, a member nation of the Commonwealth of Earth, this is the most exciting school of the world of the future. On Earth, on Mars, on Venus—there was no prouder title than that of Space Academy Cadet!

Applicants to Space Academy came from every corner of the Earth, from the deserts of Mars, from the jungles of Venus, from the far-flung colonies in space.

But before a boy could be admitted to Space Academy, he had to pass some of the hardest tests ever invented: in character and intelligence, in knowledge of all the sciences and history, in physical stamina to withstand the rigors of space travel!

Only the finest are chosen to become Space Cadets... and begin the intensive training for future duty as Solar Guards!
TOM CORBETT
SPACE CADET

IN THE YEAR 2351, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AND CAPTAIN STRONG STAND ON THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM OF THE SPACE ACADEMY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS A ROCKET CRUISER JETS EARTHWARDS.

THOMAS IS COMING IN FAST. HE'D BETTER TURN TAIL OR HE WILL——

SPACEPORT CONTROL CALLING, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT! PLEASE REPORT AT ONCE, SIR! EMERGENCY!

WHAT'S WRONG?

THOMAS, SWING UP! SWING UP OR YOU'LL CRASH IN!

CAN'T—— WEAK—— NO WILL—— NO STRENGTH—— CAN'T HOLD ON——

THOMAS, RELEASED THE MANUAL CONTROLS AND IT'S TOO LATE FOR HIM TO SWITCH ON THE ROBOT CONTROL!

CALL THE CRASH CREW! FIFTY CADETS ARE GOING TO SPLASH IN AND WE CAN'T DO A THING TO SAVE THEM!

I WISH I WAS GUIDING IT IN AS ORIGINALY PLANNED! BUT I GUESS LIEUTENANT THOMAS IS GETTING AS MUCH KICK OUT OF RIDING THE NEW GROUP OF CADETS IN AS I WOULD HAVE!
LOOK --- HE'S FALLING FROM HIS SEAT! HE'S OUT COLD, ASTRO!

THAT EXPLAINS THE BUMPS!

IF WE DON'T TAKE OVER FAST, WE'RE IN FOR A REAL BUMP --- THE ACADEMY IS RIGHT BELOW!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, TOM, THAT PILOT LIKES TO PLAY ROUGH!

I'VE FLOWN SPACE FREIGHTERS, I'LL TAKE A TRY AT THE CONTROLS, BUT THE DIALS LOOK TOO COMPLICATED FOR ME!

TAKE THE PILOT'S SEAT! I'LL GIVE YOU A READING! WE'VE GOT TO NOSE UP FAST!

ROCKET POWER, NINETY THOUSAND TO THE SQUARE INCH! WE'RE AT TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED FEET --- TWENTY-ONE --- TWO THOUSAND --- STILL FALLING!

I'VE PUNCHED THE STABILIZER CONTROL TABS! THE JET BRAKES ARE ON --- IT'S GOT TO PULL US UP!

BY JUPITER! WHOEVER LET YOU SPACELUGS IN HERE TO PLAY? YOU'LL KILL US ALL!

SORRY, ROGER! CAN'T STOP TO ARGUE OR WE MIGHT HAVE TO FINISH UP THE TALK IN THE NEXT WORLD!

NO, ASTRO! WE'RE STILL NOSED DOWN!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH! THE AUXILIARY BRAKING JETS ARE ON!

---THAT DOES IT! WE'RE NOSING UP!

SUDDENLY, THE DOOMED SHIP SWEEPS SKYWARDS.

THOMAS MUST HAVE SNAPPEO OUT OF IT IN TIME --- NO RAW RECRUIT COULD BRING HER IN THAT WELL!

THE X-70 COMES TO REST, THE LANDING LADDER SLIDES DOWN AND THE HATCH SWINGS OPEN.

ASTRO, I THOUGHT TOM CORBETT'S CAREER AS A SPACE CADET WAS GOING TO BEGIN AND END IN ONE GLORIOUS DAY!

BY THE CRATER S OF LUNA, TOM, I DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY FROM VENUS TO BE BURIED ON EARTH!

WHERE'S LIEUTENANT THOMAS?

IN THE CONTROL ROOM, SIR! I'M AFRAID HE'S DEAD!

DEAD! I'M BOARDING THE SHIP TO CHECK!

THEN WHO BROUGHT THE SHIP IN?

CADET ROGER MANNING REPORTING, SIR! I TALKED THOSE TWO IN TO THE SAFE TOUCHDOWN, SIR!
YOU TALKED US IN! YOU MEAN YOU JUST TALKED!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE FULL CREDIT, SIR----

---WHY ANY CREDIT, MANNING?

JUST A MINUTE! WE DON'T TOLERATE FIGHTING AT THE ACADEMY! WE EXPECT OUR CADETS TO BE TRUTHFUL! IF MANNING SAYS HE SUPERVISED THE LANDING, WELL DONE, CADET! NOW MARCH THE GROUP OFF TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

AS THE CADETS MARCH OFF...

HE'S DEAD, STRONG? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THOMAS WAS IN THE PRIME OF LIFE AND ABSOLUTELY FIT!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, COMMANDER! WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE TEST LAB'S REPORT TO LEARN THE CAUSE!

JOAN, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE NOW, LET'S GO BACK!

DOCTOR DALE?

I-I HEARD THE NEWS! THANK HEAVENS THE CADETS LANDED SAFELY! STEVE, I KEEP THINKING IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOU!

I ONLY WISH I HAD FLOWN THE CRUISER AS SCHEDULED, THEN THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED!

YOU WERE ASSIGNED MORE IMPORTANT WORK, STRONG, CHECKING EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR EXPLORATION OF SATURN'S SATELITE, TITAN! NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN THE UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT---- AND THAT'S JUST WHAT IT WAS!

SOON AFTER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S OFFICE...

SIR, TEST LAB REPORTS LIEUTENANT THOMAS DIED FROM OVER-EXPOSURE TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL! THE LETHAL SOURCE HAS BEEN LOCATED---- IT'S AN ALIEN ELEMENT OF THE URANIUM GROUP AND WAS RUBBED OVER HIS SHIP'S CONTROLS!

WHAT!---- SABOTAGE!
THEN THE CADETS WHO BROUGHT THE SHIP IN WERE EXPOSED, TOO!

STRONG, CONTACT THEM AT ONCE! HAVE THEM REPORT FOR IMMEDIATE RADIATION COUNT! THEN WE'LL TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE SABOTEUR!

WE CAN PUSH THE UNIFORMS OVER TO ONE SIDE AND MAKE A LITTLE ROOM FOR OUR---

DON'T TOUCH THOSE OUTFITS, JUNIOR! YOU MIGHT RUIN THE CREASES!

WELL, ISN'T THIS COZY! BUT IF THEY'VE BUNKED US TOGETHER, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE PEACE!

WHERE'S OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME, ASTRO?

AND A GOOD OPENING GESTURE WILL BE FOR MANNING TO CLEAR OUT OUR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CLOSET!

WHY HANG UP YOUR SUITS? YOU'LL FLUNK OUT OF THE ACADEMY BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO WEAR THEM!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, IF YOU WON'T MAKE ROOM FOR US, I WILL!

THERE'S A STRIPE ON ALL THOSE SLEEVES JUST LIKE THIS ONE! BE CAREFUL, CADETS! THE GROUP LEADER LIKED THE WAY I MARCHED YOU OVER---I'M ACTING SENIOR CADET!

CADETS CORBETT, ASTRO AND MANNING, REPORT TO DOCTOR DALE IN SICK BAY AT ONCE!
I wonder why they called us in? I don't see anyone else from our group!

Red tape, Junior! You've got to expect it around here! They'll probably have us fill out the same medical forms we filled out before!

Speaking of forms, are you the nurse? Why don't we blow up some meteor dust together some night, and I'll give you my case history!

Lucky we're in sick bay, she may be able to find relief here for that pain!

Don't mind the boy scouts back there, honey! You know, I've suddenly developed a weak heart— for you!

What a shame! Only perfect specimens can stay in the academy!

Honey, ask Doctor Dale if there's a more perfect specimen around here!

I've got news for you, Cadet— I am Doctor Dale!

[Left panel]

(Uh?) I didn't mean anything— sir— ma'am— miss!

The three of you reported handling the cruiser's controls! They were rubbed with a radioactive material that caused lieutenant Thomas's death! We want to take a radiation count on you immediately!

Cadets Corbett and Astro show a few roentgens of exposure — nothing dangerous! But, Manning, you don't show signs of any exposure! You were in the control room?

Yes, but he only talked us in! Check his tongue for radiation! I'll bet it's pretty hot!

Why, you space lug!
HOLD ON! SAVE YOUR BREATH—YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU TAKE THE ACCELERATION TEST AND RIDE THE "BUMPS"!

MAYBE THAT WILL TAKE SOME OF THE SPACE GAS OUT OF HIM?

LATER, IN COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S OFFICE...

THE CADETS' RADIATION COUNT IS NEGATIVE! THE SCANNER UNITS ARE OUT SEARCHING NOW—WE SHOULD LOCATE THE SABOTEUR SOON! MEANWHILE, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP! WE'RE CONTINUING THE TRAINING SCHEDULE!

BUT I HAVE A PATROL SHIP READIED FOR MY FLIGHT TO TITAN!

STRONG, YOU'LL PIONEER THE EXPLORATION OF TITAN, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO LAND ON THAT MOON DESPITE ITS STRANGE ATMOSPHERE! BUT RIGHT NOW, OUR JOB IS TO SHOW THAT SPY HE HASN'T STOPPED THE ACADEMY'S WORK! WE'RE STILL TRAINING THE CADETS!

VERY WELL, SIR! I'LL TAKE OVER THOMAS'S CLASS IN THE "BUMPS"!

AT THE "BUMPS" TEST SITE...

TOM, I'M BEGINNING TO WISH WE HADN'T COME OUT SO EARLY! THE LESS TIME I HAVE TO SEE THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE THEY'VE PLANNED FOR US, THE BETTER!

ASTRO! THERE'S SOMEONE BY THE TEST CAR—- AND HE WASN'T WEARING THE ACADEMY UNIFORM!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SINCE THE ALERT'S BEEN ON, ALL VISITORS HAVE BEEN CLEARED FROM THE GROUNDS AND THE SCANNER PATROLS ARE CHECKING FOR THE SABOTEUR!

WHOEVER HE WAS, HE DUCKED BEHIND THE CAR! QUICK!

NO ONE'S HERE! YOU WERE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, TOM!

NO, ASTRO! I'M POSITIVE I SAW SOMEONE!
AT EASE, CADETS! I SEE YOU TWO ARRIVED BEFORE THE OTHERS! WE DON'T USUALLY FIND CADETS PUSHING TO BE FIRST IN THE CAR, IT FALLS AT TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES PER HOUR -- THE PRESSURE BEGINS AT THREE TIMES YOUR WEIGHT, OR THREE G'S! WE GO UP TO SEVEN!

I'VE TAKEN SIX, SIR, BUT I'M GLAD I DIDN'T EAT MUCH LUNCH!

I'LL TAKE IT DOWN ON A TRIAL RUN!

WAIT, SIR! I'M CERTAIN I SAW SOMEONE TINKERING WITH THE CAR BEFORE! I KNOW IT SOUNDS FOOLISH, BUT WITH A SABOTEUR KNOWN TO BE LOOSE --

--- ALL RIGHT, CORBETT! YOU SHOULD TRY OUT FOR THE ACADEMY MAGAZINE, YOU HAVE A GOOD IMAGINATION! I'LL THROW ON THE ROBOT CONTROLS AND GIVE THE CAR A TEST RUN TO PROVE EVERYTHING IS SHIPSHAPE! STAND CLEAR OF THE JETS!

AS THE LEVER IS THROWN FORWARD, THE STERN JETS BLAST INTO LIFE, AND THE CAR MOVES FORWARD.

AIEEEE! CAPTAIN STRONG!

BY JUPITER! SOMEONE IS IN THAT CAR!

LOOK! IT JUMPED THE TRACKS!

THE RAIL SAFETY CLAMPS MUST HAVE BEEN LOOSENED -- IT'S GOING TO CRASH!
WHOEVER THAT POOR DEVIL WAS INSIDE THERE, HE HASN'T MUCH OF A CHANCE! WE'LL GO DOWN AT ONCE ON THE WORK CAR!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

AT THE BASE OF THE CLIFF...

THERE HE IS! HE'S STILL MOVING!

BUT IN ALL MY DAYS AS A SPACEMAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT STRANGE COSTUME!

STRONG--- WE KNOW YOU PLANNED TO RETURN—— I TRIED TO KILL YOU—— TO KEEP YOU FROM LEADING EARTH MEN BACK—— I FAILED! BUT OTHERS WILL NOT——

HE'S DEAD!

LATER...

STRONG, THE ESPIONAGE ON THE CRUISER AND THE TEST CAR WERE BOTH ATTEMPTS ON YOUR LIFE! THE SPY MUST BE FROM TITAN AND FOLLOWED YOU TO EARTH! THERE'S LIFE ON TITAN, THEY SAW YOU LAND AND FEAR YOUR RETURN!

THEN LET ME ROCKET BACK AND CONVINCE THEM OUR AIDS ARE PEACEFUL, COMMANDER!

WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM REAL PROOF OF OUR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS! YOU'LL TRAVEL TO TITAN ON AN UNARMED TRAINER, "THE POLARIS"? YOU'RE CREW WILL BE THREE CADETS!

WHAT? TAKE RAW CADETS ON THIS MISSION?

I WANT TITAN TO HAVE ABSOLUTE EVIDENCE THAT THE TRIP IS A ROUTINE TRAINING MISSION—— NOT AN INVASION! AS FOR THE CADETS, IT WILL PUT THEM TO A REAL FIELD TEST! PICK YOUR CREW AND PREPARE TO BLAST OFF AT ONCE!

I'LL TAKE THE THREE WHO BROUGHT IN THOMAS'S CRUISER, MANNING, ASTRO AND CORBETT! I HOPE OUR LANDING ON TITAN WILL BE A LOT LESS EVENTFUL!
SOON AFTER...

TOM, WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE WE WERE ORDERED FROM CLASS BY CAPTAIN STRONG AND TOLD TO REPORT TO THE POLARIS WITH FULL SPACE EQUIPMENT?

MAYBE WE'RE TAKING A PRACTICE RUN!

I WISH YOU TWO HAD TAKEN A RUN AND LEFT ME WITH DOCTOR DALE!

UNIT REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR!

YOU'VE ALL FLOWN BEFORE, I DON'T HAVE TO BRIEF YOU! CADET ASTRO, YOU WILL HANDLE COMMUNICATIONS! CADET MANNING, ASTRO-CATER AND TOPSIDE RADAR! CADET CORBETT, SECOND PILOT'S SEAT! TAKE YOUR STATIONS!

WE'RE READY TO RAISE SHIP, SIR!

YOU KNOW YOUR MISSION, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL SUCCEED!

SPACEMAN'S LUCK TO YOU, STEVE!

AS THECADETS TAKE THEIR STATIONS...

ATTENTION, CREW! FINAL CHECK! -- ENERGIZE PUMPS! START PUMPS! START FUEL AND REACTANTS!

PUMPS IN OPERATION, SIR!

PRESSURE FORTY AND STEADY, SIR!

STAND BY FOR BLAST OFF! -- BLAST OFF IN FIVE SECONDS -- FOUR -- THREE -- TWO -- ONE -- ZERO!
Meanwhile, the Polaris rockets on...

They're off, Joan! I hope this will convince the Titanians of our peaceful intentions!

And I hope their intentions will be peaceful, too!

I called you both!

Cadet Manning reporting in, sir!

Nice going, Tom! You handled that computer like a veteran!

Where's Astro? I don't know, sir! Maybe he's logging some sack time...

I told him to report immediately! I'll call him on the intercom again!

That was a nice crack, Manning! Trying to get Astro in trouble like a real pal?

What do you think, Junior?

Astro! What took you so long?

Sorry, sir! I was having trouble reading the tele-transceiver --- some electrical disturbance in the area!

Hold on! There's no room on this ship for fighting! You three are making this trip with me because Solar Command wants it to look like a routine training flight to the Titanians --- but before it's over, we may be in for a lot of unscheduled trouble!

Space gremlins, maybe?
LATER, AS THE TRANS-SONIC SHIP ROCKETS TOWARDS SATURN'S LARGEST MOON...

RADAR WARNINGS, SIR! TWENTY TO THE MINUTE!

THAT MEANS WE'RE APPROACHING TITAN—ATTENTION CREW! STRAP IN TO LAND, THIS MAY BE TRICKY!

FORWARD WATCH REPORTING, SIR! SPECTROSCOPE BANDS INDICATE HEAVY METHANE CLOUD LAYER OVER TITAN—CAN'T SEE THROUGH IT!

TITAN HAS AN ATMOSPHERE! THAT MAKES HER UNIQUE AMONG SATURN'S MOONS, BUT THE MOST DANGEROUS TO LAND ON! SCAN FOR A SAFE SPOT WITH RADAR!

NOTHING MUCH TO DO BY, SIR! SNOW SEEMS TO BLANKET THE WHOLE SURFACE!

I'LL TAKE HER DOWN VISUALLY AS I DID ON MY OTHER FLIGHT! SWITCH THE MAGNIFYING SCREEN ON, TOM!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

RADAR WARNINGS INCREASING! FIFTY TO THE SECOND—WE'RE HEADING FOR SOMETHING VERY SOLID!

AND ALL I CAN SEE ARE NICE, SOFT-LOOKING CLOUDS!

WE'VE GOT AN OPENING!—PREPARE TO TURN TAIL AND BRAKE OUR LANDING! WE'RE NOSING DOWN!

CAPTAIN STRONG! THERE MUST BE SOLID ROCK UNDER THAT SNOW WE'RE HEADING FOR!

THROW ON THE JET BRAKES FAST, OR WE'LL BE THE FIRST EARTHMEN TO LAND ON TITAN—FOR REEKS!

CLANG! CLANG!
THE POLARIS COMES TO ROOST ON THE UNEXPLORED SATELLITE

I'LL BREAK OUT THE SPACE SUITS! TITAN LOOKS MIGHTY COLD!

WHAT ABOUT WEAPONS, SIR, IN CASE THEY GIVE US A WARM RECEPTION?

MANNING, WE'LL TAKE OUR PARALO-RAY GUNS --- BUT ONLY FOR DEFENSE!

BY THE CRATERS OF LUNA! VENUS WAS NEVER LIKE THIS!

OKAY, JUNIOR, YOU AND ASTRO TAKE IN THE VIEW... CAPTAIN STRONG AND I WILL ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION!

WE'LL ALL DO THAT, MANNING! FIRST, WE HAVE TO FIND THE TITANIANS!

FORGET THE ICE, ASTRO! TAKE A LOOK AT SATURN!

THEY MUST HIBERNATE ON THIS DEEP FREEZE! I DON'T SEE A SIGN OF LIFE!

THAT ICE CLIFF LOOKS LIKE A MAIN LANDMARK! WE'LL SPLIT UP AND CIRCLE IT! ASTRO, COME WITH ME!

WELL, LOOK WHO I GOT FOR A PARTNER!

STOW IT, MANNING! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO! COME ON!
WHO COULD LIVE HERE? IF THE COLD DIDN'T FREEZE THEM, THE METHANE ATMOSPHERE WOULD POISON THEM! THERE'S NO LIFE HERE!

THEN WHO WAS THE VISITOR WHO TRIED TO KILL CAPTAIN STRONG? A SPACE GREMLIN?

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

HOPE YOU HAD BETTER LUCK THAN OURS!

NOT A SIGN OF LIFE ON OUR SIDE! WE'LL RAISE SHIP AND CIRCLE SLOWLY, TILL WE FIND A MORE LIKELY SPOT AND LAND THERE!

AND AS THEY RETURN TO WHERE THEY LEFT THE SHIP...

CAPTAIN STRONG! THE POLARIS---IT'S GONE!

BY JUPITER! IT CAN'T BE! WE MUST BE IN THE WRONG PLACE!

NO, SIR! I TOOK A BEARING BEFORE WE LEFT! TOM'S AT THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE POLARIS WAS!

ASTRO, YOU'RE RIGHT! LOOK!

THERE'S THE POLARIS --- AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS ICE SHAFT!

AND THERE'S LIFE ON TITAN, ALL RIGHT! THOSE CHARACTERS MUST BELONG TO THE POLAR BEAR CLUB---THEY'RE DRESSED FOR THE TROPICS!

THIS PROVES THERE IS A WAY TO GET BELOW TITAN'S SURFACE---WE'VE GOT TO FIND IT FAST OR THEY MAY DAMAGE THE POLARIS!
SIR, THAT SNOW MOUND ALMOST SEEMS MAN-MADE!

WE'LL CHECK IT, TOM!

IT'S SOME SORT OF A SHAFT, SIR! IT GOES STRAIGHT DOWN, BUT THERE'S A PECULIAR LIFTING DRAFT COMING FROM BELOW!

STAY BACK, CORBETT, TILL WE GET THERE!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH WHAT IT'S FOR!

I SAID STAY BACK!

I'M FLOATING! THERE'S A BUOYANT FORCE THAT KEEPS ME FROM FALLING TOO FAST!

CORBETT'S LANDED! FOLLOW ME!

AYE, AYE, SIR! BUT I WAIT FOR ORDERS-- NOT LIKE CORBETT!

KEEP TALKING, MANNING! THAT SPACE GAS YOU'RE BLOWING WILL REALLY HELP YOU FLOAT!

CORBETT, YOU'D BETTER CURE YOUR ALLERGY TO GASES BEFORE IT'S FATAL! WE'RE UNWELCOME VISITORS ON TITAN AND I'LL NEED STRICT SPACE DISCIPLINE TO GET US OUT SAFELY!

Y-YES, SIR! SORRY I RUSHED DOWN-- IT'S A CLOSED ICE CHAMBER!
IF THEY THINK THEY'VE TRAPPED US —

PUT UP YOUR GUN, MANNING! YOU'D BETTER LEARN NOW, SPACE CADETS DON'T START HOSTILITIES, THEY TRY TO PRESERVE PEACE! EARTH, MARS AND VENUS ARE IN THE SOLAR ALLIANCE, WE'LL OFFER TITAN A CHANCE TO JOIN, TOO! BUT A PARALO-RAY GUN DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN INVITATION!

LOOKS LIKE THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THEM! WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE!

BY THE GAS PITS OF VENUS, I DON'T LIKE WAITING!

HEY? WHO'S BEING FUNNY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MANNING? CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR BALANCE?

SIR! MANNING MUST BE ON SOME SORT OF A TRANSMISSION BELT... HE'S MOVING, BUT WE AREN'T!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

OWW!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN, THAT WALL OF ICE IS PARTING!

HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF LEAVING ME?

WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU, MANNING, YOU'RE MOVING AWAY FROM US! BUT WE'LL JOIN YOU! HOP ON, BOYS!

I'M ON FOR THE RIDE! I DON'T SEE ANY BRASS RINGS! WONDER WHAT THEY GIVE FOR PRIZES ON TITAN?
THERE’S A CROSSWALK HERE, SIR!

I’M CERTAIN THEY’re NOT MOVING THIS BELT ALONG FOR OUR CONVENIENCE! SOMEONE MUST BE FURTHER DOWN THE LINE AND HEADING THIS WAY! CORBETT AND MANNING, JUMP OFF HERE! ASTRO AND I WILL CONTINUE HITCHING A RIDE!

BUT IF SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING...

--- YOU’LL SHOW HIM YOUR GREAT BIG SMILE, MANNING!

KEEP ALERT AND MAINTAIN CONTACT BY AUDIO-PHONE! YOU’LL STAY HERE TILL WE RETURN! THAT’S AN ORDER, CORBETT!

THE BELT’S STOPPED! THE ICE DOOR IS CLOSING, BUT NO ONE FOLLOWED THEM THROUGH!

AND NOW WE CAN’T FOLLOW THEM, EITHER! I’D BETTER PHONE CAPTAIN STRONG AND TELL HIM!

CADET CORBETT TO CAPTAIN STRONG--- COME IN, SIR --- COME IN, CAPTAIN STRONG! --- FUNNY, ALL I GET IS A REGULAR BUZZING!

SOMEDAY YOU’LL LEARN HOW TO WORK THESE GADGETS, JUNIOR, AND YOU WON’T HAVE ANY TROUBLE! WATCH!

CADET MANNING, CALLING CAPTAIN STRONG! COME IN --- COME IN! --- JUST BUZZING!

MANNING, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE! SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO CUT US OFF FROM THEM!
Meanwhile...

Astro, this is the end of the line! The conveyor belt has stopped, and there's the Polaris! It looks deserted! We may have a chance to board ship and contact spaceport on Earth!

I still don't see how they got the ship down—- ooops!

Slipping into an ice crevice, Astro tries to free his foot in vain...

The warmth from your suit must have melted the ice enough to make a pocket there, but now it's freezing around your foot!

I'm not leaving you trapped here, Astro! I'll chop you out of this!

I--- it's getting tighter, Sir!

As fast as I chip away, the ice freezes again! Wiggle your toes, the friction will create some heat to help melt the ice!

I'll wiggle my toes just as long as I have them, Sir! As a Venustian, I'm out of my element in ice!

But too late--- there are the Titanians and they certainly don't look friendly!
WE HAVE COME IN PEACE! TAKE US TO YOUR RULER!

YOU'LL BE TAKEN TO HIM— IN CHAINS!

MY GUN'S READY, SIR!

HOLD FIRE, ASTRO! LEAD US, BUT DON'T TRY TO TAKE US PRISONERS!

CALL YOURSELF WHAT YOU WILL! YOU WILL BE DISARMED— THEN FOLLOW!

THE ELECTRONIC BEAM FROM MY BELT CONTROLS IT! WE ON TITAN ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND INDEPENDENT! OUR LEADER KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO'D ENSLAVE US! FORWARD!

SOON AFTER... BY THE WINDS OF SPACE, THAT ICE WALL IS MOVING ASIDE!

HERE ARE TWO EARTHEN! THE OTHER INVADERS WILL BE TAKEN QUICKLY, LEADER!

WE ARE NOT INVADERS! I AM CAPTAIN STRONG OF THE SOLAR GUARDS! OUR ORGANIZATION IS DEDICATED TO PEACE!

CAPTAIN STRONG! THE EARTHLING WHO FIRST PIERCED OUR CLOUD SCREEN AND SPIED UPON US, THERA, WHO FOLLOWED YOU TO EARTH, TOLD US YOUR NAME— AND NOW HE IS DEAD! IS THAT YOUR EVIDENCE OF PEACE?
HE WAS KILLED IN A TRAP HE PREPARED FOR ME— AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT! A MISUNDERSTANDING!

WE UNDERSTAND YOU PERFECTLY! YOUR SHIP CAME BACK TO LEAD YOUR INVASION FLEET! WE DIRECTED RADIATION RAYS AT THE SURFACE AND MELTED A CHAMBER FOR YOUR CRAFT BELOW—YOUR SHIPS WON'T FIND THEIR GUIDE WHEN THEY PREPARE TO STRIKE!

NO ONEfollowS! MY CREW ARE CADETS ON A TRAINING FLIGHT, NOT ATTACKERS!

WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY OTHERS! THE SAME END ALWAYS PROMPTED THEM—GREED TO POSSESS OUR LIFE-SUSTAINING ELEMENT, OUR PRICELESS RADIACTIVE ORE! WE CAN DRIVE OFF THE NEW EXPLOITERS, TOO!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE "OTHERS" WERE, BUT THEY DIDN'T BELONG TO THE SOLAR ALLIANCE OF EARTH, VENUS AND MARS, WHOM I REPRESENT! SEND EMISSARIES TO EARTH WITH US AND WE'LL SIGN A PACT FOR LASTING PEACE!

PROMISES WON'T GAIN YOU FREEDOM! TITAN NO LONGER AWAITS HER ATTACKERS—WE SHALL STRIKE FIRST!

LEADER TO TITAN WAR SQUADRON! RAISE SHIPS AT ONCE—TARGET, EARTH!

WAIT!

CALL BACK YOUR SHIPS! YOU'RE STARTING A NEEDLESS WAR! WE'VE COME IN PEACE—THREE CADETS AND I, IN AN UNARMED TRAINING SHIP!

AND WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?

THAT'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T LEARN FROM ME!

TAKE HIM TO THE THOUGHT VIEWER! WE'LL FIND OUT QUICK ENOUGH!

YES, LEADER!
TAKE OFF YOUR RIGHT GLOVE!

THAT SWITCH IS OPEN — I WONDER IF THAT CIRCUIT CAUSED THE BUZZING WHEN I TRIED TO CONTACT CORBETT AND MANNING? I'LL JUST CLOSE IT AND OPEN MY AUDIO-PHONE!

ATTACH THE ELECTRODE TO HIS HAND! HIS THOUGHTS WILL LEAD US TO THE OTHERS!

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND THE GLARE ON THE VIEWER SCREEN — MY MIND SEEMS TO HAVE GONE BLANK!

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? THINK OF THEM! THINK!

KEEP ASKING HIM! SO FAR HE RESISTS US — HE IS THINKING OF ME!

MEANWHILE...

MANNING! LISTEN TO THE AUDIO-PHONE! I'M PICKING UP SOMETHING!

THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE US, CAPTAIN STRONG! WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO CADETS?

WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO? THAT'S US!

THAT MEANS CAPTAIN STRONG AND ASTRO ARE CAPTURED! WE CAN'T HANG AROUND HERE! COME ON!

SAY, JUNIOR, IT'S GETTING SOUPY HERE! WHY SHOULD IT BE GETTING WARMER UP THIS WAY?

SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY DIRECTION OPEN, I'LL HAVE TO GO WITH YOU!

MANNING, WHAT'S CLICKING?
IT'S A GEIGER COUNTER. I ALWAYS CARRY WITH ME! AND ACCORDING TO ITS CHATTER, THIS AREA IS PLENTY HOT!

STAYING BACK AT THE INTERSECTION IS LIABLE TO BE PRETTY HOT, TOO! KEEP GOING, ROGER!

JUNIOR, THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF! THERE IS SOME POWERFUL RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AROUND HERE, AND I'M NOT LEAD-LINED!

MANNING, THAT'S IT! WHAT KILLED LIEUTENANT THOMAS? OVER-EXPOSURE TO A STRANGE RADIOACTIVE ELEMENT THAT CAME FROM TITAN? ITS SOURCE MUST BE AHEAD!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO TURN BACK!

MANNING, THE ICE IS MELTING HERE. THE TITANS WALK AROUND IN THEIR CITY BELOW. THE ICE DRESSED LIKE SUN BATHERS CAN'T YOU SEE IT? THAT RADIOACTIVE SOURCE MUST SUPPLY THE CENTRAL HEATING FOR THE ENTIRE CITY!

IT ALSO SUPPLIES A ONE WAY TICKET TO ETERNITY? I'M GOING BACK! NICE KNOWING YOU!

HOLD ON! IF I'M RIGHT, I HAVE A PLAN THAT MIGHT FREE CAPTAIN STRONG AND ASTRO! YOU'RE NOT GOING CHICKEN ON ME, WE'RE GOING AHEAD!

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY HERO, JUNIOR!

DON'T FORGET THE "REPUTATION" YOU ESTABLISHED FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU TOLD HOW YOU TALKED ASTRO AND ME DOWN ON THAT ROCKET CRUISER. LET'S LIVE UP TO IT, MANNING!

I DON'T NEED A GEIGER COUNTER NOW — THAT'S A RADIANT LIGHT GLowing AHEAD!

THEN WE'VE FOUND THE SOURCE!
LOOK! THAT STONE CORE IS A SOLID RADIO-ACTIVE ELEMENT!
NO WONDER THEY CAN KEEP LIFE WARM ON TITAN! THE ENERGY FROM THAT COULD HEAT AND POWER THIS whole SUBTERRANEAN ICE CITY!

OUR SUITS DON'T PROVIDE ENOUGH INSULATION! I'D LIKE TO GET SOMETHING BETWEEN ME AND THAT RADIOACTIVE ROCK, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY YOU!

THAT LEAD SHIELD WILL PROTECT US, ROGER... LET'S GRAB THE OPERATOR!

OH-Oh! HE'S SEEN US!

HIT HIM HIGH, MANNING? I'LL TACKLE HIM LOW!

TOM, HE'S PUSHING ME BEYOND THE SHIELD---MY EYES CAN'T TAKE IT! I'M GETTING FLARE BURN!

THIS BLASTED SPACE SUIT'S SLOWING ME UP! HANG ON, MANNING! I'LL TRY TO GET RID OF HIM!
ABOUT TIME! IF I WASN'T PINNED DOWN, I'D HAVE FINISHED HIM OFF MYSELF WITHOUT WAITING FOR YOU TO PLAY AROUND WHILE I WAS EXPOSED TO THAT RADIANT LIGHT!

DON'T BLOW YOUR JETS! TIE HIM UP WITH HIS BELT, WHILE I TRY TO FIGURE OUT THIS CONTROL PANEL!

HE REFUSES TO THINK WHERE HE LEFT HIS TWO CADETS! HE KEEPS WONDERING WHY HIS EXPOSED HAND ISN'T FROZEN! TAKE THEM AWAY, AND DISPOSE OF THEM!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MANNING? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO SHUT OFF THAT HEAT SOURCE -- THEN I CAN PUT THE TITANIANS IN THE DEEP FREEZE TILL WE RESCUE ASTRO AND CAPTAIN STRONG!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, JUNIOR? WRAP UP THAT RADIOACTIVE STONE IN INSULATING PAPER? I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE WHILE YOU TIE UP THAT PACKAGE!

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO LOWER AND RAISE THE TEMPERATURE BELOW TITAN'S SURFACE! NO, THIS LEVER DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD!

LET'S USE THIS JOKER FOR A SHIELD, GET BACK TO THE POLARIS AND CONTACT A SOLAR ALLIANCE SQUADRON TO START SHOOTING UP THE PLACE!

WE'LL TRY A PEACEFUL WAY FIRST! LET'S SEE WHAT THESE TWO SWITCHES DO!

GET AWAY FROM THERE --- BEFORE --- HEY!

THE PLATFORM'S MOVING BACK!
WAIT, MANNING! THERE'S A WHOLE METAL SHIELD RISING FROM THE GROUND! IT'S GOING TO COMPLETELY ENCIRCLE AND COVER THE RADIOACTIVE ROCK! IT MUST BE MADE OF LEAD! THAT'S HOW THE TITANIANS CAN PROTECT THEIR ROCK FROM SEIZURE AND TURN THEIR CITY INTO A FREEZING TRAP!

THIS IS ONE RIDE YOU CAN SOLO, JUNIOR!

THE GEIGER COUNTER HARDLY REGISTERS—- THAT SHIELD REALLY WORKS!

ANYONE NOT IN AN INSULATED SUIT IS GOING TO GET MIGHTY COLD VERY FAST!

THEN WE CAN PASS RIGHT BY THE GUARDS, THEY'LL BE FROZEN STIFF, AND GET STRONG AND ASTRO! THEY'RE WEARING SPACE SUITS!

THIS PORTABLE HOUSING MUST BE A ROBOT CONTROL BOX! LET'S GO!

CADET MANNING TO CAPTAIN STRONG! TALK US IN, SIR! I THINK I'VE DOPED OUT A WAY TO BEAT THE TITANIANS!

MANNING! THIS IS CAPTAIN STRONG! WHAT'S GOING ON? MY HAND SUDDENLY FEELS COLD—- I'M DONNING MY SPACE GLOVE AND THE TITANIANS HERE ARE MOVING LIKE LEAD FIGURES!

JUST A LITTLE TRICK I DEvised TO PUT THEM ON ICE, SIR! WE'VE CUTOFF OFF THEIR HEAT! KEEP CONTACT OPEN, WE'LL COME IN ON YOUR BEAM!

FOLLOW ME, MANNING, BUT KEEP BEHIND ME! WE DON'T WANT THE "BRAINS" OF THE EXPEDITION EXPOSED TO ANY SUDDEN DANGER!
Meanwhile

Our transuranium ore—It's shielded! I must alert my people to don their suits—or we'll freeze!

Now we have the advantage! Give me your word there'll be peace and I'll contact my cadets to switch back your radiant heat!

You talk of peace—that warning bell signals your ships even now fly to attack!

Switch on your viewing screen!

Ding! Ding!

Those are not ships from Earth or any planet in the Solar Alliance!

They strike at a good time—our war fleet rockets earthwards—Titan's people will be icy corpses for the conquerors!

By Saturn's rings, Captain Strong, they're all frozen in their tracks!

Astro! Captain Strong! You're all right!

Blast me, I was right! The trick worked! Lucky I didn't lose my head! Corbett's carrying the controls that cut off Titan's source of heat!

But, sir, that will revive them!

Then switch it on, Corbett!

I know! Titan's about to be attacked—I want to show them that we're on their side! Throw the switch—that's an order!
Aye, aye, sir! I don’t think they’re too far gone yet! They must have some natural immunity to the extreme cold here!

He’s moving, sir! You’ve lowered the lead shield! Your intentions are peaceful?

But that fleet of strange rockets heading here didn’t look friendly to me! Call your crews to raise ships and prepare to meet them!

I can’t! All of Titan’s armed fleet flies to Earth! They can’t return in time!

There should be a Solar Alliance squadron patrol near Jupiter! Can I contact them?

Yes! There’s a frequency-selector dial! Adjust it! --- but even they are too far away!

Solar Alliance cruiser from Captain Strong! I am on Titan! We need armed ships to resist a potential attack! Come in!

Solar Alliance squadron seven to Captain Strong... when contact could not be made with the Polaris, we were instructed to investigate! We are now nearing Saturn and will proceed ready for attack!

We’re in luck! Those cruisers will be here in time! Our ship is unarmed, but, I’d like to scout for them! Can we raise the Polaris from its ice chamber?

Quite easily! You can blast off from the chamber! Come!
WE HAVE LEARNED TO UTILIZE OUR URANIUM ORE ON TITAN AND WE REFUSE TO SURRENDER THE LIFE-GIVING LORE TO SPACE PIRATES WHO EVEN NOW WING FOR OUR UNPROTECTED LAND!

IT WON'T BE UNPROTECTED ONCE THE SOLAR ALLIANCE PULLS IN! WE'RE RAISING SHIP, YOU'RE WELCOME ABOARD! CADETS, TAKE YOUR STATIONS!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

JETS BLASTING, THE POLARIS LEAVES ITS ICY CRADLE TO INTERCEPT THE STRANGE, APPROACHING FLEET...

COURSE SET TO HEAD OFF THE STRANGE CRUISERS, SIR!

ASTRO, RELAY THE TELETRANSCEIVER TO ME HERE, THEN TRY TO RAISE THOSE UNKNOWN SHIPS---WE MAY HAVE MISJUDGED THEIR INTENTIONS! I HOPE SO!

CONTACT MADE WITH THE ALIEN FLEET, SIR! GO AHEAD!

THIS IS CAPTAIN STRONG OF THE SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISER, POLARIS! YOUR COURSE IS SET FOR TITAN, IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND STATE YOUR MISSION!

WE COME FROM THE SPACE BEYOND YOUR PETTY SOLAR SYSTEMS! OUR WORLDS NEED FISSIONABLE ORE! OUR SMALL RAIDS FAILED BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME, WE SHALL SEIZE TITAN'S RICH SOURCE! DO NOT TRY TO STOP US!
TITAN NEEDS ITS ORE TO SUSTAIN LIFE THERE! LAND PEACEFULLY AND WE WILL TRY TO NEGOTIATE A TRADE ALLIANCE!

WHAT WE NEED— WE TAKE!

IT'S NO-USE— THEY WANT WAR! OUR HELP HASN'T ARRIVED YET— WE'VE GOT TO DELAY THE ENEMY SHIPS! PREPARE FOR AN EVASIVE ACTION!

AYE, AYE, SIR! THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE CAN DO— WE'RE UNARMED!

AS THE WARRING FLEET LAUNCHES THE ATTACK, THE POLARIS STREAKS BRAZENLY ACROSS ITS PATH...

GIVE ME EMERGENCY POWER, ASTRO! WE'RE PLAYING TAG AND I DON'T WANT TO BE IT!

HERE THEY COME, SIR!

SUDDENLY, THE POLARIS IS STAGGERED BY A SLEDGHEAMMER BLOW— SOMEWHERE ASTERN...

TH-THAT! GOT US, SIR! ALL STATIONS CHECK IN! ASTRO, DID THAT HIT OUR TUBES?— COME IN!

YOU'VE DIVERTED THEM FROM TITAN, SIR, BUT THEY'VE GOT THE RAY GUNS BLASTING AT US!

WE HAVE TO KEEP JUST OUT OF RANGE TILL OUR CRUISERS CAN TAKE OVER; I'LL THROW ON THE PORT JETS, WE'RE GOING TO QUARTER FAST!
A blinding hit on our port tube, sir, but it will still operate!

Fine! They've flown into a trap! We're heading right for the Solar Alliance squadron and when we round Saturn, they'll get a chance to fire on the Wolf Pack's flank!

As the Polaris swings around Saturn, the Solar Alliance cruisers spot their targets...

Strong to Solar Alliance Seven! Here come your babies, good hunting!

They're still tailing us, sir!

Solar Alliance Leader to Captain Strong, thanks for flushing the Space Vultures! Tally-ho!

Look! They got one of the enemy's ships, sir!

Yes, but our lead ship's in trouble! We're going to its aid!

What can we do, sir?

We're going to tail up sharply by that enemy ship and scorch it with our rocket blast! That'll make it 'hot' for him!
Swerving close to the attacking ship, The Polaris turns tail and the exhaust of radioactive heat blasts the attacker...

They're turning, sir! They're limping off!

Captain Strong to Solar Alliance Squadron, nice work! You've sent them back to the bush leagues in outer space! Stand by to cover us, we're going to touchdown on Titan!

You have made our enemy yours --- your gesture of friendship will not be forgotten!

Thanks! Whoever destroys the solar peace is our enemy! Now I want to contact Commander Arkwright and report in!

Captain Strong calling Commander Arkwright! The unknown enemy's fleet has been driven off! Titan is convinced of our peaceful intentions!

Good work, strong, but the danger isn't over! While Squadron Seven was pulled off its patrol, a strange fleet slipped by from the region of Saturn and they're heading for Earth right now!
HELLO, STEVE! ARE YOU AND THE CADETS ALL RIGHT?

YES, JOAN, BUT TELL COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT IF THIS IS HIS IDEA OF A ROUTINE TRAINING FLIGHT, THE ACADEMY WON'T BE ABLE TO RECRUIT MANY CADETS!

WHAT? WHY THAT MUST BE THE TITAN FLEET!

QUICKLY! LET ME CONTACT THEM! I MUST TURN THEM BACK BEFORE HARM IS DONE!

AS THE POLARIS RETURNS...

THE SOLAR ALLIANCE CRUISERS SHOULD HAVE BLASTED THOSE FOREIGN SHIPS FROM SPACE! WE'VE JUST LEFT OURSELVES WIDE OPEN FOR FUTURE ATTACKS FROM SOME UNKNOWN BASE!

THEY MAY HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON AND SUE FOR PEACE, MANNING, WE NEVER ATTACK!

DON'T MIND MANNING, HE LIKES BLOWING OFF SPACE GAS!

WHY, YOU SPACEWORM! IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU'D STILL BE ON TITAN!

FOR YOU, MANNING! I LIKE THAT---

STOW IT! IF YOU THREE WANT TO GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY, YOU'D BETTER STOP YOUR INTERPLANETARY WAR!

AND THE ACADEMY'S COMING UP FAST! TAKE STATIONS AND STAND BY TO LAND!

LATER, ON THE PLANET TITAN.

WE'RE RAISING SHIP! TITAN CAN JOIN THE SOLAR ALLIANCE AS SOON AS YOU CAN SEND A MISSION TO EARTH!

FAREWELL, CAPTAIN STRONG! YOU LANDED A SUSPECTED FOE, A MAN FROM EACH OF OUR WORLDS HAS DIED THROUGH UNFORTUNATE FEAR AND DISTRUST, BUT YOU HAVE SHOWN YOURSELF A FRIEND IN OUR MOMENT OF PERIL! TITAN STANDS WITH THE SOLAR ALLIANCE!
This photograph of Mars shows how closely it resembles earth. The north polar ice cap is exactly the same as the ice cap surrounding the North Pole on earth and there is, quite probably, a torrid zone just like ours on the middle belt of the planet, closest to the sun. When seen in the night sky, it is very easy to identify because of its red, reflected light.

American Museum of Natural History, N. Y.