Space Cadets Tom Corbett, Astro, Roger Manning, and their commanding officer, Captain Strong study “free flight” aboard the Space Cruiser POLARIS.

Gravity is the pull of our planet, Earth, which—like a huge magnet—draws to itself everything, including people.

Out in space, far away from Earth, there is nothing to pull one down. People as well as loose objects can float about. This condition is known as “free flight.”

As shown in the photograph, Space Cadets practice constantly the various tricky ways of getting around while in space and without an artificial “gravity” to pull them down.
ATTENTION ALL CADET SQUADRONS! ONE GRADUATING SPACE CADET HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO COMMAND EACH SPACE SHIP!

AT SPACE ACADEMY, THE WEEK BEFORE GRADUATION IS MILITARY MANEUVERS WEEK... WHEN THE CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION TAKE COMMAND OF THE SPACE FLEET!

CADET CREWS WILL OBEY THE SENIOR CADET EXACTLY AS THEY WOULD THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER! PREPARE TO BLAST OFF FOR SPACE POSITIONS AT ONCE! SPACEMAN'S LUCK TO YOU ALL!

PHOOEY! I WONDER WHICH SWELL-HEADED SENIOR WE'VE DRAWN FOR CAPTAIN!

BY THE TIME A SPACE CADET IS A SENIOR, HE STOPS BEING LIKE YOU, ROGER!

YOU CALLING ME SWELL-HEADED? YOU... YOU VENUSIAN SWAMP MONKEY!

YES, YOU! YOU BAG OF SPACE GAS!

AT EASE, CADETS! I CAME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU YOUR CAPTAIN FOR THE MILITARY SPACE MANEUVERS.

CUT IT OUT, YOU GUYS! HERE COMES CAPTAIN STRONG!
THIS IS SPACE CADET BOB KEEN, SENIOR. CADET KEEN -- SPACE CADET'S TOM CORBETT, ASTRO, ROGER MANNING!

GLAD TO HAVE YOU FOR SPACEMATES, FELLOWS.

LET'S GET CRACKING, FELLOWS! WE'RE DUE FOR POSITION OFF THE MOON AT 1800.

CADET MANNING I KNOW YOU ALWAYS HAVE A CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER? I'LL OVERLOOK YOUR DISCIPLINE THIS TIME -- BUT THE NEXT TIME YOU GET WISE, I'LL KNOCK THAT CHIP OFF AND GROUND YOU UNDERSTAND?

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW, CADETS. DO A GOOD JOB AND SPACEMAN'S LUCK TO YOU ALL.

THANK YOU, SIR!

I GUESS YOU CADETS KNOW MY GRADUATING MARKS DEPEND ON THE SHOWING MY SHIP MAKES IN SPACE MANEUVERS.

WHERE DO YOU GET THAT 'MY SHIP' BUSINESS? YOU ARE STRICTLY A GUEST HERE!

NOW GET TO YOUR STATION... AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

OKAY, OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO THROW YOUR AUTHORITY AROUND SIR!
CADET CORBETT, SET COURSE BY MARS VECTOR. BLAST OFF AT 87 DEGREES, ZERO MINUTES!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

REACTORS ACTIVATED TO FULL SPACE SPEED POWER. READY TO BLOW JETS, SIR!

TAKE OFF AT FOUR THREE... TWO... ONE... ZERO! CONNECT!

WELL, THERE THEY GO; CAPTAIN STRONG THE GREATEST TEST ANY SPACE CADET CAN FACE!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE PROUD OF THEM, SIR! I KNOW CADET KEEN WILL FINISH CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE LIST --- HE'S GOT THE BEST SQUADRON SPACE ACADEMY EVER TRAINED UNDER HIS COMMAND!

FIFTY THOUSAND MILES FROM THE MOON, THE ROCKET CRUISERS OF SPACE ACADEMY TAKE BATTLE FORMATION... AND AWAIT ORDERS!

ATTENTION, SPACE FLEET! ATTENTION, SPACE FLEET! THEORETICAL ENEMY FLEET APPROACHES EARTH, MARS DIRECTION! YOUR PROBLEM --- MEET THE ENEMY, MANEUVER FOR BATTLE POSITION, DRIVE ENEMY FLEET AWAY! THAT IS ALL!
THAT'S ALL, HE SAYS! HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND A MAKE-BELIEVE ENEMY FLEET IN MILLIONS OF MILES OF SPACE?

BY LOOKING FOR IT, INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING, CADET MANNING?

CADET ASTRO---I WANT FULL SPACE SPEED! CADET MANNING---GET TO YOUR RADARSCOPE AND SET IT AT MAXIMUM DISTANCE! GIVE ME A FULL 360 DEGREE AREA LOOKOUT AT ALL TIMES!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

ROGER WORRIES ME, TOM! HE'S ALWAYS GRIPPING AND BEEFING!

THAT'S JUST HIS WAY, CAPTAIN BOB! HE MAY BLOW HIS JETS NOW AND THEN---BUT HE'S STILL THE BEST RADAR CADET IN THE ACADEMY. HE'LL SPOT EVERY SPECK OF DUST WE APPROACH!

LOOK, TOM...I'M STILL JUST A SPACE CADET! SO DON'T CALL ME CAPTAIN UNTIL I GRADUATE AND EARN THAT SPACE RATING!

OKAY, BOB!

RADAR DECK TO CONTROL! POSITIVE REACTION FROM AREA 30 DEGREES BEYOND MARS VECTOR! I THINK THAT'S IT, FELLOWS!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU, BOB? ROGER SPOTTED THE ENEMY FLEET!

THOSE SHIPS DON'T LOOK MAKE-BELIEVE TO ME!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ROGER! THEY LOOK MORE LIKE ROBOROCKETS, UNDER AUTOMATIC CONTROLS! STAND BY BATTLE STATIONS!
OUR FLEET IS OFF ON A TANGENT! THEY CAN'T REACH US FOR HOURS. WHAT DO WE DO, BOB?

WE'RE NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR THE REST OF OUR SHIPS TO COME UP! PREPARE TO ATTACK!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA, BOB!

THE CHIEF MANEUVER UNDER ATTACK IS TO RETREAT AT ONCE AND FORM BATTLE FORMATION. LET'S ATTACK IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE ENEMY RETREATS RIGHT INTO OUR FLEET!

GOOD IDEA, TOM!

GOT THEM RIGHT ON THE SPOT, BOB!

FIRE DOUBLE SALVO!
PERFECT SHOT, TOM! ALMOST AS GOOD AS I WOULD HAVE DONE! THE ENEMY IS RETREATING TOWARD OUR FLEET!

THEY'RE NOW IN BATTLE FORMATION AND WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH TIME UNLESS OUR SHIPS GET INTO THIS ACT!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SWEAT THIS OUT... AND HOPE OUR FLEET GOES INTO THE ATTACK!

AS THE AUTOMATIC SPACE SHIPS ASSUME BATTLE FORMATION, OBEYING RIGID MILITARY RULES, THE REST OF THE SPACE ACADEMY FLEET ROARS TO THE ATTACK!

COMMANDER ARKRIGHT TO ALL SPACE CADETS! WELL DONE! THE MANEUVERS ARE CLASSED AS PERFECT SUCCESS! SPECIAL CITATION TO SENIOR SPACE CADET BOB KEEN AND THE CREW OF THE POLARIS!

FINAL ASSIGNMENT! CREW OF THE POLARIS IS TO PICK UP THEORETICAL PRISONERS AND TAKE THEM TO ASTEROID 88 FOR DETENTION! THAT IS ALL!

IMPS OF SPACE! WE DO THE WHOLE JOB FOR OUR FLEET--- AND WHAT'S OUR REWARD? MORE WORK... WHILE THE REST OF THE GUYS GO HOME!
Phooey! Look at them! Going home... while we get extra homework to do!

Forget it, Roger. Just think about Bob... he'll get rated at the top of his graduating class!

Sure... and it's we who should get the real credit! What did he do, anyway? The lucky stiff was assigned to the best squadron in the academy... that's all!

Asteroid 88... lonely rock in space, where the solar alliance has located a prison-school for the most dangerous criminals of all the planets!

Cadet Astro... full braking rockets! Stand by for touchdown!

Landing perfect!

Natch! With Roger Manning handling radar-direction. How could we miss?

Delivering prisoners and survivors captured in space maneuvers, sir!

Congratulations, Cadet Keen! We followed the battle on radarscreen! Your handling of the problem was brilliant!
HERE IS YOUR RECEIPT, CADET KEEN. YOUR SHIP WILL BE REFUELED IN A FEW MINUTES AND YOU CAN BLAST OFF FOR SPACE ACADEMY WHENEVER YOU WISH.

THANK YOU, SIR.

WELL, FELLOWS, WE'RE ABOUT READY TO TAKE OFF!

BOY, IT CAN'T BE TOO SOON FOR ME! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE SPACEWILLIES!

WE MIGHT AS WELL GET ABOARD THE POLARIS. ASTRO, ACTIVATE THE REACTORS AND STAND BY TO BLAST OFF.

AYE, AYE, SIR!

ROGER, CHECK OUR TAKE-OFF COURSE AND... AND... LORDS OF SPACE! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BOB?

NEVER MIND WHO! GET ABOARD SHIP! ALL OF YOU! THAT'S AN ORDER!

WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM? HE'S GOT NO RIGHT SNARLING AT US!

YOU GUYS GO ABOARD! I'VE GOT A HUNCH THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!
JIM! MY OWN BROTHER---A PRISONER HERE ON ASTEROID 881... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I WAS FRAMED, KID! BELIEVE ME, SOMEBODY FORGED EVIDENCE AGAINST ME---AND BEFORE I COULD PROVE MY INNOCENCE, I WAS LOCKED UP HERE!

OUR COURTS DON'T MAKE MISTAKES, JIM!

WOULD YOU BELIEVE YOUR OWN BROTHER IS A CRIMINAL, BOB? THEY MADE A MISTAKE THIS TIME---AND I CAN PROVE IT!

YOU CAN PROVE IT? WELL, WHY DON'T YOU? WHAT WOULD MOM SAY IF SHE KNEW YOU WERE HERE?

HOW CAN I PROVE ANYTHING, LOCKED AWAY HERE?

IF YOU HELP ME, BOB... I KNOW WHERE THE PROOF OF MY INNOCENCE IS! I CAN CLEAR MYSELF IN HALF AN HOUR!

SMUGGLE YOU OUT OF HERE? IS THAT THE HELP YOU WANT FROM ME, JIM? YOU... YOU KNOW I CAN'T!

ALL RIGHT, KID. I DON'T BLAME YOU. BE SELFISH --- THINK OF YOURSELF! LET ME ROT HERE!

I HOPE MOM NEVER FINDS OUT ABOUT ME... OR... OR THAT YOU COULD HAVE HELPED ME PROVE MY INNOCENCE AND REFUSED TO DO IT! SO LONG, KID.

WAIT! JIM! I---I'LL HELP YOU!
DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT'S GOT INTO BOB?

LET'S HAVE IT, TOM! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

NOW WHAT IN THE GREAT SPACEWAYS GOT INTO TOM?

LOOK, GUYS, FORGET IT! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT BOB'S TROUBLE ... EXCEPT MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS! AND I'M SORRY I OVERHEARD WHAT I DID! NOW FORGET IT!

I'LL HAVE THE HATCH OPEN. SLIP INTO THE CARGO DECK AND STAY THERE UNTIL WE REACH SPACEPORT MARS!

HOW DID YA MAKE OUT, JIM? DID THE KID FALL FOR IT?

LIKE A FALLING STAR, BIFF! THE CARGO HATCH IS OPEN —— YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

SURE... SURE, KID!

CLEAR SPACE, BOYS! HURRY UP AND GET IN!

FEEL THE ENGINES? WE'RE BLASTING OFF!

HOO-HO! AND ASTEROID 88 IS SUPPOSED TO BE ESCAPE-PROOF!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOB? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ALL TRIP? ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

THANKS FOR OFFERING YOUR HELP, TOM. BUT WHAT I'VE DONE... WELL, IT'S BETTER YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. I'M COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE!

LOOK, BOB... I OVERHEARD YOU BEFORE... I KNOW YOU WERE HURT BY FINDING YOUR BROTHER A PRISONER ON ASTEROID 88. BUT IT'S NOTHING YOU DID.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, KID. MY BROTHER HELPED ME AND SOME OF MY FRIENDS ESCAPE!

JIM! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO COME ALONE! AND STAY OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL WE REACHED SPACEPORT!

RELAX, KID!

SORRY I HAD TO FOOL YOU, BOB. BUT I'M GUILTY AS ANY SPACE DEVIL! I TOLD YOU THAT YARN TO GET YOUR HELP TO ESCAPE!

AND I BELIEVED YOU! I AM A FOOL!

JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND YOU WON'T BE HURT! WE'RE TAKING OVER THE SHIP!

CHANGE COURSE FOR OUTLAW COLONY IN THE ASTEROID BELT, BIFF! THERE'S NO LAW THERE... EXCEPT THE LAW OF A PARALORAY GUN!
ON COURSE, JIM. WE'LL SOON BE IN AT OUTLAW COLONY!

OKAY, SPACEHEROES! YOU'LL BEHAVE UNTIL WE GET AWAY? NOW MOVE!

YOU'LL HAVE THE POLARIS BACK AS SOON AS WE GET NEAR OUTLAW COLONY. ALL I WANT FROM YOUR SHIP IS TO TAKE US OUT TO THE ASTEROID BELT.

CARGO ROOM

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, DON'T YOU, JIM? I'LL BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR THIS AND EXPELLED FROM SPACE ACADEMY! EVERYTHING I'VE WORKED FOR ALL THESE YEARS RUINED!

SORRY, BOB. BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY FOR ME TO ESCAPE FROM ASTEROID EIGHT BALL!

LOOK, BOB, MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME WAY OUT OF THIS... DON'T GIVE UP!

IT'S NO USE, TOM. THANKS JUST THE SAME!

BOB... I--I'M SORRY FOR RIDING YOU. IF I CAN DO SOMETHING... YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON ME...

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING WHEN YOU PICKED ON ME!

WE DON'T HAVE TO TELL COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT THAT BOB HELPED THE PRISONERS ESCAPE! SUPPOSE WE SAY THEY FORCED US.

THAT WOULD BE LYING, ROGER, AND SPACE CADETS NEVER LIE!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GIVE THIS SHIP BACK TO THE CADETS? LET'S JUST STRAND THEM ON SOME SPACEROCK...

I'M RUNNING THIS GANG, BIFF! DON'T FORGET THAT! BUT IF YOU WANT SOME GOOD REASONS... I'LL TELL YOU!

ONE OF THOSE SPACE CADETS HAPPENS TO BE MY BROTHER... AND I'VE DONE ENOUGH HARM TO HIM. AND A SECOND REASON IS THAT IF WE TAKE A SOLAR GUARD CRUISER... THEY'LL HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE TO MOVE IN ON OUTLAW COLONY.

NOW LET'S GET INTO SPACE SUITS! WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO GO THE REST OF THE WAY BY SPACERAFT!

WE'VE TAKEN ALL THE WEAPONS SO DON'T GET ANY BRIGHT IDEAS ABOUT STOPPING US. AS SOON AS WE DROP OFF THE SHIP, TURN AROUND AND HEAD BACK TO SPACE ACADEMY!

THERE THEY GO—— THE BLOATED SPACE VERMIN!

WE MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK HOME! WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM!

POLARIS CALLING SPACE ACADEMY!

ATTENTION COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT!

WAIT A MINUTE, YOU SPACEGOOF! DON'T REPORT YET. MAYBE WE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT!
IT'S THE ONLY THING HE CAN DO AS A SPACE CADET, ROGER. YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT!

KEEPING QUIET ABOUT IT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR BOB!

YEH, I KNOW! BUT JUST THE SAME, I HATE TO SEE A SWELL GUY LIKE BOB EXPELLED AT GRADUATION!

YOUR REPORT HAS BEEN RECORDED, CADET KEEN! YOU ARE CONFINED TO QUARTERS FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP!

YES, SIR! I AM PLACING CADET CORBETT IN COMMAND OF THE SHIP!

A SADHEARTED SQUADRON OF SPACE CADETS RETURNS TO SPACE ACADEMY ABOARD THE POLARIS!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, TOM?

OUR ORDERS ARE TO DELIVER YOU TO COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT FOR COURT-MARTIAL!

IT IS THE DECISION OF THE COURT-MARTIAL THAT YOU BE EXPELLED FROM SPACE ACADEMY AT ONCE! HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY, MR. KEEN?

NOTHING, SIR! I AGREE WITH THE DECISION!
BOY, IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON HIS BROTHER JIM—— I'D BREAK HIM INTO METEOR DUST!

WHAT'S BOB GOING TO DO NOW? HIS CAREER IS OVER?

BOB WAS ONE OF THE BESTCADET'S SPACE ACADEMY EVER HAD? I WISH WE COULD HELP HIM

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING... ANYTHING... THAT CAN SAVE BOB, SIR?

I DON'T KNOW IF THE ESCAPED CONVICTS WERE RECAPTURED THERE MIGHT BE... JUST MIGHT BE..... SOME CHANCE FOR A REVIEW OF HIS CASE?

COME ON, YOU SPACE CRAWLERS! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

YES, CADET CORBETT SIR. I MEAN MR. KEEN, COULDN'T... COULDN'T YOU GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE, SIR?

I'M SORRY, CADET CORBETT, BUT THE COURT-MARTIAL HAS DECIDED HIS CASE, THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO DO EXCEPT MAKE THE VERDICT OFFICIAL!
JUST A MINUTE, Tom! I can do one thing.

I can hold up the report of the court-martial for several days... do you think new evidence can turn up in that time?

I don't know, sir. But Bob Keen is worth saving for the solar guard... and I know we can try to do something for him!

Go ahead and try, Tom! This report is going to be lost on my desk for about a week.

Bob! Bob Keen! Where is he?

He packed up and left!

He said something about going to the spaceport and shipping out on some tramp space freighter!

Now leave us alone, Junior! We feel bad enough about losing our spacemate! Go on... jet out of here!
LOOK, YOU SPACENUT! STOP RUNNING AROUND LIKE A MOONCHICK WITH ITS HEAD CUT OFF! WHAT'S GOING ON?

ROGER'S RIGHT, TOM? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE COMMERCIAL SPACEPORT, YOU SPACE-LUGS! WE'VE GOT TO CATCH BOB BEFORE HE BLASTS OFF!

THERE HE IS! OVER BY THAT FREIGHTER!

COME ON!

WAIT A MINUTE, BOB! YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CHANCE...

IT ISN'T MUCH... BUT AT LEAST THERE'S HOPE.

BRASSHAT ARKWRIGHT MUST HAVE BROKEN HIS HEART TO GIVE ME A CHANCE! WELL, I DON'T WANT IT! SPACE ACADEMY CAN GO Hitch A RIDE ON THE TAIL OF A COMET! I DON'T CARE!
YOU CAN'T MEAN WHAT YOU SAY, BOB!
I SURE DO! I'M GOING TO DO THINGS MY OWN WAY! OUT ON THE OUTLAW COLONIES A SPACEMAN MAKES AND TAKES HIS OWN CHANCES! WELL, I'LL FIND MY BROTHER OUT THERE...
I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF A SWELL GUY... BOB KEEN!
HE'LL PROBABLY FIND JIM KEEN AND KILL HIM FOR WHAT HE DID! THEN BOB WILL BECOME A REAL OUTLAW HIMSELF!

HE'S GONE SPACE CRAZY. WHY DOES HE WANT TO RUIN HIMSELF JUST WHEN WE GOT HIM ANOTHER CHANCE?
I CAN SEE FROM YOUR FACES THAT YOU HAD NO LUCK.
NO, SIR! HE'S OFF FOR THE OUTLAW COLONY... AND REVENGE! WE CAN'T STOP HIM NOW!

I HAVE THE POLARIS AT MY COMMAND, YOU KNOW. WE COULD GET TO THE OUTLAW COLONY BEFORE THAT SLOW FREIGHTER ON WHICH BOB IS SHIPPING?
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE WORTH THE TRIP IF WE WERE THERE TO MEET BOB?
I'LL SAY! STEP ON THE JETS, CAPTAIN STRONG! LET'S GET ABOARD THE POLARIS!
ALL STATIONS STANDING BY FOR BLAST OFF, SIR!

CONTACT--- AND FULL SPACE SPEED!

WE'LL BE AT OUTLAW COLONY, VERY SOON. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT A SOLAR GUARD CRUISER HAS NO AUTHORITY THERE... NOR HAVE SPACE CADETS ANY AUTHORITY.

WE'LL BEAT THE FREIGHTER IN BY AN HOUR, SIR. COURSE ALL CLEAR!

VERY GOOD, CADET MANNING. PUT RADARSCOPE ON AUTOMATIC AND REPORT TO CONTROL DECK.

WEARING OUR UNIFORMS WILL BE DANGEROUS. MY ORDERS ARE FOR YOU TO PUT CIVILIAN CLOTHES OVER YOUR CADET UNIFORMS. TOM, ROGER, AND ASTRO WILL LAND, USING OUR SPACEBOAT. I WILL CRUISE OUT HERE IN SPACE!

READY, SIR! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?

GET BOB KEEN AND BRING HIM TO ME. MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T ATTACK OR HARM HIS BROTHER JIM. IF HE DOES, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP HIM ANY MORE!

WE'LL LAND AT THE SPACEPORT AND THEN JUST WANDER AROUND THE TOWN. JIM KEEN WILL PROBABLY BE HANGING OUT IN SOME GAMBLING BAR... AND IF WE WAIT THERE--- BOB WILL SHOW UP LOOKING FOR HIM!
THERE IS A PLACE UP AHEAD CALLED THE SPACEHOLE... AND IT LOOKS MIGHTY ROUGH!

HEAD THAT WAY. IF JIM KEEN IS AROUND, HE'LL BE AT THE WORST PLACE IN THIS OUTLAW COLONY.

DON'T LOOK NOW, GUYS, BUT JIM KEEN AND A COUPLE OF SPACE-RATS ARE IN A BOOTH OVER AT THE SIDE.

I SEE HIM! HEAD FOR THE EMPTY BOOTH NEXT TO HIS!

STOP FEELING SO BROKENHEARTED. SO YOUR KID BROTHER WILL BE EXPELLED FROM SPACE ACADEMY — SO WHAT?

HE'S A GOOD KID. I WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING FOR HIM!

THERE'S BOB COMING IN! LET'S GRAB HIM BEFORE HE SEES HIS BROTHER!

NO, ROGER! TURN YOUR FACE AWAY SO HE DOESN'T SEE YOU! LET'S HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY TO HIS SWEET BROTHER... THE SPACERAT!

AFTER BOB TELLS HIS BROTHER WHAT HE THINKS OF HIM, BE READY TO JUMP INTO ACTION. WE'VE GOT TO SEE THAT BOB DOESN'T DO ANYTHING VIOLENT!

BOB! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I CAME TO JOIN YOU, JIM!
SPACE ACADEMY NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN---THEY JUST BOUNCED ME OUT! IF THAT'S ALL THE APPRECIATION I GET AFTER THE YEARS I WASTED AS A SPACE CADET---I'M OUT TO GET EVEN!

WHY... THAT COSMIC LIAR! HE GOT A FAIR TRIAL AND A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN?

EASY, ROGER! DON'T GIVE US AWAY!

ALL RIGHT, BOB. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET EVEN WITH THE SOLAR GUARDS!

THAT'S ALL I ASK!

WE'RE GOING TO ROB THE ASTRAL PRINCESS, A SPACE EXCURSION SHIP. WE'LL BE ABOARD HER WHEN SHE BLETS OFF WITH HER TOURIST PASSENGERS! AFTER WE HOLD UP THE SHIP---OUR OWN ROCKET WILL PICK US UP IN SPACE!

SO BOB KEEN HAS DECIDED TO BECOME A SPACE THIEF! AND WE WERE WASTING OUR TIME WORRYING ABOUT HIM!

WINDS OF SPACE? I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT!
NO USE WASTING TIME CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK! WE'VE GOT TO PREVENT THE ROBBERY OF THE ASTRAL PRINCESS!

ROGER, YOU GO BACK TO THE POLARIS IN OUR SPACEBOAT. TELL CAPTAIN STRONG ABOUT THE PLAN TO ROB THE SHIP. ASTRO AND I WILL BOARD THE ASTRAL PRINCESS AND Warn THE CAPTAIN!

RIGHT!

THERE SHE IS, ASTRO! LET'S GO ABOARD!

WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OFF OUR DISGUISES--- OR THE CAPTAIN WON'T BELIEVE US.

WE'RE NOT TAKING ON ANY SPACE HITCHHIKERS. YOU ASTEROID HOBES BETTER GET OFF THIS SHIP FAST!

WAIT A MINUTE, SIR. WE'RE SPACE CADETS --- NOT SPACE HOBOES! WE WANT TO SEE THE CAPTAIN!

IF YOU WEREN'T SPACE CADETS --- I'D THINK YOUR STORY OF A PLOT TO HOLD UP THIS SHIP WAS NOTHING BUT A SPACE DREAM! BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PROVE IT.

WE'LL TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT EVERY TOURIST AS THEY COME ABOARD. THE THIEVES SAID THEY WOULD BE ABOARD WHEN YOU BLAST OFF, SIR.

GO AHEAD, CADET CORBETT! EVERY PASSENGER WILL COME THROUGH THIS DOOR!
ALL PASSENGERS ACCOUNTED FOR ON BOARD, SIR?

VERY GOOD! PREPARE TO BLAST OFF!

WELL, CADETS? IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR INFORMATION WAS WRONG!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR. I'M SURE THE CROOKS PLAN TO BE ON BOARD!

WELL, I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME. YOU CADETS BETTER GO LANDSIDE.

PLEASE, SIR, MAY WE STAY ON BOARD UNTIL THE NEXT STOP? WE'LL CONTACT OUR SHIP TO PICK US UP THERE!

I SEE. YOU STILL EXPECT SOMETHING! VERY WELL, STAY ON BOARD!

THANK YOU, SIR!

MEANWHILE, PATROLING THE NEARBY SPACE LANES.

THERE SHE IS, SIR! TOM AND ASTRO MUST BE ON BOARD SINCE THEY'D HAVE SIGNalled US...

WE'LL FOLLOW THE ASTRAL PRINCESS AT A DISTANCE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

WE COULDN'T BE MISTAKEN! THIS IS THE ONLY EXCURSION SHIP WITHIN MILLIONS OF MILES! AND THE ONLY ONE TO STOP AT OUTLAW COLONY!

WE SAW EVERY PASSENGER WHO CAME ON BOARD. WE BLUNDERED SOMEHOW!
Walter a minute, astro! we didn't see everyone who came on board?

Of course we did! have you gone space-nutty?

The crew, astro! the crew!

Jumping space imps! you're right, tom!

What's your rush, space cadet?

Everybody stay as you are---and no one will get blasted!

Rush them, astro! it's our only chance?

You might as well behave, astro! we have too many men here!

I don't want to shoot you, tom! but i'll have to if you don't stop?

You win, bob? but in the end, you know that you'll be caught and punished as every criminal must be?
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, BOB! I'VE GREW TO ADMIT I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF YOU! NOW, YOU'RE MARKED AS A SPACE THIEF --- AND YOU'LL HAVE TO STICK WITH US!

ALL RIGHT, MATES! WE'VE CLEANED OUT THE SHIP. OUR PICKUP BOAT WILL BE ALONG-SIDE ANY MINUTE NOW! LOCK THE PASSENGERS IN AND LET'S GO!

WAIT A MINUTE, JIM! THERE ARE TWO SPACE CADETS HERE! THEY CAN IDENTIFY US!

HUMMM, YOU ARE RIGHT, BOB! WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM!

WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND --- THEY KNOW TOO MUCH. LET'S TAKE THEM ALONG. WE CAN HOLD THEM UNTIL SPACE ACADEMY MARKS THEM AS DESERTERS!

TAKE THEM ALONG!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS, BOB! YOU PURPOSELY WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO RUIN OUR CAREERS? HOW CAN YOU TURN SO ROTTEN?

SHUT UP AND MOVE!

THE LOOTING OF THE ASTRAL PRINCESS IS OBSERVED BY RADARSCOPE ABOARD THE POLARIS!

LOOKS LIKE TOM AND ASTRO COULDN'T STOP THE ROBBERY! NOW IF I HAD BEEN THERE ---

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MADE OUT BETTER THAN TOM AND ASTRO! CLOSE YOUR JETS, CADET MANNING!
CONTACT THE ASTRAL PRINCESS AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED, ROGER!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

THE TWO CADETS WERE RIGHT—ONLY WE NEVER SUSPECTED THAT THE BANDITS WOULD COME ABOARD AS CREW MEMBERS?

WILL YOU PUT CADET CORBETT ON. I WANT TO SPEAK TO HIM.

SORRY, CAPTAIN STRONG, THE BANDITS TOOK THEM ALONG. HOSTAGES, I SUPPOSE. ANYTHING I CAN DO?

NO, CAPTAIN. PROCEED ON YOUR TOUR AS PLANNED. WE’LL HANDLE THIS FROM NOW ON.

WE CAN’T BLAST THEM NOW, SIR. TOM AND ASTRO ARE ON BOARD!

SET COURSE TO FOLLOW THE BANDITS—MAKE SURE WE’RE FAR ENOUGH BEHIND SO THAT THEY DON’T SPOT US!

ON BOARD THE OUTLAW SPACE SHIP

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US, BOB? YOU KNOW THAT SPACE ACADEMY WON’T EXPEL US AFTER WE TELL THEM OUR STORY.

EAT YOUR FOOD AND KEEP QUIET! I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU!

I HATE SPACE ACADEMY AND EVERY SPACE CADET! IF I WAS SURE WE COULD GET AWAY WITH IT—— I’D TELL MY BROTHER TO KILL YOU BOTH!
My brother and his men would hear every word we spoke through that microphone. We can talk out here... then you guys are going back into your prison?

I don't get this, Bob? You'll have to explain... plenty!

I joined my brother's gang for one reason... to capture them and turn them over to the solar guard. It would undo some of the harm I caused through my mistake even if it wouldn't get me another chance at space academy.

I thought you guys spoiled my plan when I found you on board the Astral Princess. Then I realized you could help me... so I talked my brother into bringing you along!

All right, Bob! I'm sorry I was mistaken about you. What do we do next?

Get back in there and wait... I'll free you when there's a chance to do something!

Never thought Bob Keen would turn into such a hardened criminal!

Just goes to show you, Tom! Never can tell how a space cadet will turn out?
IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON BOB KEEN, ASTRO— I'LL BREAK HIM INTO SPACE-PEBBLES!

WELL, BOB, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR OLD SPACE-CHEMPS— THE SPACE CADETS?

WHEN WE LAND AT OUTLAW COLONY— I'D LIKE TO BE PLACED IN CHARGE OF THEM, JIM. I'LL SHOW THEM A THING OR TWO!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO OUTLAW COLONY, BOB! WE'VE GOT A HIDE-OUT ASTEROID ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR US!

THAT'S IT, BOB! WE'LL STAY HERE UNTIL ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF THE ASTRAL PRINCESS HOLDUP BLOWS OVER!

HURRY UP! YOU'RE GOING TO STAY HERE NICE AND SAFE UNTIL MY BROTHER DECIDES WHAT TO DO WITH YOU!

AND IN SPACE, CAPTAIN STRONG AND ROGER STUDY THE CRIMINALS' ASTEROID HIDE-OUT.

THEY'VE LANDED, SIR! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

SET ORBITAL COURSE, ROGER. WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM TO CONTACT US— BUT ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS. MEANWHILE, CONTACT SOLAR GUARD BASE AND ASK FOR IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS!
This is going to be your home for a long time, boys. Everything will be all right— if you behave!

Pssst! I'll try to get the lay of the land here. You two try to work out some plan!

Listen, Bob, find out if there is any way to get off this place except by the way we came!

If we could only contact Captain Strong and the Polaris by spacephone, Astro. But they must be waiting for word from us somewhere near Outlaw Colony.

Suppose I hook up the power of both our spacephones, Tom? It might reach the Polaris...

Wait, Astro! There's plenty of power right in here.

Ready, Astro? I'll connect it to the main power output here... and we'll have all the power we need!

Just about ready, Tom!

Calling Space Cruiser Polaris? Calling Polaris—or any Solar Guard listening post! Space Cadets Astro and Corbett held prisoner on Outlaw asteroid! Put tracer beam on us!

The light's getting dim!

Someone is taking power off the main circuit, Biff!
Those space cadets! They must have hooked up a spacecasting setup! I'll blast them into dust!

Not so fast! I want to hear what they say!

I think I've got their wave length!

Quiet, everybody! I want to hear what message they're sending out!

Cadet Astro! Tom! We hear you! Give me details of your position!

We're locked up on this asteroid. But we can get out anytime we want. Bob Keen is here and working with us! He never betrayed us, Captain Strong!

Right now, we're preparing to take action to capture Jim Keen's gang. Bob will find out—

So he's a rat after all. There is a way of treating rats—and I'm going to do it!

Stop it, biff! I'm running things here!

You've brought a double-crosser into our gang! You're not our leader any more! Both of you are going to die!
Run for it, kid! Go on! Get aboard ship and blast off!

Hurry, Bob! And remember, kid! I'm sorry for what I did to you!

The gang's picked up your call to Captain Strong. We've got to fight for our lives!

Captain Strong... land here at once! A space cyclone has broken loose! Hurry!

I've got some guns hidden away, Tom. Come on!

Full space speed ahead, Roger! We're going in for a landing!
Jim saved my life, Tom! I'm going inside to help him!

Then we're going in with you, Bob!

That'll quiet him? Now let's get the rest of them!

You don't have to go far, Biff!

Too many for us to lick, Bob! Grab your brother --- and let's retreat!

I've got him, Tom. Let's get out!

We can't hold them off any longer, Astro! Jump for the door --- I'll follow!

Good work, Tom... Astro! I'll hold them back!

Get away while you can, Bob. I'm done for... They cut me up --- badly!
THEM' OUT-GUN YOU! GET TO THE SPACESHIP! IT'S THE ONLY WAY OFF THIS ASTEROID. I'LL HOLD BIFF BACK UNTIL YOU GET AWAY!

I GUESS IT'S BEST THIS WAY. JIM WANTS A CHANCE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES BY HELPING US ESCAPE!

I DON'T HEAR ANY MORE SHOTS, BOB. I'M SORRY ABOUT JIM.

HE WANTED IT THIS WAY. FROM HIS WAY OF THINKING, IT'S BETTER THAN GOING BACK TO ASTEROID 88! AND AT LEAST, I CAN TELL MOM JIM DIED LIKE A HERO... WITHOUT LYING?

AHoy THERE, SPACE CADETS! DON'T BLAST OFF! WE'LL BE MAROONED ON THIS ASTEROID...

Lay down your guns and surrender... OR we'll leave you here!

We might as well surrender, biff. Being marooned here will be worse than living on asteroid 88!

I GUESS YOU ARE RIGHT! WE GIVE UP!

All right, you guys! Everything is under control. Captain strong and I are here!

Relax, Roger! We've got the whole gang up in the brig!
THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR. BOB KEEN WENT OUT SINGLEHANDED TO ROUND UP THE CRIMINALS WHO ESCAPED FROM ASTEROID 88. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM US, HE SUCCEEDED! BUT THE CREDIT SHOULD BE ALL HIS, SIR!

WE'LL DELIVER THE PRISONERS TO SOLAR GUARD DETENTION STATION FOR TRIAL. THEN IT'S FULL SPACE SPEED FOR THE ACADEMY!

YES, SIR! AND I HOPE THAT COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT HASN'T YET FOUND THE REPORT OF THE COURT-MARTIAL!

SOME DAYS LATER IN THE OFFICE OF COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT.

FORTUNATELY, I HADN'T SENT IN THE COURT-MARTIAL RECORD, SPACE CADET KEEN. THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF JUDGES CAN REVIEW YOUR CASE...

... AND IN VIEW OF YOUR SERVICE IN ROUNCING UP THE SPACEBANDITS, IT IS OUR DECISION THAT YOU BE REINSTATED AT SPACE ACADEMY! YOU WILL GRADUATE WITH YOUR CLASS, CADET KEEN!

AND AFTER GRADUATION...

CADET MANNING! THE NEXT TIME YOU FAIL TO SALUTE AN OFFICER OF THE SOLAR GUARD---I'LL HAVE YOU DOING EXTRA GUARD DUTY!

GOSH! IMAGINE HIM PULLING RANK ON ME! AND AFTER ALL I DID FOR HIM, TOO!