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TOM CORBETT, SPACE CADET

NOT ALL THE TRIPS MADE BY THE SPACE CADETS ARE PLEASANT EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS. SOMETIMES THE GUARD DANGEROUS CARGOES ... AND THEN THE JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE BECOMES A RACE WITH DANGER AND DEATH!

DANGEROUS CARGO!

AS CAPTAIN STRONG AND HIS SPACE CADET SQUADRON PREPARE TO BLAST OFF UNDER SECRET ORDERS...

TAKING PLenty OF AMMUNITION, BOYS, THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT WE'VE EVER HAD!

NO NEED TO WORRY, CAPTAIN STRONG WILL HANDLE EVERYTHING!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT OUR TOP JOKER SAID, TOM? WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! T.J.

SURE ... BUT WHO IS GOING TO HANDLE T.J.?

WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THESE MEN TO GANYMEDE, OFF JUPITER... TO THE COLONY SCHOOL FOR CRIMINALS!

IS--IS T.T.--THAT ALL? G-G-OH ALL SPACE IMPS!

I--THAT'S EASY AS EATING A PLUTONIAN PIE!
Hey, T.J. Where are you rushing? The Polaris is the other way! We got a trip to make!

Heh, heh! I just remembered some homework. I've got to hand in back at the Space Academy! You'll have to make the trip without me!

All right, Space Cadets, get aboard! Our passengers are ready. Take your blast-off stations! And no horseplay! This is going to be a rough trip!

Aye, aye, sir!

Control deck to T.J. Come in, T.J. Station check for blast-off. Come in, T.J.!

Control deck to control. Radar deck to control. Jupiter vector clear! Course clear and radar scope on beam! Ready for blast-off!

Power deck to control. Energizers on power! Activators set for space speed! Ready for blast-off!

Control deck to all stations! Blast-off in five seconds! Four...three...two...one...zero!

A furious burst of flame! The great ship leaps off the earth, spaceward, propelled by massive atomic power!

As the Polaris speeds away from earth—plunging into the cold darkness of space—

We will proceed under emergency watches! Two of us shall be on stations at all times. Tom and T.J. take the first watch. T.J., patrol the ship and make sure our passengers behave!

Leave it to me, sir! There isn't a space radar in the solar system who can put anything over on me! You can go to sleep without any worries!
WELL, TOM, I GUESS YOU KNOW HOW MUCH CAPTAIN STRONG DEPENDS ON ME. YOU JUST MAKE SURE TO STAY ON COURSE. I'LL GO AND SEE HOW THOSE SPACE SCOUNDRELS ARE GETTING ALONG.

OKAY, T.J. CUT OUT THE SPACE GAS AND START PATROLING THE SHIP.

WE JUST LIKE TO SEE ONE OF THEM START ANY TROUBLE. OLD T.J. ISN'T SOMEONE THEY CAN FOOLED AROUND WITH!

MOMENTS LATER---

I'M LOOKING FOR T.J. AND WHEN I FIND HIM--I'M GOING TO TEAR THAT SPACE WORM INTO TINY STRIPS OF CONFETTI!

WHAT DID HE DO NOW?

LOOK! SANTA--THAT'S WHAT! THERE'S A BUCKETFUL IN MY BUNK! AND I'LL GIVE YOU JUST ONE GUESS TO NAME THE GUY WHO PUT IT THERE! I'LL ATOMICIZE HIM WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT SPACECRAWLER!

HEH! HEH! I WONDER HOW ASTRO IS ENJOYING HIS REST?

I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK AT OUR PASSENGERS AND SHOW THEM I'M BOSS!

WELL, WELL! SO THIS IS WHAT'S GONNA GUARD US! WE BETTER BEHAVE LIKE LITTLE GENTLEMEN! THESE SPACE CADETS ARE REAL TOUGH!

MIND YOUR MANNERS, YOU SPACE APE! I WOULDN'T WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW TOUGH I CAN REALLY BE!

COME ON YOU SPACE BRAT! SHOW ME HOW TOUGH YOU ARE!

GENTLEMEN--GENTLEMEN! NO POINT IN GETTING ANGRY! AFTER ALL, THE SPACE CADETS ARE REALLY DOING US A GOOD TURN--TAKING US TO GANYMEDE WHERE WE'LL ALL HAVE A CHANCE TO REFORM! WE MUST SHOW OUR APPRECIATION! NO HARSH WORDS--WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE!
IF YOU MUST SHOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE--WHY NOT A FRIENDLY HAND-WRESTLING MATCH?
I--I WILL ACT AS REFEREE!

SURE! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! I'LL TAKE HIM ON!

AS I LIVE AND BREATHE, THE SPACE CADET WINS!
FOR A LITTLE FELLOW, HE HAS MORE POWER THAN ANYONE WHO EVER SAILED THE MIGHTY SPACEWAY!

SO I HAVE.
G-GOSH, I BEAT HIM!

HOW ABOUT A REAL FRIENDLY WRESTLING MATCH--NOT JUST HAND-WRESTLING?
AND I'LL BET ANY MAN HERE THAT THIS SPACE CADET CAN LICK BIG GEER!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN! I'LL BET I COULD TOO!

AS THE FAIR-REFEREE OF THIS HERE BOUT, I BETTER HOLD YOUR BLASTER, SPACE CADET!
I'M BETTING ON YOU AND I DON'T WANT IT TO BE IN YOUR WAY WHEN YOU SNIFF THIS BIG GIY ALL OVER THE DECK!

OF COURSE, WINKY! HERE HOLD THE BLASTER FOR ME!
IT WON'T TAKE ME LONG TO TEACH THIS SPACE-HOBO HOW TO WRESTLE!

ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SPACE CADET! I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR GUN!

COME ON YOU SPACE BUM! I'M READY!

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU BEAT ME IN HAND-WRESTLING, DID YOU? AND YOU WANTED TO WRESTLE ME, TOO? HO! HO! I COULD EAT SPACE BRATS LIKE YOU FOR BREAKFAST AND STILL GO HUNGRY!

LEMME GO!
LEMME GO!
I BEEN FRAMED!
ALL RIGHT, BIG GEER, TIE UP THE SPACE BRAT! WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST BEFORE THEY DISCOVER HE'S MISSING!

FORGET T.J. AND HIS PRACTICAL JOKES, ASTRO, GO GET SOME SLEEP, IF YOU MUST GET EVEN WITH HIM--PUT THE SAND IN HIS BUNK!

ALL RIGHT, TOM, I'LL DO JUST THAT. WE'LL SEE HOW T.J. LIKES A TASTE OF HIS OWN JOKES!

WE'VE GOT THE OTHER CADET AND CAPTAIN STRONG TIED UP--SO YOU TWO BETTER BEHAVE. THE SHIP IS UNDER OUR CONTROL!

WE'LL BEHAVE--LIKE SPACE CADETS!

ASTRO! THE SAND! PUT IT TO WORK!

RIGHT, TOM! HERE GOES.

STOP THEM!

COME ON, ASTRO! FOLLOW ME!

THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN TO, TOM! THE SHIP'S CRAWLING WITH THEM!

I KNOW, HEAD FOR THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE HATCH! WE'RE GOING OUT TO THE SPACESIDE OF THE SHIP!

WHAT CAN WE DO--OUTSIDE, TOM?

WE CAN CRIPPLE THE SHIP--AND SEND OUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL. A SOLAR GUARD IS SURE TO PICK UP OUR CALL AND COME TO INVESTIGATE!
WE'VE ONLY GOT AN HOUR'S SUPPLY OF OXYGEN, TOM! EVEN IF HELP ARRIVES IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO DO US MUCH GOOD! WE'LL BE DEAD BY THEN!

THAT'S A CHANCE WE'VE GOT TO TAKE, ASTRO! OUR FIRST JOB IS TO MAKE SURE OUR CARGO OF CRIMINALS ISN'T LET LOOSE ON THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

SEND OUT THE DISTRESS SIGNAL, ASTRO! I'M GOING TO BLAST THE ROCKET TUBES AND FUSE THEM! THE SHIP WILL BE WITHOUT POWER!

SIGNAL OUT, TOM! I'LL SET IT ON AUTOMATIC--AND IT'LL KEEP GOING EVEN WHEN WE'RE DEAD!

HERE THEY COME, TOM! WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO FUSE THE ROCKET TUBES!

THEN WE'LL FIGHT IT OUT! TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF! HELP MIGHT COME IN ANSWER TO OUR SIGNAL!

THIS MERRY-GO-ROUND CAN GO ON AS LONG AS OUR OXYGEN LASTS, TOM!

THE TROUBLE IS--OUR OXYGEN IS LIMITED. BUT THEY CAN GET MORE OXYGEN TANKS FROM THE SHIP! WE'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING TO FOOL THEM, ASTRO!

THESE GUYS AREN'T GOING TO BE EASY TO FOOL, TOM! HAVE YOU ANY IDEAS?

YES, ASTRO--AND LET'S HOPE IT WORKS! IF IT DOESN'T, WE'RE SUNK!

HERE THEY COME, TOM! WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?

LEAVE THE SHIP! WE'RE GOING OUT TO DRIFT IN SPACE!

WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE, TOM! WE'LL BE DRIFTING AROUND IN SPACE!
WE'RE RID OF THEM NOW! NO! NO! I CANT HAVE THOUGHT OF A BETTER WAY TO KILL THEM THAN THE WAY THEY CHOSE FOR THEMSELVES!

LET'S GET BACK INSIDE! WATCHING THEM DRIFT OUT THEIR GIVES ME THE CREEPS, WINKY! IT'S NOT A VERY PLEASANT WAY TO DIE.

THERE THEY GO... BACK INTO THE SHIP!

WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO US? WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO GET BACK TO THE SHIP! WE'LL JUST DRIFT HERE UNTIL WE USE UP OUR AIR...

WINKY, YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS. GET SPACECADETS ASTRO AND CORBETT BACK ON THE SHIP AND SURRENDER-- THE SHIP IS UNDER MY CONTROL, CAPTAIN STRONG. I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO SURRENDER AND BE TAKEN TO THE PRISON SCHOOL ON GANYMEDE! WE'RE GOING TO MARS WHERE WE'LL LEAVE THE SHIP AND SCATTER. I MIGHT LET YOU LIVE-- IF YOU BEHAVE!

WELL, YOUR SPACECADETS WANTED TO BE HEROES-- SO THEY GOT THEIR CHANCE! THEY'LL DRIFT IN SPACE FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF THOUSAND YEARS-- AND NEVER BE FOUND!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT! IF I DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A SWELLED HEAD-- IF I DIDN'T THINK I WAS A BIG SHOT-- TOM AND ASTRO WOULD BE ALIVE!

WE CAN GO BACK TO THE SHIP NOW, ASTRO! I WISH I KNEW NOW, TOM!

I LEFT MY MAGNETIC SHOE ON THE HULL OF THE SHIP, ASTRO, AND I FASTENED MY SAFETY LINE TO IT. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PULL OURSELVES BACK!

BY THE RINGS OF SATURN! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? Haul Away, Tom! I'm holding on to your belt!

CAREFUL WHEN WE STEP ON THE HULL! WE DON'T WANT THEM TO HEAR US!

I'LL BE AS QUIET AS A SPACEMOUSE, TOM! I JUST WANT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT WINKY SPACECRAWLER!
WE'VE GOT TO CATCH THEM BY SURPRISE. ASTRO! SET FOR THE PARALORBAR SPRAY! LET ME JUST GET THOSE SPACE SKUNKS IN MY SIGHTS!

I'VE GOT MY BLASTER ONCE WE'RE INSIDE WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!

TOO CLUMSY MOVING AROUND IN SPACE SUITS! GET RID OF YOURS AND FOLLOW ME TO THE CONTROL DECK!

NOW WE'LL GET BUSY AND SET A NEW COURSE FOR THE SHIP, CAPTAIN STRONG! FOR US... FREEDOM! FOR YOU... MAYBE THE END OF YOUR CAREER!

NO NEED TO CHANGE OUR COURSE, WINKY! WE'RE GOING ON TO GANYMEDE AS ORDERED!

TOM, ASTRO! YOU'RE SAFE!

TAKE THEM BACK TO THEIR QUARTERS, TOM! AND THIS TIME NO PRIVILEGES! THEY WILL FINISH THE TRIP UNDER LOCK!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

AFTER THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP...

COME ON, FELLA'S, UNTIE ME! AFTER ALL, IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT THE SPACE CRIMINALS! I MADE YOU A HERO!

I THINK WE'LL ALL BE SAFER IF YOU STAY TIED UP, T.J. BUT TELL ME HOW YOU MADE ME A SPACE HERO, T.J.

WELL, GOSH! IF I HADN'T PUT SAND INTO YOUR BUNK YOU'D HAVE BEEN ASLEEP WHEN THE GANG GOT MY BLASTER AND YOU'D HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. AND TOM COULDN'T HAVE TURNED THE TABLES ON THEM WITHOUT YOUR HELP, ASTRO! SO HAVE A HEART, UNTIE ME!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD, TOM? T.J. IS THE REAL HERO!

THE END
FLAMING ROCKETS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! A FURLough! TWO WHOLE WEEKS! MMMBOY!

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH OUR FURLough! ANY SUGGESTIONS?

I WANT TO BE FED THICK STEAKS IN BED!

GIVE ME A ROD AND REEL... A QUIET STREAM, AND LET THE FISH DO THE REST!

FINE! YOU TWO CAN GO YOUR SEPARATE WAYS BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME REAL FUN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TOM?

I'M GOING TO MARS TO VISIT A FORMER SCHOOLMATE, TERRY STERLING!

STERLING! IT'S THAT NAME OF THE BIG SHOT SPACE TRANSPORT PILOT WHO MADE THE FIRST FLIGHT TO PLUTO?

YOU MEAN LANCE STERLING! TERRY'S HIS SON! I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN OVER TWO YEARS TERRY WROTE ME RECENTLY TO BE SURE TO VISIT HIM ON MY NEXT FURLough AND TO BRING MY FA. THEY HAD A FINE SETUP... SWIMMING, FISHING... AND IT WONT COST US A CENT...
MOMENTS LATER, TOM REPORTS TO CAPTAIN STRONG...

GOOD, I'LL SEE CAPTAIN STRONG ABOUT ARRANGING SOME TRANSPORTATION FOR US. I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BARRACKS.

CADET CORBETT, YOU DIDN'T TELL CADETS ASTRO AND THISTLE THE REAL REASON FOR VISITING THE STERLINGS ON MARS?

NO, SIR, THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT'S HAPPENED!

EXCELLENT. NO ONE MUST KNOW UNTIL YOU ARRIVE, THE SON TERRY WILL MEET YOU AT THE SPACEPORT-- YOU WILL PROCEED FROM THERE TO DEMOS. YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, CORBETT-- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

CERTAINLY. WHAT IS IT?

HOW DID IT HAPPEN IN-- I MEAN TO A MAN LIKE LANCE STERLING? HE WAS THE BEST PILOT IN THE BUSINESS!

IT WASN'T STERLING'S FAULT, CORBETT. MECHANICAL FAILURE CAUSED THE CRASH. AFTER ALL, IT WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL SHIP-- THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS KEPT QUIET!

BUT STERLING FELT HE WAS TO BLAME-- IS THAT IT, SIR?

YES, CORBETT, AND AS A RESULT, HE LOST HIS NERVE, WOULDN'T FLY, BECAME A DRIFTER-- A SPACE TRAMP HANGING AROUND THE LOW DIVES ON DEMOS. WE NEED HIM-- AND YOUR JOB IS TO GET HIM ON HIS FEET. I HESITATED TO ASK YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR FURLOUGH, BUT I KNOW THAT YOU LADS IN POLARS SQUADRON CAN BE DEPENDED UPON--

LATER, ON BOARD A SMALL SPEEDY SPACEBOAT...

I DON'T GET IT, TOM. HOW COME CAPTAIN STRONG LET US DRAW A SHIP FROM THE CRUISER POOL?

NO CADETS ON FURLOUGH HAVE EVER BEEN GIVEN THIS PRIVILEGE BEFORE-- SEEMS ODD!

DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH, CADETS. WE GOT A LUCKY BREAK-- FIGURE IT THAT WAY!

IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT TO ME, TOM. THE ONLY TIME CADETS ARE ISSUED A PATROL SHIP OTHER THAN THE ONE TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED IS WHEN THEY'RE ON SPECIAL DUTY-- ARE YOU HOLDING BACK ANYTHING FROM US, TOM?

THAT'S MARS STRAIGHT AHEAD. I'D BETTER CALL IN FOR LANDING INSTRUMENTS.
SOON AT THE SPACEPORT ON MARS—THE CADETS ARE GREETED BY TERRY STERLING, THE PILOT'S SON—AND HIS SISTER LAURIE...

TOM: TOM CORBETT! OVER HERE!

TERRY: IS THAT YOU?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER, TERRY? ANY WORD?

He's on Demos—and it's pretty bad—Tom, you've got to get him out of there, otherwise I don't know what's going to happen to him, you will help?

OF COURSE, WE'LL HELP. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, TERRY.

SURE...GIRLS GROW UP, BUT THEY DON'T ALL LOOK LIKE YOU, MISS LAURIE!

I CAN TELL YOU NOW, BOYS, WE'VE BEEN UNDER SPECIAL ORDERS. THE FURLough IS A BLIND, YOU SEE, LANCE STERLING WAS INVOLVED IN THE CRASH OF A NEW TYPE TRANS-PORT PLANE WHICH HE WAS PILOTING!

I'M SORRY YOU TWO. I KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO YOU—BUT IT'S A SPACE CADETS' MISSION AND THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO STAY.

OUR JOB IS TO KEEP LANCE STERLING FLYING, AND TO FIND THE MEN WHO SABOTAGED THAT SPACE SHIP, CAUSED IT TO CRASH!

SABOTAGE? THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL THE SECRECY?

YES. CAPTAIN STRONG BELIEVES THAT SOMEBODY WANTED LANCE OUT OF THE WAY—TRIED TO KILL HIM BUT FAILING IN THAT HAS MADE HIM USELESS....

AND SO AM I. I'M GOING WITH YOU....
SPACE CADET DETAIL -- 'TEN-SHUN!' PURSUANT TO VERBAL ORDERS ISSUED TO ME BY CAPTAIN STRONG, I AM IN COMMAND OF THIS DETAIL. YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS. ALL FURLONGS CANCELED. THIS DETAIL WILL PROCEED TO DEMOS AT 0600 HOURS GALACTIC TIME. TOMORROW MORNING, DETAIL DISMISSED.

NOW THAT I'VE DONE MY DUTY, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN KIDS. NOW ABOUT SHOWING US AROUND? RIGHT!

LET'S GO DANCING!

THE BRIEF HOURS OF FUN ARE SOON ENDED. AND THE SPACE CADETS PREPARE TO EMBARK ON THEIR MISSION AT EXACTLY 0600 HOURS THE NEXT MORNING.

PREPARE TO BLAST OFF! T.J., ARE THE EMERGENCY ROCKETS FUSED?

AH, LAURIE--SHE DANCES LIKE A FEATHER. SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL--SHE'S PERFECT.

AS COMMANDER OF THIS DETAIL, I HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT MY MEN ARE FULLY AWAKE AND READY FOR DUTY--

AND SOMETIMES THIS REQUIRES DRASTIC MEASURES.

MOMENTS LATER---

DEMOS, HERE WE COME!

CENTRAL INFORMATION REPORTED THAT LANCE WAS SEEN HANGING AROUND THAT PLACE -- THE METEORITE--

FLAMING ROCKETS, TOM! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE WORST DIVE OF THEM ALL.

AFTER A BRIEF BUT UNEVENTFUL SPACE VOYAGE, THE THREE SPACE CADETS ARRIVE IN DEMOS--HANGOUT FOR SPACE TRAMPS, DERELECTS, AND DRIFTERS, A WORLD HAVEN OF DEFEAT AND DESPAIR...
IT IS, AND WHAT MAKES IT WORSE IS THAT THE BIG SHOT SMUGGLER MARK SELGAR, WHO JUST GOT OUT OF PRISON, USES THE METEORITE AS HIS HEADQUARTERS. CENTRAL INFORMATION THINKS HE WAS... BUT WHY, TOM? WHAT DID HE HAVE AGAINST LANCE?

IT WAS LANCE WHO TRAPPED SELGAR, PRETENDING TO WORK WITH HIM ON A SMUGGLING JOB, THEN TURNING ALL THE INFORMATION OVER TO THE SECURITY BOYS. LANCHE'S EVIDENCE BROKE UP SELGAR'S SMUGGLING RING AND SENT HIM TO PRISON!

SO- WHEN SELGAR CAME OUT OF JAIL, IT IS STRONGLY SUSPECTED HE GOT EVEN--WRECKED THE NEW SHIP AND SENT STERLING DOWN THE HOPELESS PATH OF ALL DRIFTERS.

LEAPING TURBOJETS! LET'S DO SOMETHING!

RIGHT! NOW--I'M GOING IN THERE FIRST TO SEE IF I CAN SPOT LANCE. YOU'LL NEED TO BE READY FOR SOME FAST ACTION. THIS IS A TOUGH PLACE AND SELGAR HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS HERE!

HELLO, MR. STERLING. REMEMBER ME?

Y-YES, Y'VE REMAN, KID, I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE. DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH. I'M NOT GOING BACK. I'M THROUGH-- WASHED UP. A SPACE BUM.

IF IT'S THE CRASH, FORGET IT. A COURT OF INQUIRY PROVED IT WAS SABOTAGE-- THEY BELIEVE THAT MARK SELGAR IS RESPONSIBLE.

BUT I'LL CLOSE YOUR MOUTH! HUH--?

LOOK OUT. IT'S SELGAR!

ASTRO, T.J., LET'S GO!
YOU HEARD HIM T.J., LET'S GO!

EXPLODING ASTEROIDS! HE LOOKS AS IF HE'S IN PLENTY HOT WATER!

I'LL GET THAT SPACE CADET! AND I'LL GET HIM PROPER!
NO, YOU DON'T, SELGAR!

WHAT? WHY YOU SPACE BUM I'LL... UGH-HH...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU, SELGAR!

FOR A FEW WILD MINUTES, THE MELEE CONTINUES, BUT THE HARD HITTING SPACE CADETS WITH THE AID OF LANCE STERLING SOON END IT.

ON YOUR FEET, SELGAR... I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH THREATENING, SELGAR! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYBODY... YOU'LL CONFESS TO WRECKING THAT SHIP RIGHT NOW--
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, SPACE CADET!

MAYBE I'D BETTER ASK THE QUESTIONS, TOM... WITH MY FISTS.

NO-- NO-- KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME... I'LL-- I'LL CONFESS!
I sabotaged the ship—Ifigured you'd get killed, Sterling—but when you got out of thewreck—it worked better—because I saw what it had done to you—and I enjoyed everyminute of it. Seeing you a space tramp...

But it's Lance Sterling who has the final say with a flying tackle...

Good work, Lance! All right men—let's get him back to the ship!

I--I don't know what to say...you've given me a new lease on life--another chance...

Suddenly—Selgar makes a desperate break...

You're not taking me...

No! This is a special assignment and it needs a special pilot—a man who can keep the ship and himself from crashing into nowhere...you brought yourself back, now take the ship!

I--I thought I'd never touch the controls, fly again—but...I--I want to...thanks, Tom! Thanks for rescuing a drifter!

And so Tom Corbett, space cadet carries out another mission—and this is an unusual one—one played for the highest stakes...a man's dignity...

Later, in the ship ready for the journey back to Mars...

We're just about ready, Mr. Sterling. The pilot hasn't taken his place yet, though! Why what do you mean--aren't you the...
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A SPECIAL OFFER TO ALL SPACE CADETS READERS
LOOK A REAL LIVE PONY

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OUR 60TH YEAR
SPACe NEWS

RAYS OF HOPE

At the end of the 18th Century, when William Jenner, a doctor of London, England, developed a vaccine against the then dread disease, smallpox, he was stoned and beaten by ignorant people who did not understand what he was doing. However, despite all the adversities in his path, Jenner continued his work and finally won out. As a result, smallpox is practically unknown in the civilized world.

In the same way, other diseases are being conquered or have been wiped out. In recent years, childhood fever, which killed more than 30% of newborn babies as well as mothers; diphtheria, cholera, yellow fever and malaria, have either been eliminated or controlled.

Today, new rays of hope are shining. New weapons are being used for the fight against paralysis, arthritis, tuberculosis and many other killing or crippling diseases. Science is finding the way to a healthier and happier life for us all.

SPACE VISITORS

Meteorites are masses of matter from outer space which fall on the earth's surface. They are made up of stony matter with certain amounts of metallic iron. They travel through space with planetary velocity at many miles an hour. This speed turns them white hot, so that a meteor leaves a fiery trail. There have been only 1,000 recorded falls of meteors--and for some unknown reason 15 of these have occurred in the British Isles. Apparently the space visitors prefer the English brand of tea.

PEANUT PLANET

Mercury is the smallest of the major planets and has a diameter of only 3,000 miles. It is also nearest to the sun, with a mean distance of thirty-six-million miles from the sun. About 37% of its surface is always sun lit; the same amount is in perpetual night; and the remainder is exposed to alternate hours of sun and darkness. There are enormous changes of temperature with each revolution of the planet, ranging from tropical to arctic. There are no signs of life on this planet and observers have noted that the atmosphere is scant.

The temperature at the side facing above the boiling point and that of the opposite side much below zero. Anyone ready for a side trip to Mercury?
CAPTAIN QUICK
and the
SPACE SCOUTS
THE HERMITS OF
CALLISTO!

That's exactly what we've come to find out. There have been indications of animals and of course we know that there is vegetation - but... beyond that... no one knows.

Didn't a space ship once land here, years ago?

Yes, that's right, but it never returned. There's been no trace of the ship or the crew.

Yes, sir. We were just wondering, sir... is there any known life here?

Perhaps we'd better start our exploration in that area and work our way back here.

Aye, aye, sir!

The space scouts climbed into their rocket and zoomed skyward. After soaking over the region for some time.

Captain Quick! What is it, Bob?
"IT'S A SPACE SHIP!"

"I SPOTTED IT WHEN WE PASSED OVER!"

"LOOPS LIKE IT'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS, SEE HOW THE FOREST HAS GROWN IN OVER IT."

"WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PEACEFUL SPOT, IT'S A PARADISE!"

"THE SHIP'S IN WORKING ORDER ... IT COULD BLAST OFF ANY TIME..."

"SUDDENLY... DON'T MOVE! ALL OF YOU!"

"WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?"

"YOU'RE COMMANDER LUCIUS ROBERTS, WHO LED THE EXPEDITION TO CALLISTO TWENTY YEARS AGO... IN THAT SPACESHIP! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM THE PICTURES IN THE HISTORY BOOKS..."

"MY MEN AND I FOUND A PARADISE HERE. WE'VE LIVED IN PEACE... AND WE INTEND TO REMAIN HERE, FOREVER!"

"I'M CAPTAIN QUICK, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT WE'LL DO NOTHING TO ENDANGER YOUR HAVEN HERE!"

"I BELIEVE YOU, CAPTAIN QUICK. I KNOW THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE -- FOR I WAS LIKE YOU -- I, TOO, WAS A SPACE SCOUT. I CAN ONLY WISH THAT WHEN YOUR DAYS OF WANDERING ARE OVER, YOU, TOO, CAN FIND A PEACEFUL PLANET LIKE CALLISTO!"

"HAVING GIVEN HIS WORD, CAPTAIN QUICK AND THE SPACE SCOUTS LEAVE... LATER AS THEY RACE EARTHWARD..."

"COMMANDER ROBERTS HAS REALIZED A DREAM. WE'RE NOT GOING TO SPOIL THAT DREAM! WE'LL KEEP ON SEARCHING UNTIL WE FIND A NEW FRONTIER. BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ROBERTS AND HIS CREW! LET'S FORGET THE HERMITS OF CALLISTO!"

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CAPTAIN STRONG, THIS JUST CAME OVER THE INTER-GALACTIC ELECTRO-COMMUNICATOR! IT SEEMS URGENT TO ME!

THE MOLTEN LAVA OF ERUPTING VOLCANOES FORMS A RIVER OF GLOWING FIRE THAT LIGHTS THE PATH TO ONE OF THE MOST THRILLING ADVENTURES EXPERIENCED BY TOM CORBETT AND HIS FELLOWCADETS AS THEY COME TO GRIPS WITH A TREACHEROUS FOE IN —

THE

CRATERS OF MERCURY!

WAS THIS SENT IN INTER-PLANETARY CODE, OR IN THE CLEAR?

IN THE CLEAR, SIR. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

EXPEDITION WARREN ENDANGERED. DOCTOR WARREN MISSING. AREA SURFACE SATURATED WITH ERUPTING VOLCANOES. HELP NEEDED URGENT. POSITION MERCURY VECTOR 398, GRID 84-10-15. SIGNED H. WARREN

CADET CORBETT TRY TO WORK A TWO WAY WITH MISS WARREN!

YES, SIR!
NO USE, SIR, I CAN'T GET THROUGH, THERE ARE ELECTRONIC DISTURBANCES BLOCKING THE SIGNAL.

THE POSITION SHE GAVE IS ON MERCUARY'S SUNSIDE, WE'LL HEAR THREE UNDER FULL POWER. WE SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING HER.

MEANWHILE AT THE BASE CAMP OF THE EXPEDITION...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, ANTON? WHY AREN'T YOU OUT WITH THE OTHERS, LOOKING FOR MY GRANDFATHER?

IT'S HOPELESS, MISS WARREN.. YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR GRANDFATHER EVEN AS WELL AS I DO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HE MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO ONE OF THOSE LAVA CRATERS--HE'S A GONER AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. IT'S USELESS TO LOOK FURTHER.

YOU LIE! THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEGOTTEN OFF ON A DANGEROUS MISSION. YOU--YOU COWARD!

WHY--YOU!

SECONDS LATER, THE AREA IS COVERED WITH A BLANKET OF SWIRLING, CHOKEING SMOKE POURING OUT OF THE VOLCANO CRATER...

CAN'T BREATHE--CHOKEING--OH--

AIR--NEED AIR--

AS BOTH HELEN AND ANTON ARE OVERTAKEN, A STRANGE GROUP EMERGES FROM THE FOG AND SMOKE
SILENTLY, ONE OF THE MERCURIANS PICKS UP HELEN IN HIS ARMS AND THEY DISAPPEAR AS THEY CAME INTO THE SWIRLING SMOKE...

SOME TIME LATER, ANTON COMES TO... THE AIR IS CLEAR, THE SUN SHINES BRIGHTLY... AND HE HAS ONLY A VAGUE RECOLLECTION OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

SMOKE... COULDN'T BREATH... I:

MEANWHILE -- STAND BY FOR LANDING CADETS!

MOMENTS LATER AFTER A TYPICAL PRECISION LANDING...

WE'RE HERE ON MERCURY AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE MAY RUN INTO, THERE ARE VOLCANOES AND THAT MEANS THE POSSIBILITY OF POISONOUS GASES. STICK CLOSE AND USE YOUR HEADS. LET'S GO!

THIS IS THE PLACE ALL RIGHT, BUT I THINK WE'RE TOO LATE. THERE'S NOBODY HERE.

WAIT... I HEAR SOMETHING...

IT IS ANTON -- HE STUMBLIES INTO VIEW -- CAPTAIN STRONG! LOOK!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE? WHO ARE YOU?

VOLCANO--SMOKE-- CAN'T THINK -- CAN'T REMEMBER--

COME ON, MAN... YOU MUST REMEMBER MORE THAN THAT! THINK!

EASY, TOM... HE APPEARS TO BE IN A STATE OF SHOCK! WE'D BEST LOOK ABOUT THE AREA WE MAY FIND SOME CLUES.
SOON... TOM'S KEEN EYES SPOT THE FOOTPRINTS OF THE MERCIURIANS WHO CARRIED HELEN OFF... I SEE CAPTAIN STRONG! LOOK, SIR!... NO EARTHMAN EVER MADE THOSE TRACKS! THERE MAY HAVE BEEN FOUL PLAY!

CADET THISTLE, YOU WILL REMAIN HERE, GUARDING THE SHIP AND THIS MAN. CADET ASTRO, YOU WILL COME WITH CADET CORBETT AND ME. WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THOSE TRACKS!

YES, SIR!

YES, SIR!!

BUT THISTLE'S WISH FOR ADVENTURE IS NOT AS FAR OFF AS HE BELIEVES... IN FACT...

--IT IS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT--

T.J. IS CAUGHT NAPPING—BUT HIS AWAKENING IS ALMOST TOO FAST FOR THE EYE TO SEE—A BURST FROM HIS PARALYSOR SCORES A DIRECT HIT ON THE MERCIURIANS...

BULLS' EYE! YOU'RE A HERO, T.J. THAT SHOULDN'T QUITE BE FORGOTTEN FOR AN AREA!

MEANWHILE... ASTRO AND CAPTAIN STRONG ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE KIDNAPPERS...

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, ALL RIGHT, SIR! THE PRINTS ARE FRESH AND SHARP...

BUT THERE'S NOTHING AHEAD BUT JUNGLES AND MOUNTAINS! SHE COULD BE HIDDEN IN A MILLION PLACES!
AS THEY PUSH ON THROUGH THE JUNGLE, TOM SUDDENLY SHOUTS OUT A WARNING!:

GOT HIM! IT WAS ONLY HALF A CHARGE! HE'S ONLY STUNNED!

LOOK OUT! SOMEBODY UP IN THAT TREE!

LET'S GET A LOOK AT HIM!

OH, DEAR! EVERYTHING IS ALL MIXED UP! I WAS SUPPOSED TO INCAPACITATE YOU!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! HE LOOKS LIKE THE ORIGINAL MR. MEEK!

DEAR ME--AND I DID TRY SO HARD TO BE AWE-INSPIRING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT STATEMENT?

WELL--YOU SEE, WE LIGHT-SIDED MERCUURIANS ARE A PEACEFUL PEOPLE...

WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN TAKEN TO?

THERE--INTO FIRE MOUNTAIN, TO THE RITUAL CAVE!

CAN YOU LEAD US INTO THE MOUNTAIN?

YES, THROUGH THE TUNNELS OF THE CRATER COME.

WHILE THE KEEPER OF THE FIRES AND HIS WARRIORS COME FROM THE DARK SIDE OF MERCURY--THEY FORCED US TO BE LIKE THEM! IT IS THEY WHO HAVE TAKEN DR. WARREN AND HIS DAUGHTER AS HOSTAGES!
THE FRIENDLY MERCURIAN LEADS THE TRIO THROUGH A TUNNEL INTO THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN.

WHAT DID THE CHARACTER MEAN BY THE DARK SIDE OF MERCURY?

YOU SEE, MERCURY HAS ONE SIDE ALWAYS TURNED AWAY FROM THE SUN.

WHAT ARE THOSE RUMBLING SOUNDS?

THE VOLCANO THAT NEVER SLEEPS. IT MAY GO OFF AT ANY TIME — HURRY...

WE ARE IN TIME! THE FIRE RITUAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

AND IT'S OUR JOB TO SEE THAT IT DOESN'T BEGIN!

BUT HOW, SIR! IF WE USE OUR PARALYSORS, WE MAY HIT HELEN OR DOCTOR WARREN!

WELL, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER WAY!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, SIR.

SPACE CADETS! FOLLOW ME!
THE DARING ATTACK TAKES THE DARK SIDE MERURIANS COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE -- QUICKLY DOCTOR WARREN AND HIS GRANDDAUGHTER ARE RELEASED...

HURRY! THIS WAY!

LED BY THE FRIENDLY MERURIAN THE BRAVE LITTLE GROUP DASHES BACK THROUGH THE TUNNEL...

PRRRRUMBLE!

AS THEY RACE AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN, THERE IS A TERRIFIC ROAR AS THE VOLCANO ERUPTS --

KA-BOOM!

LATER -- HELEN WARREN THANKS THE CADETS FOR THEIR BRAVERY --

YOU WERE WONDERFUL, CADET CORBETT -- I'M SO GRATEFUL --

-- AND YOU, CADET ASTRO -- YOU WERE SO DARING -- SO BRAVE --

YOU, TOO, CADET THISTLE -- YOU HAD TO STAND ALONE AGAINST THOSE HORRID MERURIANS -- ONLY A MAN OF GREAT COURAGE COULD HAVE DONE THAT --

AND NOW MAY I THANK YOU, MISS WARREN, FOR YOUR OWN GREAT FORTITUDE IN A MOST TRYING SITUATION -- WONDERFUL CUSTOM, THIS --
THEY SAW IT

Mass hysteria is a common occurrence. People swear they saw, felt or heard something which does not exist. There are many cases, from the “Dancing” sickness of the middle ages, to the frequent unproven sightings of the flying saucers.

But eighty-thousand Englishmen in the first World War swear that during a mass retreat, when it seemed that the British Army was lost, there suddenly appeared from nowhere a long line of shapes firing long bows and arrows by the thousands, mowing down the Germans. As the enemy fled from the field, the bowmen disappeared. But all who saw them still say they wore the uniform of the Bowmen of Agincourt who had crushed the enemies of England centuries earlier.

Oddly, the dead Germans bore no wounds, nor any marks—yet had been struck down as though by some supernatural means.

Those Saucers

According to an expert of the flying saucer phenomenon, the elusive ellipses have already landed on earth. They carried passengers from another planet, so highly intelligent that they have been able to disguise themselves as earthmen. This same expert claims that the “Saucers” speak fluent English or the language of any country where they happened to set down. This they learned by listening to broadcasts from the earth. How about that? Maybe the new family that moved in down the block is a recent arrival aboard the 5:15 saucer from Mars.

A Step Forward

Recent newspaper reports tell of an incredible medical advance. Persons stricken with certain infections which require the removal of the bladder have actually grown new ones around a plastic device installed in the body. This regenerative process is considered one of the most important strides yet made in medicine.

King-sized Planet

Most interesting of the planets is Jupiter. It revolves around the sun at a distance of 483,000,000 miles and requires 4,333 days or 11.86 years to complete its revolution.

Jupiter is accompanied by no less than nine planets, four of which were discovered by Galileo in 1610. They can readily be seen by the naked eye. The others are very small and faint, and can barely be distinguished. The first four, or Galilean Satellites are known as Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. The others have no names but are designated by Roman numerals.

Since Jupiter is the largest of the planets with the exception of Mars, it is always uppermost in any discussion of space travel. Who knows but that some day, in the not too distant future, there will be passenger ships carrying curious tourists to the farthest reaches of the galaxy and Jupiter will be one of the main stopovers?
"We know Benjamin Franklin as a great statesman who helped found our country, but today I want to show him to you as one of the greatest scientists who ever lived..."

"We've read of his experiments with a kite... drawing lightning from the storm clouds. He did so much in the field of science that it's impossible to tell you of all his discoveries..."

"From words Franklin invented which are still being used today, we can get a good idea of all his discoveries in the field of electricity. Here are some of his words: storage battery... charged and uncharged... condenser..."

"Electricity is a current... and I can direct it to any place I wish! Electricity is also energy... some day we shall make it do our work for us!"

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