

Stowaway Boys

By

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This story is dedicated to all those young minds across the planet filled dreams of being Astronauts and going on space adventures.

It is also dedicated to all those young minds that want to design, build, process, and to launch all the rockets of the future for mankind's adventures into outer space.

This story was originally written as a screenplay with the intent it being an 3D animated movie.

Chapter 1

In a galaxy far, far away was the planet Stardonia.

On Stardonia, all the Stardonians resembled human beings but they were different. They all had a light green skin complexion with blue, or brown or black eyes. The eyes of a Stardonian were twice the size, as compared to human eyes. They also had either fluorescent orange, or pink, or lime green, or purple, or red hair. All the elders of Stardonia had a full head of shiny silver hair.

The Stardonians were peaceful and extremely intelligent species that developed highly advanced technologies. They traveled all around the universe and visited other planets for fact-finding missions.

Earth was one of the planets they often studied, as they found Earthlings a primitive yet intriguing species.

On Stardonia lived young Scoota who was in his early adulthood. Scoota was small in height, as were all the Stardonians. He had a light green complexion, blue eyes with fluorescent blue crew cut styled hair. Scoota was a Junior Grade Space Knight for the Stardonia Space Force and wore their standard light purple jump suit.

He was now in his home and just finished packing for his much-needed vacation.

There was a knock on his front door.

He walked over and opened it and his girlfriend, Litta, stood outside. She was his same age and had long flowing fluorescent orange hair with black eyes. They kissed then she stepped inside and he closed the door.

“Are you sure you want to go out of our universe again?” Litta asked him.

“You bet Litta. I want to test out my new ride and I also need more practice with navigation,” he replied.

“In a hundred star years, I’ll never understand why you bought that old spaceship. It has all that ancient technology that my great great grandfather once flew,” she said.

“I removed some of that stuff and upgraded the ship. It’s now really sweet,” Scoota replied with a sparkle in his eyes.

“Whatever, Scoota,” Litta said while she rolled her eyes. “Please be careful and watch your speed around Neileon. You know their space cops just love giving out speeding tickets,” Litta told him in a motherly tone.

“I know, they’re nothing but a bunch of citation terrorists,” he replied.

“Now, I want you to call me periodically so I know you’re safe out there.”

“I will,” he replied. “Why don’t you come along with me?”

“I told you I couldn’t get off work. I don’t have all that vacation time like what the Space Force gives you. I’ll take a few days off when you get back,” she replied.

Scoota looked disappointed. “Okay,” he said then gave her a kiss on the lips.

He walked him over to his couch and he picked up his glass fish bowl helmet and gloves for his space suit.

He left his home with Litta and closed his door.

Seven days had passed and outer space was quiet around Saturn.

A strange humming sound was heard while a spaceship zoomed in from outer space and headed toward Saturn at lightning speed.

The spaceship zoomed just over the rings of Saturn and headed toward Jupiter.

Hours later that spaceship zoomed past Jupiter.

Closer examination of the spaceship revealed it wasn't an Alien spacecraft but an old American spacecraft. It was actually the ascent stage of the Lunar Module from the Apollo 17 mission that departed the Moon's orbit in December 14th 1972. It was the last mission to the Moon and the ascent stage was supposed to have impacted the Moon, but apparently it flew off into outer space.

The Lunar Module had been modified with a strange engine that emitted a purplish flame from its weirdly shaped nozzle. It wasn't an engine from planet Earth. It was an engine from another planet. It was from a planet millions of miles away from Earth - Stardonia.

Affixed to the rear of the Lunar Module, above that strange engine, was a “Scrappy's Used

Spaceships – Planet Stardonia” label. Besides the strange engine and label, the Lunar Module looked to be in the same condition, as when it was jettisoned from the Crew Service Module above the Moon.

Inside the Apollo 17 Lunar Module sat Scoota at the console. He bought this Lunar Module from Scrappy and enhanced it like he told Litta. His vacation was to take it out for a spin around the galaxies since he had thirty days off.

The inside looked the same from when it left the Moon, back in 1972, except for a few modifications with improved computers, music generator, navigational system, Outer Space Positioning System (OSPS), and gauges. This was standard equipment for all spaceships in Scoota’s neck of the universe. Plus he had a new fancy seat installed with heaters.

On the music generator, Scoota listen to a techno song from the popular band “The Dim Stars” from his home planet Stardonia.

The Lunar Module zoomed toward Mars.

Once the Lunar Module got closer to Mars, Scoota pressed a button on the OSPS.

“You are one hundred and twenty five million miles from your destination,” a female voice said from the OSPS.

Scoota removed his hologram camera and snapped a picture of Mars from the windows. He pressed the “Playback” button and a 3-D hologram of Mars appeared. He hit the “Save” button, and placed his camera back in his flight suit pocket.

He kicked back and placed his boots up on the console. He cranked up the volume of the Dim Stars song and relaxed.

The Lunar Module zoomed past Mars and headed toward Earth.

It wasn't too long before the Lunar Module zoomed to the Moon by Earth.

"You are two hundred thirty eight thousand and eight hundred and fifty-seven miles from your destination," the female voice said from the OSPS.

Scoota sat straight up and reached in his suit pocket and removed a small device. He opened it up and pressed a button and a 3-D hologram image of his girlfriend, Litta, emitted from the device called a Space Pad with a half eaten orange for an icon.

"Hi baby," Scoota said to Litta's hologram.

"Hey honey. Where are you now?" she asked.

Scoota looked out the window and watched while he zoomed past the Moon. "I'm getting close to the planet Earth," he said.

"When are you coming back home?" she asked.

"I'm just going to make a quick trip around Earth. I picked up on signals yesterday that they're launching their new Magellan five rocket and I want to see it," he replied.

"You've been gone for almost two weeks now. I miss you," Litta said. Then it dawned on her. "Wait, did you say Earth?" she asked to make sure she heard him correctly.

"Yes, Earth."

“Please don’t go there. If they catch you, they’ll dissect you,” she pleaded and looked fearful for his life.

“I’ll be okay. Those Earthlings won’t even know I’m watching them,” he replied with a look of confidence.

“Well, hurry home. That species still scares me,” she said with a worried tone.

“I’ll head home tomorrow. Then by the time I get home, I still have a week of vacation,” Scoota said then he reached up and pressed a button on the console.

At the rear of the Lunar Module, the flame from the engine got smaller and the craft slowed down when it got closer to Earth.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota kicked back and looked at the Space Pad hologram of Litta while she called him back.

“I forgot, when you get home, I thought we could take a cruise on the Royal Galaxy Space Cruise Ship to Beonlian. I want to relax on their beaches for a few days,” she said.

“For sure,” he replied and didn’t notice a piece of space junk that zoomed past his windows.

“Good. I’ll go ahead and make our reservations,” she said.

“Don’t get the expensive cabins. Remember I’m still a Junior Grade Space Knight and still receive a small paycheck.”

“I won’t,” she said.

Scoota looked up at the windows and saw that his craft headed straight toward a huge piece of space junk - an old satellite. He panicked and dropped his Space Pad and it turned off, and Litta's hologram disappeared.

He jumped up and grabbed the control stick. He swerved the Lunar Module to the left. There was a loud bang and the Lunar Module shook while it smacked into the satellite.

Scoota didn't realize that that satellite stuck to his Lunar Module.

Scoota swerved the Lunar Module to the right when he came upon another piece of space junk - an old rocket part. The piece of junk that previously stuck to the Lunar Module smacked into the old rocket part, which stuck to the satellite.

The Lunar Module flew with the attached pieces of space junk.

The Lunar Module smacked into another piece of space junk - another old satellite and it stuck to the module.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota frantically tried to get his craft under control. He could not since the pieces of attached space junk affected the maneuvering capability of his craft.

Out in space above Earth, the Lunar Module ran into a huge debris field of space junk. It smacked into numerous pieces and they all stuck to module.

Then while it orbited Earth, Scoota's craft smacked into numerous other pieces of space junk.

Space junk attached to other space junk with the old Lunar Module out in front. It started to grow into a small Asteroid of space junk.

Chapter 2

Meanwhile, it was May 2018 down on Earth, it was night down at the space coast area of Florida.

In the space coast was a huge residential neighborhood called Atlantis. It was originally built in the early 1960s with the expectation that the space program would be a booming industry.

On Abby Street, lived Todd Peabody, who was your typical twelve-year-old skinny nerd who loved everything about the human space program. In fact, Todd spent all his free time reading books and watching movies about Astronauts and space travel. It was his dream to travel up in space as an Astronaut since he was six years old.

His father, Lester “Tater” Peabody was forty-two years old and was once a technician at the launch pad during the space shuttle era. But Tater lost his job in 2011 just as thousands of others did when the space shuttle program was retired. So he started his own lawn service called “Tater – The Grass Assassin” and business was good after three years of a slow start.

Parked out in the driveway was Lester’s rusty 2009 Ford F-150 pickup truck and trailer that had one Troy-Bilt riding mower and one Snapper self-propelled push mower, an edger and blower.

His wife, Lilly, owned her own dog grooming shop called “Lilly’s Pretty Paw’s” located in downtown Cocoa. It was a thriving business that

kept the family fed until Tater's business started to show a profit.

Todd's bedroom was decorated with Space Shuttle, Saturn 5 rocket, Ares I, Ares V, Magellan V and other model rockets. The wallpaper had numerous planets all over it.

In the middle of the bedroom floor, sat an empty big refrigerator cardboard box. Todd used a Sharpie and made hand drawings on outside of the box and it looked like a NASA rocketship.

One end of the box had a make shift door cut out and was his pretend hatch.

At the other end of the box, Todd placed a TV with its screen inserted in a hole he cut into the box. This was his computer monitor to the stars.

He called his makeshift spaceship "Magellan One."

On the inside, Todd also hand drew gauges, switches, knobs to make it look like the inside of a capsule.

Todd and his best friend Ricardo "Ricky" Mendez, also a twelve-year-old nerd, who wore thick glasses sat on the inside of Magellan One. Like Todd, Ricky also shared the same dream of being an Astronaut one day.

The TV was turned on and the screen showed a computer game, which had a full Moon with an Apollo capsule/Lunar Module that zoomed through the darkness of space to it.

Todd and Ricky sat side by side on pillows in front of the TV. They both wore fish bowls loosely over their heads to serve as space helmets. Todd had a game controller in his right hand while they both concentrated on the screen.

“Are we there yet?” Ricky said in a jokingly manner.

On TV, the Apollo capsule continued to race to the Moon.

“Are we there yet?” Ricky teased again.

On the TV, the back end of the Apollo flew up and slammed back down and came to a stand still in space. The engine putted to an idle.

“If you don't shut up Ricky, I'll turn this spaceship around and go back home to the launch pad. Do you understand?” Todd said in a parental tone.

Ricky gave a pouty lip and crossed his arms.

“Yes Commander Todd.”

On the TV, the Apollo capsule and Lunar Module separated. The Lunar Module zoomed off to the Moon. The capsule orbited around the Moon.

“Are we there yet?”

Todd and Ricky both chuckled and playfully pushed each other.

On the TV, the Lunar Module slowly descended to the Moon surface.

“Come on Todd, let me land!” Ricky cried out.

“No Ricky! I'm the Commander,” Todd replied.

“Okay,” Ricky replied disappointed. He then reached up and made fake click sound while he

pretended to flip an overhead switch. He made a rocket engine sound to simulate landing on the Moon.

On the TV, the Lunar Module bounced on and off the surface. It flipped up and over in the air then slammed into the surface, and dust flew everywhere.

“Are you ready to walk on the Moon and be heroes?” Todd asked.

“Every day since I was five!” Ricky replied.

Todd and Ricky both raised a hand and locked pinkies.

“Friends!” they both yelled out with pinkies locked around each other.

On the TV, two Astronauts walked and bounced on the Moon surface.

“I was peeing on the Moon one day...in the merry month of...” Todd sang but was interrupted by Lilly’s voice outside the box.

“Sweetie, you have five minutes,” Lilly called out. Lilly had black shoulder length hair and was a little chubby but still a cutie.

Their eyes lit up with excitement over hearing her reminder. Todd exited the game.

On the TV, the "Apollo Moon Landing Adventure" logo appeared on screen with a full Moon and Apollo Lunar Module behind it.

Todd and Ricky turned around and crawled out of the box through the makeshift hatch.

They raced past Lilly and ran out of his bedroom.

The night sky was filled with stars and a full Moon.

All the neighbors stood out in their front yards and anxiously watched the tree line on the horizon to the east.

They waited for the launch of NASA's Magellan 4 mission. The Magellan V rocket was similar to Saturn V rocket but was little larger in diameter and had an eight-man capsule. This was the fourth Magellan launch and the capsule was manned for the first time. The objective of this mission was to separate the capsule, let it orbit around Earth eight times then land in the Pacific Ocean. The next mission was the Magellan 5 and was slated to dock to the Multinational Space Station (MSS) in two months.

All the pieces for that rocket waited in high bays in the Rocket Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Crews would start to assemble that rocket in a couple of weeks.

The front door of Todd's house slammed open and Todd and Ricky raced out excited.

They ran to the front yard, stopped and looked at the tree line.

Then an orange glow appeared at the horizon. The Magellan 4 rocket ascended into the night sky and lit up the neighborhood.

The neighborhood cheered and clapped, as they were extremely happy to see manned rocket launches again.

"Go Magellan!" a male neighbor yelled out at the sky.

Todd and Ricky watched in awe while the Magellan V rocket ascended high into the night sky.

“One day, we'll be Astronauts walking on the Moon,” Todd said while he stared at the sky.

“And Mars!” Ricky added while he stared at the sky.

The boys continued to watch the Magellan rocket ascend toward space until it became a small fiery dot in the night sky.

All the neighbors walked inside their homes.

Todd and Ricky drooled at the sky with dreamy eyes.

Meanwhile, in outer space above Earth...

The Apollo 17 Lunar Module continued to orbit Earth and smacked into more space junk in its path. The pieces of space junk attached to other space junk and it tripled in size.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota frantically tried to figure out how why his spacecraft wouldn't respond to his control inputs.

He saw the Magellan V rocket while it ascended into orbit from one of his windows.

Inside the Magellan capsule, the three Astronauts didn't notice the small asteroid of space junk while they ascended into space.

In outer space above Earth, the first stage of the Magellan V rocket separated. The engine of the

Magellan second staged fired. It ascended into space while the first stage fell back down to Earth.

The second stage of the Magellan V rocket separated. The engine of the capsule and payload module separated from the second stage. Its engine fired and it started to orbit Earth.

The second stage fell back down to Earth.

The Lunar Module continued to smack into more pieces of space junk after pieces of space junk. They all attached to each other and it grew into a larger and larger Asteroid.

Chapter 3

It was the next morning down at the space coast in Florida.

Tater drove his pickup truck down a street in Atlantis with his trailer full of his mower equipment. He was on his way to start his daily routine of cutting grass but was first going to drop Todd off at school.

Tater had strawberry blonde hair with a reddish goatee and beer gut. He chewed tobacco while he drove his pickup down the street.

Todd sat in the passenger seat and read a book on the history of the Space Shuttle Program.

Tater glanced over at Todd with disapproval. He spat some chewing tobacco out his window at the same time a car headed toward him in the other lane.

A woman drove her car just when Tater's chew splattered on her front windshield. She turned on her wipers, and the chew smeared all over her window, which infuriated her.

Tater glanced again at Todd while residual chew dripped off his chin.

"You know Little Tater, I have an excellent book on the fundamentals of fishing. My father gave it to me. I could get it out later tonight," he said.

"No thanks," Todd said while he rolled his eyes.

"How about playing a little ball tonight? Maybe some batting practice?" he asked.

"I'm busy all night," Todd replied and looked disinterested.

Tater looked disappointed with his son. He felt Todd had reached the age where he wanted nothing to do his father.

It remained a quiet drive in the pickup.

Tater drove to the Magellan Middle School and pulled in the parking lot.

He drove to the front entrance where parents dropped off their kids. Tater stopped his pickup truck at the curb near the front entrance.

Todd grabbed his books and opened the door.

Rocky Abrams, fourteen years old and Buster Wilson, also fourteen years old, were the school Bullies for the past two years. They both wore black tee shirts with black shorts worn down with white underwear that protruded.

They walked by the Tater's pickup.

"Later Little Tater," Tater said to Todd just as he stepped out of his truck.

Rocky and Buster heard Tater's comment and snickered and pointed at Todd.

Todd saw Rocky and Buster and wanted to die.

"Please Dad! I hate that name!" he said while he glared at Tater.

Todd slammed the door shut. Tater felt terrible then leaned to the passenger window.

"Sorry Taaaa, Todd," he said then stopped speaking.

Todd ignored Tater and ran to the front doors of the school.

Tater looked hurt while he drove his pickup away.

Todd got to the front door with Rocky and Buster hot on his tail.

Rocky and Buster jumped between Todd and the door.

“Look Buster, it's little Tater!” Rocky said with a chuckle.

“Why Rocky, he looks like a little nerd instead of a Tater,” Buster added with a chuckle.

Other kids gather around and looked anxious for fist to start flying in the air.

Todd got mad. “Buster, at least they don't call me stupid for flunking,” Todd called out at both Rocky and Buster. He soon cringed when he realized he opened up his mouth without thinking.

Buster got furious and clinched his fists ready to pounce on Todd. But he refrained since he was on school property and didn't want to spend the afternoon in detention. After all, it was the last day of school for the summer.

Todd got scared when he saw Buster's fighting posture. He quickly opened the door and rushed inside.

Inside his school, Todd ran down the hallway with Buster and Rocky hot on his tail. They screeched to a halt when they saw Mr. Whipple, the dorky school principal who stood at the other end of the hallway with his arms crossed.

“Get to your class boys!” Mr. Whipple yelled out and it echoed in the hallway.

Todd, Rocky and Buster walked to their classroom and entered.

Later that day, Todd sat in class with Ricky to his right and Lucy Powell, a twelve-year-old cutie blonde to his left. She was the girl of his dreams and

occasionally glanced over at her with love in his eyes.

She ignored Todd while she leaned over and whispered with Betty Berry, a twelve-year-old tomboy in front of her.

The teacher was a thirty-year-old male who sat at the front desk with a flower Lei that hung around his neck. He had feet on his desk and read a brochure on Hawaii, as that was where he was headed for his summer vacation.

The clock on the wall indicated 2:50 p.m., and was ever so slow, as everybody in the classroom thought.

Rocky and Buster lay their head on their desks and slept. They passed this year after the second time around.

All the other students anxiously watched the clock while it moved toward 3:00 p.m.

Ricky noticed Todd while he glanced at Lucy with love in his eyes. He poked Todd in the arm and motioned for him to talk to Lucy.

Todd got nervous and shook his head and indicated there was no way he would do such a thing.

“It's now or never,” Ricky quietly said while he leaned over to Todd.

Todd looked at Lucy while she doodled in her notebook. He leaned over and opened up his mouth to say something. He chickened out.

Ricky looked disappointed with Todd.

The second the hands of the clock hit 3:00 p.m., the school bell immediately rang out.

The teacher jumped up from his desk at the same time all the students jumped up from their desks.

The teacher and all the students arrived at the classroom door at the same time. One of the students opened the door and they all tried to squeeze through the opening at the same time.

The teacher pushed the kids out of his way and rushed out of the classroom and down the hallway.

The outside of the Apollo Elementary School was quiet. Then a low rumble was heard from inside the hallways. The front doors slammed open and all the students raced out of the building.

“School's out! For summer!” numerous kids sang out while they ran away from the school to their summer of freedom.

Todd and Ricky ran amongst the crowd of kids and eventually ran down the sidewalk in front of the school.

Rocky and Buster strutted not too far behind them.

The two bullies picked up their pace and ran up to Todd and Ricky. They slapped the boys upside the back of their heads while they ran past them.

Todd and Ricky looked scared then relieved when they saw Buster and Rocky run farther down the sidewalk.

A little while later, Todd and Ricky walked through some woods near the power plant. There was a dirt path through the woods the boys often used to walk to the Kangaroo convenience store for sodas and other sweets. The path was littered with candy bar wrappings so their parents wouldn't know they munched down on sweets all the time.

Todd and Ricky walked down that dirt path and came upon a grass field. In the center of the field was a large oak tree with a wooden tree house painted black with a skull and cross bones. It belonged to Rocky and Buster and no kid dared to climb up inside their headquarters.

Todd and Ricky spotted the tree house and picked up their speed with caution.

All of a sudden, Rocky and Buster stepped out from behind a large pine tree by the path.

Todd and Ricky stopped dead in their tracks.

Rocky and Buster circled them like Indians circling wagons. "Well well, it's little Tater," Buster said while he clinched his fists. "I still owe you a whopping for that comment this morning."

"Sorry Buster. I didn't mean you're stupid for flunking twice, I just meant," Todd said while his legs shook in his pants.

Buster picked Ricky up by his shirt and hung him by a rear belt loop on a broken pine tree branch.

Buster and Rocky closed in on Todd with clinched fists.

"Get ready for the beating of your life!" Rocky snarled at Todd.

Betty walked down the dirt path with Lucy.

Lucy saw Ricky on the tree branch and Todd being circled by Buster and Rocky. She knew those two Bullies were up to no good and she was mad. If it was one thing that got her furious and that was a bully.

She rushed over to Buster and Rocky and immediately pulled up on their exposed underwear and gave them wedgies. They cringed in pain while

they turned around and saw Betty with dukes ready to fight.

“I whipped you once, I can whip you both again. It's your choice Buster and Rocky,” Betty threatened with her fist ready to pounce on them.

Rocky and Buster looked fearful of Betty.

“Sorry. We don't beat up girls,” Buster said as an excuse then they both made a quick bee line to their tree house.

Betty and Lucy looked at Todd who looked scared to death and noticed the huge wet spot in the crotch of his pants.

The girls chuckled and walked away down the dirt path.

Todd cringed, as something didn't feel right. He looked down at this crotch and saw his huge wet stain. He turned a bright shade of red while he watched Lucy and Betty while they walked down the path and still chuckled. He knew they knew.

Ricky's tree branch snapped and he slammed hard into the ground. He got up in a little bit of pain and saw Todd's wet spot. He felt sorry for his best friend.

“Lucy will never like me now. She's gonna think I'm a pee in your pants coward,” Todd said then hung his head down in shame. “I am such a coward,” he added while he stared down at the dirt.

Ricky placed his arm around Todd's shoulder and walked him down the dirt path.

Ricky's pants fell down and he tripped and landed face first into the dirt.

From their tree house, Rocky and Buster roared with laughter at the sight of Ricky with his face in the dirt.

Todd helped Ricky up to his feet.

“Let's go land on the Moon. That'll make you forget your troubles,” Ricky said while he held up his pants with his hands.

“Naw, I think I'm going to go home. We'll play later,” said Todd while they walked down the dirt path.

Todd and Ricky went their separate ways home through the woods.

Inside Todd's home, he rushed into his bedroom and slammed his door shut. He quickly changed his pants the sat on his bed and pouted. He silently prayed that Lucy would have forgotten about this whole incident by the time the new school year started.

Later that night at Todd's home, he sat depressed at the dining room table with Lilly, Tater and Christina, his fourteen-year-old sister who had a mouth full of shiny braces. They ate dinner a steak dinner with mashed potatoes and corn and drank sweet tea from Publix.

Todd picked at his steak with his fork.

Lilly noticed and concerned. “What's the matter sweetie?”

Todd shrugged his shoulders, as he didn't want to tell them what bothered him.

Christina got an evil smirk. “I heard he peed his pants in front of Lucy. The love of his life!” she blurted out then she blew goofy kisses at Todd.

He shrunk deeper in his chair still embarrassed of his earlier behavior.

Tater looked ashamed of Todd. “How did this happen?”

Todd remained silent.

Christina squirmed in her seat, as she couldn’t resist blabbing again. “Betty Berry saved Todd from being whipped by two bullies,” she cried out followed by a huge grin happy she squealed on her brother.

Tater looked over at his son. “Todd, you need to learn to stick up for yourself. Want me to teach you some of my fancy boxing moves?” Tater said while he boxed the air then accidently knocked over his glass of ice tea.

Lilly frowned at Tater who immediately used his napkin to soak up the spill.

Todd picked at his steak on his plate, and stared at it.

Lilly felt sorry for him then gave Christina a stern look of disapproval for her actions.

Christina could care less, as she loved picking on her little brother.

“I know what will cheer you up Todd,” Lilly said then got up from the table and walked out of the living room.

Todd looked curious as to what she was going to do.

At Ricky's home, he ate dinner with Louie, his thirty-year-old father and Rose his thirty-year-old mother in their dining room.

"Oh, I almost forgot. I got that letter I was expecting and I have some great news for you Ricky," said Louie with a huge grin.

Ricky's eyes lit up. "I'm going to Space camp?" he said excitedly with sparkles in his eyes.

"Oh no, you got accepted into the Little Harvard Prep school down in Melbourne. You're starting this fall," Louie replied excitedly.

Ricky sank in his chair over that news. "But, I want to," he said.

"Yes! You want to be a dentist and take over my practice," Louie said when he interrupted Ricky.

"No!"

"Sorry son. But you'll be thirteen and you need to stop those foolish dreams of going in space. Being a dentist is our family tradition."

Ricky sank lower in his chair extremely depressed.

The telephone rang from the kitchen.

Rose got up from the table and went into the kitchen.

Ricky picked at his food while Rose talked on the phone.

Rose came back and sat down at the table.

"Want to spend the night at Todd's?"

Ricky's eyes lit up with joy as this meant spending the night doing space stuff.

Meanwhile, in outer space above Earth, the Lunar Module orbited Earth with thousands of space

junk attached to each other. It now grew and was eight miles long and about seventy feet thick.

Down on Earth in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, on the top of a wooded mountain was a tracking station with its control room buried underground.

Its main function was to track all the space debris that orbited around Earth. It was part of the Space Spy Agency that was a secret division to the Department of Defense.

Inside the tracking room hung a “The Space Spy Agency – Peek A Boo We See You Room” sign on the rear wall.

In the middle of the room were numerous consoles where men and women monitored radar screens for the space above Earth. And if the truth got out to the media, they also had the capability to spy on anybody down on Earth with their secret Peek A Boo We See You satellite that was launched three years ago. Plus two years ago their You Can Run But You Can’t Hide satellite was launched as a backup.

Herbert Johnson was a thirty-year-old engineer that worked at his console. He was bored and propped his chin in his hands while he glanced at his radar screen. Everything was nominal as usual. His eyes lids drooped shut and he fell asleep.

Then a beep and another beep sounded from his console and caused his one arm to give out. His forehead slammed hard into the console. He woke up and glanced at the monitor while he rubbed his

painful forehead. Something on his monitor gave him grave concern.

“Wilbur!” he cried out while he continued to stare at his screen.

Wilbur Wilfred, a nerdy fifty-four-year-old man, rushed up to Johnson with a bottle of Maalox in his hand. He was the Chief of this room and was an extremely nervous fellow who worried too much; hence the constant drinking of Maalox to soothe his upset stomach.

“What’s wrong Johnson?” asked Wilbur.

Johnson pointed at his radar screen and Wilbur saw a small green blob around a green earth symbol. “I’ve never seen this before,” Johnson said a little concerned.

Wilbur got a sour look while he rubbed his stomach. He opened up his Maalox bottle and took a swig. “Keep an eye on it and give me periodic updates,” he replied then rushed away scared.

Johnson stared at the green blob on his radar screen. He was no longer bored, and this was the most exciting thing he had to monitor in years.

Back at Todd’s home, it was later that evening and the doorbell to Todd’s house rang.

Tater walked over and opened his front door. Ricky entered with a sad face, his sleeping bag and backpack.

He moped down the hallway.

Tater looked concerned and looked at Louie. “Why the sad face Louie?”

“He doesn’t want to grow up and be a dentist and take over my practice,” Louie said and looked disappointed.

“I know that look. Little Tater, I mean, Todd, doesn't want to go to business school, and then afterwards help expand my business. Can you imagine having lawn services all over the state of Florida? I could be the grass assassin king of the entire state,” Tater said with dreams in his eyes.

“Space travel is such a huge waste of money. We need to spend money fixing up the planet,” Louie said.

“You know it,” Tater nodded in agreement, as he was still bitter over losing his job at the space center seven years ago.

Ricky ran into the Todd's bedroom where Todd sat on his bed and still pouted from the earlier confrontation with Buster and Rocky.

Ricky went inside the cardboard spaceship and laid his sleeping bag on the floor next to Todd's sleeping bag.

Todd entered the cardboard spaceship and they both sat down on their bags.

On the TV was the “Be An Astronaut” logo for another video game.

“My father's going to put me in some dumb private school this fall. He still wants me to be a dentist,” Ricky said and looked depressed.

“My father still wants me to help him cut grass for the rest of my life.”

“I don't want to work in people's spit all day!” Ricky said.

“Mowing over dog poop is no fun either!” Todd added.

Ricky and Todd looked at the TV screen.

“Let’s watch the Right Stuff? It’s on channel thirty-five in a few minutes,” Todd said.

“Sure. I love that movie.”

Todd picked up the game controller and pressed a button.

On the TV, the game went off and a commercial appeared with a Disc Jockey from “The Beach” radio station.

“To celebrate the reopening of Space Camp, our radio station, The Beach, is having a contest. The winner will win a free trip for two at Space Camp right here outside the Kennedy Space Center,” the Disc Jockey said from the TV.

Todd and Ricky craned their necks at the TV very interested in this golden opportunity.

“This also includes free astronaut training for two. How you ask? Well, by being the first caller to answer two questions concerning the moon landing during the Apollo program, tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. Call One Eight Hundred The Moon,” the Disc Jockey said.

Todd and Ricky looked at each other then rushed out of the rocketship.

Todd and Ricky rushed over and sat at his computer. He quickly opened up NASA’s website and found information on the Apollo program. Their eyes were glued to the computer while they scrolled through information about all the Apollo Moon landings.

They stayed up all night and studied all the information they could find on the Apollo missions on the Internet and from Todd’s books.

It was five in the morning and they turned on the *Star Wars* movie. It wasn't long before Todd and Ricky fell sound asleep through all the loud noises from the fighting scenes in that movie.

Forty minutes had passed.

Lilly and Tater entered Todd's bedroom in their pajamas, as the movie woke them up.

"Those boys can sleep through a tornado," Tater said.

Lilly turned off his DVD player and his TV. She walked over and gave Todd and Ricky a kiss on their cheeks.

Lilly and Tater left his bedroom.

Chapter 4

It was the next morning and Todd and Ricky only had three hours of sleep because they stayed up half the night studying information about the Moon landings.

They brushed their teeth then went to the kitchen for breakfast.

After they wolfed down a bowl of Cocoa Krispies and orange juice, they rushed back into Todd's bedroom.

They sat on Todd's bed and impatiently waited while they listened to the *Happy Together* song by the Turtles on the radio by his bedside table. It was 8:58 a.m.

The song ended and Todd and Ricky inched closer to the radio.

"Okay future space cadets; are you ready to win a free astronaut training for two at space camp?" the Disc Jockey said from the radio.

"Yeah"! Todd and Ricky said in unison while they jumped off the bed.

"Okay, question number one - How many Apollo missions actually landed on the Moon? Besides the total number, I want the all the mission numbers," the Disc Jockey said from the radio.

Todd and Ricky thought for a second, then their eyes lit up!

"Question number two - What was the name of the Moon landing site for the April 1972 mission?" the Disc Jockey added.

Todd and Ricky thought for a second then their eyes lit up even brighter!

Todd grabbed the phone from his bedside table.

“Yes misses Snyder, I can have Touché clipped and cut in a couple of days,” Lilly said from the phone.

“That’s great. Oh, I forgot to tell you this the other day, but you wouldn’t believe what Roscoe did,” Sally told Lilly over the phone.

“Tell me about it, Sally,” Lilly replied.

Todd looked frustrated while he hung up his phone. He thought for a second for a backup plan.

“I got it,” he cried out then raced out of his bedroom.

Ricky raced out of the bedroom after Todd.

Todd raced down the hallway. Ricky raced after Todd.

Todd raced into Christina’s room where she lay on her back and talked into her cell phone. “And then Bobby asked Sandy out,” Christina told a friend on her cell phone.

Todd raced up to her bed and snatched the cell phone out of her hand before she could finish her sentence.

He ran out of her bedroom and Ricky followed.

“For a date,” Christina finished and then realized that Todd snatched her cell phone away. “Creep!” Christina yelled while she jumped off her bed.

The back screen door of Todd’s house slammed open and Todd and Ricky raced outside. Todd stopped and quickly punched in the phone number

for the contest. The phone at the radio station rang and Todd placed the cell phone to his ear.

“And we have caller number ten on the phone. Go ahead,” the Disc Jockey said.

“The answer to question number one is six missions. Apollo's 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17,” Todd said all excited into the cell phone.

“I hate you Todd,” Christina yelled out when she slammed the back screen door open.

Todd saw Christina while she ran after him from the back door.

He took off and zigged zagged around the backyard with Christina hot on his tail.

Ricky watched and silently prayed she wouldn't catch him just yet.

“And the Moon landing site on April 1972 was Descartes,” Todd yelled into the cell phone while he maneuvered around the yard to avoid Christina's capture.

“We have a winner! What's your name young man?” the Disc Jockey asked from the cell phone.

Christina almost caught Todd, but he was too quick when zigged zagged around the yard.

“Todd Peabody and I live at twenty-three fourteen Kiscoe Street in Atlantis,” Todd blurted out in a hurry.

“Well then Mister Todd Peabody, come on down to the station and get your space camp tickets,” the Disc Jockey said.

Todd jumped up and down for joy. “We won!” he cried out then threw Christina's cell phone in the air.

Ricky jumped up and down with joy.

Christina saw her cell phone when it dropped to the ground.

She dove for her cell phone. While he was in mid-air, her eyes lit up with fear when she realized she headed straight for a huge pile of fire ants.

“Ahhhh!” Christina screamed out in anticipation of hitting those thousands of ants.

Todd and Ricky quickly raced back into the house and were too excited about winning the contest to notice Christina’s screams.

Meanwhile, back at the Space Spy Agency’s Peek A Boo We See You Room, Johnson got bored from watching the green blob and fell asleep with his feet propped up on his console. He snored and drooled on his shirt.

Twenty minutes later, Johnson woke up and wiped the drool off his chin. He yawned. He glanced at radar screen. He yawned and stretched. He did a double take and freaked out!

“Wilbur! Hurry!” he screamed out while shot straight up out of his chair.

All the other console operators jumped up from their consoles and ran over to Johnson.

Wilbur ran over to Johnson with his Maalox bottle in hand. He looked at the radar screen and got scared. His hand nervously shook while he grabbed the receiver from the red phone on the top of Johnson’s console.

“Richard, Wilbur here. We have something on our Top Secret Peek A Boo We See You satellite. Something very alarming and threatening,” Wilbur said into the phone. He looked at the radar screen

where the green blob quadrupled in size. He opened up his Maalox bottle and took another gulp.

“What is it?” one of the console operators asked.

“Maybe it’s a huge spaceship full of Aliens that will wipe out mankind,” another console operator replied and looked scared.

“Maybe they’re Aliens that want to use us for food. You know, stock their Alien refrigerators,” another console operator added and looked scared.

Wilbur polished off the rest of his Maalox while Johnson and all the console operators looked afraid that maybe Aliens were actually coming down to Earth.

In outer space above Earth, the Asteroid of space junk was now ten miles long and one hundred feet thick while it orbited Earth. But now, the space above Earth was virtually cleaned up of all the pieces of floating space junk.

Down on Earth, the huge Asteroid of space junk now caught the attention of governments all around the world. They had meetings around the planet to discuss this huge object. Many of them also had suspicions that it was an Alien mother ship.

It was after numerous observatories positioned their telescopes to get a closer examination, that they learned it was an Asteroid of space junk. This now drove hundreds of Scientists around the world to have tons of discussions on whether this Asteroid posed a threat to Earth.

At the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California, Dr. Jennifer Roberts, a beautiful twenty-

year-old woman with a degree in Space Sciences rushed extremely concerned down the hallway with a folder in hand. Richard Burrows, the fifty-five-year-old NASA Administrator soon greeted her in the hallway.

“What did you find?” he asked her.

“The Palomar observatory took this a couple of hours ago,” she said then handed Richard the folder.

He opened up the folder and looked at the picture of the huge Asteroid of space junk.

“We need answers on this Asteroid so I can call the President,” he said concerned.

“The nerds have some,” she said then walked Richard down the hallway.

They turned down another hallway and walked upon the “National Engineering Research Department (NERD)” room.

Richard opened up the door for Jennifer and they went inside.

Inside the NERD room, the room was full of nerdy JPL scientists that conducted research projects with high tech devices and other cool toys.

“Quinton, do we know how did this happened?” Richard said while he held up the photo.

Quinton Leonard was a forty-five-year-old skinny scientist who always wore thick glasses, which magnified his eyes to twice their size. He grabbed another folder, got up from his computer and walked over to Richard.

“Well Richard, for some strange unexplained reason, an old Apollo lunar module flew back to Earth and collided with our space junk, discarded satellites, and they adhered to each other. This

apparently continued while it orbited and grew into this massive Asteroid,” Quinton said then handed Richard his folder.

Richard opened up the folder and saw a photo of the front of the Asteroid, which had a good shot of the front of that Apollo 17 Lunar Module.

“An Apollo Lunar Module? I thought they all impacted back to the Moon,” Richard said a little baffled.

“We all believed that occurred, but as you can see by the photo, one of them apparently didn’t,” Quinton said.

“What’s your assessment of this Asteroid?” Richard asked.

“We ran data numerous times through our computers and performed numerous risk assessments and concluded that it doesn’t pose a threat. But, we should play it safe and get rid of it just in case,” Quinton replied and looked serious.

“How do we do that?”

“We have the best scientist working around all the NASA centers on our plan. We’ve had some new inventions that have been in work for years and they would be a perfect fit for our plan,” Quinton said.

“I want a briefing on your proposed plan completed in one hour so I can brief the President.”

Quinton nodded in agreement.

Richard and Jennifer left the NERD room.

Two hours later in the oval room of the White House, President Peter Barnaby, sixty years old with a head full of white hair, relaxed with his feet on his desk near the “I’m President Barnaby And You’re Not” name plate. He read his “Dummies Method To

Being President” book in his other hand and his desk phone in the other. This call interrupted his educational read. He answered it and listened to the caller for a few seconds.

“Are you sure this Asteroid will not threaten Earth?” President Barnaby said into his phone.

“Yes sir. The nerds at JPL ran it through their computer ten times and performed numerous risk assessment and all came up with the same results,” Richard replied from the President’s phone.

“But you still feel we should get rid of it now?” President Barnaby asked.

“Yes sir. Better be safe than sorry or we’ll end up like the dinosaurs.”

“And your nerds have a plan on how to get rid of this Asteroid?” President Barnaby asked.

“Yes sir, we just need your permission to move forward and then I’ll brief the news media later tonight,” Richard said.

“You can proceed, and tell me about this plan,” President Barnaby replied.

While Richard told President Barnaby the plan, and he listened with while he continued to read his book.

Later that night at the James S. Brady Press Room in the West wing of the White house, Press Secretary Carrie Winston, thirty-five years old, stood at the podium and addressed the room full of news media personnel who all looked shocked over the news of the space junk Asteroid.

Richard, Jennifer and Quinton stood behind Carrie.

A news reporter stood up. "I'm Biff Barley from Channel Nine News in Orlando, Florida. What are NASA's plans on getting rid of this nuisance?" Biff asked while he had his note pad and pen ready.

"I would like our JPL scientist to answer that question," Carrie said then stepped aside.

Quinton walked over and stood behind the podium. "Our plan consists of having our Astronauts install a prototype robot called R1D1 and control box inside the lunar module. They'll then they'll hover across the top of the Asteroid with a newly developed Space Buggy we designed and built at JPL. While they hover across the top of the Asteroid, the Astronauts will install control wire to the rear of the Asteroid. After they install three newly developed ion propulsion engines on the rear of the Asteroid, they'll connect the control wires," Quinton informed the media.

The media folks hurriedly jotted down that information on his or her note pads.

"Which rocket will be used to complete this plan?" a reporter called out.

Richard walked up to the podium and stood next to Quinton.

"We plan on using our Magellan five rocket. The next Magellan mission is being assembled right now down at Kennedy," Richard said.

All of the media personnel stood up and cheered.

Richard and Quinton looked proud, as it was rare that the media showed this kind of appreciation toward NASA.

Later that night in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby finished his "Dummies

Method To Being President,” book and set it on the top of his desk. He looked at his watch.

He opened up a desk drawer and removed a remote control. He aimed it the wall across the room and pressed the yellow button on the remote.

The wall across the room had two hidden panels. They opened up and opened by activation of the remote. Behind those panels were eleven 36-inch high definition televisions.

President Barnaby pressed a blue button on the remote and all the TVs turned on.

On the TVs appeared; England’s Prime Minister, the German Chancellor, the Spanish President, the Prime Minister of Japan, the French President, the South Korean President, the Italian President, the Australian President, the Canadian President, the Chinese President and the Russian President.

“Can this asteroid be stopped?” the French President asked from his TV.

President Barnaby propped his feet up on his desk and looked cocky. “The U S of A has a plan to send it off into space,” President Barnaby said.

“The U S of A...AH! You always have to be cowboy. We're capable of a plan? I say blow it up!” the Chinese President called out from his TV.

“No! Let Barnaby implement his plan!” England’s Prime Minister said from his TV.

On the TVs, Germany, France, Russia, Spain, Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea and Italy agreed with England’s Prime Minister.

“Ya. You can use one of my Cosmonauts,” the Russian President added from his TV.

“Thank you all,” President Barnaby said then pressed another button on the remote and the TVs

turned off. He pressed the yellow button again and the two panels closed.

President Barnaby looked proud of his plan to get rid of that Asteroid.

The next day down at the Space Coast of Florida, Tater agreed to allow Todd attend space camp but under one condition; he helped with his lawn service for the summer. Todd's chores would involve picking up pine cones from the yards then he would operate the blower and blow grass off the driveways and sidewalk.

Louie also agreed to allow Ricky to attend space camp but under one condition; he would have to work at the dentist office for the summer. His chores would be taking out the trash, sweeping the floor and picking up trash around the office grounds.

Lilly drove the boys to The Beach radio station where they picked up their space camp tickets. Todd and Ricky were on cloud nine while they held onto their prized paperwork.

After dinner, Lilly drove Todd and Ricky down US 1 to the Space Camp in her 2008 Toyota Camry. On her radio played the *I Bought A Double Wide For You* country song.

In the backseat, Todd and Ricky grinned from ear to ear with excitement with receiving some Astronaut training.

“We interrupt this song for an important message. NASA has released the news that an Asteroid comprised of space junk is now orbiting Earth. Our Scientist's concluded there's no immediate threat, but NASA's still going to send up

the next Magellan rocket to get rid of it. Now back to our hit song I Bought A Double Wide For You by Bubba and the Pot Belly Boys.”

Todd and Ricky's eyes lit up from the backseat. They quickly stuck their heads outside their windows and looked up at the sky in hopes of seeing the Asteroid.

Lilly turned into the entrance to Space Camp.

Lilly parked her car by the entrance.

Todd and Ricky jumped out while Lilly got out and opened up the trunk. She removed their backpacks and handed it to the boys.

They snatched their backpacks out of her hands and raced off to the front doors of the building.

Lilly looked disappointed that she didn't give Todd a goodbye kiss, but she knew he was too excited about Space Camp.

She closed the trunk, got back inside her car and drove off.

Later that night in Space Camp in Florida, Ricky and Todd got assigned their bunks in the boy's dorm. Eighteen kids were in their class and one them was Cassandra Bartholomew. She was a rich twelve-year-old spoiled brat and was the daughter of Senator Mickey Bartholomew from Massachusetts. He was a Democrat that could easily control the amount of budget NASA would receive. And with her father's influence, Cassandra would have no problem being accepted into NASA's Astronaut training program after she graduated from college.

That night, the kids attended some indoctrination meetings and were introduced to Cindy Deon, twenty-three years old and Jack McCain, also twenty-three years old, their camp instructors. The boys were excited and couldn't sleep the whole night knowing their training would start first thing in the morning.

Chapter 5

It was morning down at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

A C-17 Globemaster Air Force jet landed at the end of the runway. Inside it was the new prototype Space Buggy recently assembled after being in development for three years. Workers at the secret NASA location worked long and hard hours to assemble the Space Buggy for this mission.

The Space Buggy was off loaded from the C-17 and transported into the Rocket Assembly Building with a security escort and NASAs Black Hawk helicopter watching from four hundred feet above.

Inside the Rocket Assembly Building, thirty technicians feverishly worked to assemble the Magellan 5 rocket.

Hours later, they installed the newly developed Space Buggy into the Payload Stage Module of the Magellan rocket.

The Space Buggy had two front bucket seats and a rear bench seat. It was once a VW Dune Buggy from the 1960s but modified by JPL.

Above the rear seat was a roll bar that contained a huge reel of wire. The reel had a hand crank to make it easier to unreel the cable up in space. The buggy also had a cargo bed with the three small ion rocket engines secured inside with bungee cords. The buggy still resembled the old VW dune buggy but was now a high-tech buggy.

The Payload Stage Module of the Magellan rocket was also modified where a door was installed on the side to allow the Space Buggy to be driven out while in space.

The technicians worked on stacking the rest of the rocket parts, which included an adapter to the nose of the capsule so it could dock with and allow entrance into the old Apollo Lunar Module.

Over at Space Camp, the kids finished breakfast and went to the logistics office where they received their blue Astronauts flight suits. All of the kids had sparkles in their eyes the second they first wore those blue suits.

Afterwards they were sent into one of the training rooms.

They all sat by the 1/6 gravity chair, which simulated walking on the moon. It's called the 1/6 gravity because it simulates the moon's gravitational pull, which is 1/6th that of Earth's.

Cindy and Jack watched while the kids took turns and simulated three different movements; the bunny hop, the side-to-side, and the slow motion jog.

Cassandra got in the chair and was arrogant and cocky while she performed the three movements.

The other kids took turns while they got in the chair and performed their movements.

Ricky got in the chair and did an excellent job with the three movements. He got out and Todd got in the chair. He did an excellent job and looked proud and started to feel like an Astronaut.

Later that morning, Cindy and Jack had the kids out in the yard, and it was model rocket time.

Cindy and Jack watched while the kids placed the final touches on their model rockets. It was now time to launch them into the sky.

“Okay Todd, you can launch your rocket first,” Cindy instructed.

Todd walked over and got his rocket ready on the launcher.

“I want to be first!” Cassandra protested and stomped feet and showed everybody that it was all about her.

Cindy and Jack looked at Cassandra and knew her Senator was powerful. In fact, he was part owner of Space Camp and Cassandra attended for free.

“Okay Cassandra, you can go first,” Cindy said.

Todd walked back to the kids disappointed he couldn’t show off first.

She strutted up with her Quest Aerospace Space Shuttle Intrepid model rocket. She got it ready on the launcher.

She launched her model rocket.

The kids watched and clapped while her rocket soared high into the sky.

Cassandra looked proud while she strutted back to the kids.

“Okay Ricky, you can go next,” Jack said.

Ricky walked up with his Wizard Flying rocket and got it ready. He launched his model rocket.

All the kids watched and clapped while his rocket soared into the sky.

“Todd, you can go next,” Cindy said.

He strutted his Big Daddy rocket over and got it ready and he knew his would be the best launch. He got it ready then launched it.

It rose fifteen feet in the air then made a sudden sharp downward turn and raced after the kids.

All the kids scattered in fear while Todd's Big Daddy rocket flew inches over their heads.

His rocket crashed into a nearby oak tree.

Todd looked depressed over this failure.

At the Kennedy Space Center, the Magellan rocket was on top of the Mobile Launcher while the crawler transporter slowly inched down the tracks to the launch pad. The Magellan Mobile Launcher was designed like the Apollo era with the service structure attached to the launcher.

The crawler was heading to LC-39B.

It made the slow crawling turn to the left to go to LC-39B. Going straight ahead would lead to LC-39A that was operated by SpaceX a successful commercial space company.

Back at Space Camp, Cindy and Jack had all the kids in a room with a 52-inch High Definition TV. It was a closed circuit TV and they watched the Magellan rocket while it went up the pad slope at LC-39B.

"Miss Deon," Cassandra said while she raised her hand in the air.

"Yes Cassandra," Cindy said when she saw Cassandra.

"I think it would behoove us to get a tour of the launch tower after the Magellan arrives at the pad," Cassandra said.

All the eyes of the kids lit up with the thought of getting close to an actual rocket.

“I’m sorry Cassandra. But NASA won’t allow such a tour,” Jack said and Cindy nodded in agreement.

The kids got disappointed.

Cassandra looked determined to win this battle.

Two hours later at the Magellan launch pad, Rusty and Howie, two technicians, pushed a cart with a metal box on it from their van to the elevators at the surface of the launch pad.

After they passed by the security guard check point, they pushed the cart to the elevators at the base of the launch tower.

They got inside the first elevator available one.

They rode the elevator up to the 400 Foot Level of the tower.

They got off the elevator and pushed the cart down the gantry to the capsule to the White Room.

They entered the White Room and opened up the metal box. They removed R1D1, a prototype Robot, which looks somewhat like R2D2 but with small arms and legs.

Rusty crawled through the capsule hatch.

Howie grabbed R1D1 and handed it to Rusty through the hatch.

Howie crawled through the capsule hatch.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Rusty and Howie opened up a cabinet door and secured R1D1 inside a small cabinet, which was for small payloads. The door of the cabinet was filled slits for air to enter.

They left the capsule satisfied that they completed the final part of the mission. But they did not realize that they forgot to properly close and lock the cabinet door.

Later that day at Space Camp, the kids sat in a training class. Cindy and Jack taught them the ground processing and launch countdown procedures for the Magellan rocket.

Todd's ears were glued to the whole lesson.

It was now test time and Jack handed out the test papers, and they had one hour.

Jack and Cindy walked around the classroom and monitored the kids while they took their test.

Two hours later and the tests were graded, and of course Cassandra had a perfect test score. Ricky had the second highest test score. Poor Todd had the lowest test score and that made him sink deeper into the depression.

Later that night at Space Camp, Todd lay on his dorm bed and stared at the ceiling. He sucked at being an Astronaut and this weighed heavy on his mind.

Ricky noticed and felt sorry for his buddy. He tried to cheer Todd up, but he just wanted to be left alone.

In Cassandra's private dorm room, she made a call to her father on her cell phone.

"Hey sweetie how's Space Camp?" Mickey replied from her cell phone.

“Good daddy, but they won’t allow us to see the new Magellan at the launch pad,” she said.

“That’s too bad, darling,” Mickey responded.

“But daddy. I want to see the Magellan rocket at the launch tower. I must see the new rocket. Therefore, you must call NASA and demand that we see the new rocket,” she cried out in her usual spoiled tone.

“I don’t know honey,” Mickey said.

“You must! You must! You must!” she cried out while she threw a temper tantrum and started to sob into her cell phone.

“Okay darling. Daddy will take care of you,” Mickey said after he caved in to her temper tantrums.

Cassandra disconnected her phone call and sat down on her bed. She smiled, as she knew she had her father wrapped around her little finger. She loved having all this power she over her daddy.

In Boston, Massachusetts, Mickey sat at his desk in his den. He made a phone call to Richard Burrows, the NASA Administrator on his cell phone. Richard and Mickey were also old school buddies back at Harvard and they remained close friends, which helped NASA obtain the required funding for the Magellan program seven years ago.

“Hello Richard, it’s Mickey,” he said.

“Hey Mickey. How can I help you?” Richard replied from the cell phone.

“Cassandra’s down at the Space Camp outside Kennedy. And I was wondering if you could arrange for her space camp class to get a tour on the launch tower since the Magellan just arrived,” he said.

“I’ll see what I can do,” Richard replied.

Mickey was happy, as he didn't want to deal with Cassandra's temper tantrums when she didn't get her way.

The next day at Space Camp, the kids were back to the training room where they would experience the multi-axis trainer. This trainer simulated the disorientation that an Astronaut would experience during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Cassandra went first on the multi-axis trainer.

Jack operated the trainer and Cindy monitored.

Cassandra was finished and did great.

It was Ricky's turn, and he did great.

He got out and Todd stood up, as he was next.

They high fived each other then Todd got strapped inside the trainer.

The multi-axis trainer spun around. Todd smiled while it spun as he was finally doing great. Suddenly something felt weird inside his stomach. He looked upset, as he knew what would happen next. He vomited.

Ricky, the kids, Jack and Cindy all scrambled to dodge the splatter of Todd's vomit when it hit the floor.

Jack rushed over and hit the stop button. The multi-axis stopped spinning and came to a halt.

Jack got Todd out of the trainer. Todd staggered and looked upset over getting sick. He fell to the floor and wanted to cry.

Back at the Kennedy Landing Site, two Javelin jets landed on runway 36.

They taxied over to the hangar and parked.

Astronauts Rod Quinn, Lance McMillan and Clint Powell all thirty-five years old and were former military jet pilots, climbed out of the Javelin's.

NASA personnel greeted the Astronauts and walked them over to a parked Astro van.

The Astronauts get inside the van with the NASA personnel, and the van drove away.

Back at Space Camp, the kids worked at computers.

Cindy and Jack walked around and monitored the kids.

Next to Todd sat a kid who typed on his keyboard. On the kid's monitor was a computer simulated Magellan V rocket at the launch pad. The main engines to the rocket fired and it lifted off the pad. The word "Liftoff" appeared across the screen of the kid's computer screen. He kid looked proud of himself for launching the rocket.

Ricky sat on the other side of Todd.

Ricky typed on his keyboard. On his monitor was a computer simulated Magellan V rocket at the launch pad. The main engines to the rocket fired and it lifted off the pad. The word "Liftoff" appeared across his screen. Ricky looked proud of himself for launching the rocket.

Todd looked confident while he typed on his keyboard. On his monitor was a computer simulated Magellan V rocket at the launch pad. Then the words "Launch Abort" with alarm appeared across his screen with an annoying buzzing alarm.

All eyes in the room were on Todd's computer after they heard his monitor alarm.

Todd looked depressed for failing at launching the rocket

A woman entered the room and walked over to Cindy and Jack. She whispered, and Cindy and Jack looked shocked with what she told them.

Cindy and Jack walked to the front of the room.

“I have some great news. We’ve just been informed that NASA has authorized a tour of the launch tower tomorrow morning,” Cindy said with a huge grin.

The class erupted in cheers over seeing a real rocket.

Cassandra stood up. “Thank you all, as it was a pleasure to call daddy to set this up,” she said then bowed to show off that she made this trip possible.

Cindy and Jack rolled their eyes, as they were sick of Cassandra’s arrogant attitude. But they knew they had to accept it or lose their jobs.

Later that night in the dorm at Space Camp, Todd and Ricky stood by their beds at the far end of the room. Todd looked extremely depressed while he stared out the window where the full Moon was visible in the night sky.

Ricky sat on his bed and watched Todd with concern in his eyes.

“I’m lousy as an Astronaut!” Todd said and fought back his tears.

“Don’t worry. You just had a rocky start,” Ricky said to comfort him.

Ricky thought for a second then chuckled. “No pun intended.”

Todd looked at Ricky. From window, the Asteroid moved across the bottom half of the Moon

and blocked it out. Neither Todd nor Ricky noticed the Asteroid.

“Lucy will never like me now.”

“You'll cheer up when we get a tour of the launch pad and get to see the Magellan rocket tomorrow,” said Ricky.

Todd looked back out the window.

Ricky placed his arm around Todd's shoulder. They both looked out the window at the Moon.

Meanwhile, back at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson monitored his radar screen.

Wilbur walked up to Johnson with his Maalox bottle in hand. “Has things changed?” he asked.

“Appears to be the same.”

“Good,” Wilbur said then reached up and picked up the red phone.

“Richard, there's no change with that Asteroid,” Wilbur said then hung up the phone.

Wilbur walked away without taking a sip of his Maalox.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sat at his desk and watched a *West Wing* TV rerun. His phone rang, and he picked up the receiver.

“The President,” he said into his phone.

“Mister President, no change with the Asteroid and the Magellan five rocket will be ready to launch in two days,” Richard said over the phone.

“Thanks Richard,” President Barnaby replied then hung up the phone.

He returned to his TV show.

Inside the Lunar Module above Earth, Scoota frantically tried to figure out why his Lunar Module wasn't responding to his controls. He had panels removed and looked inside and any anomalies, and everything looked normal.

He pressed some buttons on the console then sat down in his seat. He saw an "Engine Out" message that flashed on a console screen.

He sat back down and pondered how to handle this emergency. He looked at his Space Pad, and he hesitated, as he hated to ask for help. But he knew he didn't have any choice so he pressed some buttons on his Space Pad.

"Come in Senior Space Knight Tockka. This is Junior Grade Space Knight Scoota," he said into his Space Pad.

The hologram of Senior Space Knight Tockka appeared, and he was an old man with shiny silver hair. "Yes Scoota," Tockka said.

"Ah sir, I'm in trouble and in dire need of assistance," Scoota said to the hologram.

"What now?" Tockka replied as this sounded like a familiar event.

"Well sir, I recently bought this old used Earthling space craft and I decided to take it for a quick spin around a few galaxies."

"And then what?" Tockka said and rolled his eyes while he crossed his arms to hear his story.

"When I started to orbit Earth, I smacked into some of their space junk and now my controls won't work and my engine quit," Scoota said.

"Earth? Okay. I'll send a rescue craft. We'll be there in a week," Tockka replied then his hologram disappeared.

Scoota sank lower in his seat. “I’ll never make full Space Knight now,” he said and wanted to cry while he started to reinstall the panels.

Chapter 6

It was the next day down on Earth at Space Camp.

A Space Camp bus was parked near the front entrance and all the kids boarded. They all wore their “We Are Space Camp Cadets” tee shirts for their field trip to a real launch pad.

Todd and Ricky sat at the back of the bus. The other kids were all excited as they bounced from seat to seat, jumped up and down and talked. It was utter chaos!

Cindy and Jack got on the bus.

Jack sat down in the seat behind the driver.

Cindy stood next to the driver and tried to count heads. The kids moved around so much that Cindy lost count. She tried again. The kids moved from seat to seat and jumped up and down. She lost count again, and she started over. She gave up with counting and sat down next to Jack.

The driver drove the bus away.

Ten minutes later at the Kennedy Space Center, the bus drove down the road to the launch pad. Some of the kids stuck their heads out the windows to catch a glimpse of a twelve foot alligator that normally lounged on the bank of the canal alongside the road. They did not see any alligators out on the banks today.

The bus got waved through the security check and made its way into the launch pad.

At the surface of the launch pad, the bus eventually drove to the surface of the launch pad.

The bus doors opened and the kids ran out all excited. Cindy and Jack rushed out and it was like corralling cattle to keep the kids together.

They met their NASA Tour Guide a forty-five year old male, at the elevators at the base of the launch tower.

Thirty minutes later on the launch tower, and Jack, Cindy and the NASA Tour Guide had the kids up on the 400 Foot Level of the launch tower. They looked exhausted and Cindy's hair was a total mess.

The kids ran around the 400-foot level of the launch tower looking it over.

"Kids!" the NASA Tour Guide yelled out and wanted to punch Richard for allowing this tour.

The kids all stopped where they were and looked at the Tour Guide.

"Okay, if you could please follow me," the NASA Tour Guide said then walked to down the level to the entrance to the White Room gantry.

"This gantry leads to what is called the White Room. This is where the Astronauts would walk to get inside the capsule of the Magellan rocket when they're ready for launch," the NASA Tour Guide said while he pointed down the gantry.

Todd and Ricky stood by the railing that looked at the gangway, which lead to the Magellan capsule. Todd still looked depressed over his past failures.

All the kids looked down the gantry.

They ran off and were more interested with the view of the ocean from the other side of the level.

Rusty and Howie walked down the gantry from the White Room.

“That's that. Let's go call the firing room that the capsule's ready,” Rusty said while he exited the gantry and walked past the boys.

Todd and Ricky continued to stare at the entrance to the gantry that led to the White Room.

Ricky looked at Rusty and Howie while they walked to the elevators. He looked over and saw their classmates, Cindy, Jack and the NASA Tour Guide while they walked to the other side of the level.

Rusty and Howie entered the elevator. The doors closed and they headed down to the pad surface.

Ricky and Todd were all alone on this side of the level. Their classmates, Cindy, Jack and the NASA Tour Guide were out of sight on the other side of the level.

Ricky looked at Todd's depressed stare down at the gantry.

“I'll never be an Astronaut,” Todd said as he thought his life was over.

Ricky's eyes lit up with an idea. He looked down the gantry then he looked around to verify that nobody was in sight. He leaned over to Todd. “I know what will cheer you up!” he told Todd.

“Nothing can ever cheer me up,” Todd said.

“Come on, follow me,” Ricky said then he grabbed Todd's arm and rushed him down the gantry.

They rushed down the gantry and entered the White Room. They stood there and saw the opening into the capsule.

Ricky rushed up to the opening and stuck his head inside the capsule then he looked back at Todd. "The coast is clear. Let's take a quick peek," Ricky offered.

Todd looked around and they were alone. He smiled and appeared happy for the first time since he started Space Camp. He couldn't resist this opportunity to see the inside of a real space capsule.

Ricky and Todd quickly crawled through the hatch and entered the capsule.

Inside the Magellan capsule, they stood up and looked around in awe at the sight of an actual space capsule.

The smile grew larger on Todd's face when he saw the three seats ready for the Astronauts and all the hundreds of gauges, buttons, switches and three computer screens.

Ricky and Todd both looked at each other and then had the same idea. They got huge grins on their faces and rushed over and each sat down in an Astronauts seat.

"Launch sequence commencing countdown. Get ready to fire the engines," Todd commanded with authority.

"Roger that, commander Todd," Ricky barked back.

Todd reached up and pretended to flip a switch and turned some knobs.

"Are the propellant tanks full of fuel?" Todd asked.

Ricky looked at some gages. "Yes. The rocket is full of fuel and ready to launch," he said.

“Okay, let’s start the countdown sequence,”
Todd replied.

“Ten, nine, eight, seven, six,” Todd and Ricky simultaneously called out.

“Come on, I’ll only take a second,” Rusty called out from inside the White Room.

Ricky and Todd’s eyes widened with fear at the sight of Rusty’s voice. They looked around for a place to escape or hide. They both saw the cabinet door with slits that was cracked open.

They rushed out of their seats and ran over to the cabinet. Todd opened the door and they crawled inside the cabinet. Todd slowly closed the door but left it cracked open.

It’s dark inside the cabinet except for the light that penetrated through the cracked opening and the slits of the door.

“We’ll go to jail if they catch us,” Todd whispered to Ricky.

“Just like I thought,” Rusty said outside the storage cabinet.

The cabinet door suddenly slammed shut on Todd and he was able to pull his fingers away just in time. They heard the door being locked. The slits in the door provided some light, but not much.

“You goof. I thought you said you locked it?”
Howie asked Rusty.

“I know. I forgot,” said Rusty.

Todd and Ricky heard Rusty and Howie leave the capsule.

“Now what?” Ricky asked.

“Maybe we can unlock the door from inside. Do you have your flashlight?” Todd replied.

Ricky reached in his pocket and removed a small flashlight, and he turned it on.

“Look for a screwdriver or something we can pry it open with,” Todd said.

Ricky shined the flashlight around the cabinet.

He illuminated R1D1. Todd and Ricky saw the robot and screamed thinking it was an Alien. They calmed down.

They got curious, reached out and touched it.

“Cool!” Ricky said.

“I wish this robot could help us,” Todd said.

Todd and Ricky looked worried while they leaned their heads against the cabinet wall and tried to figure out a way out of this mess.

Down at the pad surface of the launch pad, Cindy and Jack corralled all the kids back on the bus. The kids were still excited that they bounced from seat to seat and talked and sang out songs.

From the front of the bus, Cindy looked exhausted! She counted heads and lost count since the kids bounced all over the bus. She tried again, and she lost count again. She threw her hands up in the air in frustration and sat down next to Jack behind the driver.

The driver started the bus and drove away.

Meanwhile, out in a galaxy far far away on the planet Stardonia, it was night and the sky was filled with thousands of stars. One of those stars was Earth.

At one of the Stardonia's military base, Senior Space Knight Tockka stood outside a hangar near the flight line.

He watched while a rescue spaceship was being brought out by a hover tug craft. The rescue ship looked like a tow truck, as it had a boom with a hook at the end of it that was stowed inside the ship. On the side of the spaceship was painted "Spacecraft Tow Ship."

Medium grade Space Knight Biggka, with orange hair, and Junior Grade Space Knight Redka, with lime green hair, walked up to Tockka in their purple flight suits.

They saluted Tockka who saluted back.

The hover tug craft freed itself from the rescue ship and hovered back inside the hanger where other Stardonia spaceships waited for their next mission.

"Okay Knights, Junior Grade Space Knight Scoota is somewhere around Earth's orbit. Go bring him back," he ordered.

Biggka and Redka saluted and marched over to their rescue ship, and they got inside.

The engines to the rescue ship fired and Tockka moved back inside the hangar.

The rescue ship hovered away from the hangar then it zoomed off into the night sky.

In was the middle of the night at the Kennedy Space Center.

In the Launch Center firing room, called Shuttle 1 to honor the shuttle program, engineers worked at their consoles while the Magellan 5 rocket was

loaded with the tons of cold liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen into the larger propellant tanks.

The countdown was going smooth and the launch team was not working any technical issues. They were happy this was a flawless launch count so far.

The tanks were in stable replenish mode and it was safe for the Astronauts to head out to the launch pad.

The test team didn't have a clue about the two young stowaways onboard the capsule.

Inside the Magellan capsule, it was dark inside the storage cabinet.

Ricky's flashlight was dim and they both fell asleep, and were hungry. They slept soundly through all the creaks, gurgles and hisses that the propellant tanks made while being loaded with the cryogenic liquids. Plus the noise of the closeout crew technicians while performed their final preparations for the Astronauts didn't wake up the boys.

At the launch pad, the Astrovan drove up the road to the pad surface with its security escort.

A another NASA Blackhawk helicopter circled above about four hundred feet to ensure the Astronauts would safely arrive at the launch pad.

Astronauts Rod, Lance and Clint stepped out of the Astrovan in their orange flight suits. They walked around the pad surface and looked up at the Magellan rocket that was ready for launch.

"Isn't she a sight of beauty?" Lance asked his buddy Astronauts.

"She sure is," Rod said.

“I can’t wait to ride her and save Earth,” Clint added.

They walked over to the elevator at the base of the launch tower.

The Astronauts rode the elevator up to the 400 Foot Level.

Up on the launch tower, Clint, Rod and Lance exited the elevator and walked down the gantry to the White Room.

Inside the White Room, Rod, Lance and Clint entered and immediately given final preparations by the closeout crew technicians for entry into the capsule.

Rod, Lance and Clint were ready.

“Go save Earth,” one of the closeout crew technicians said.

“We will,” said Clint then all the Astronauts shook hands with the technicians.

Clint went through the hatch first and entered the capsule.

Ten minutes later, Rod went through the hatch and entered the capsule.

Ten minutes later, Lance went through the hatch and entered the capsule.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Rod, Lance and Clint were all situated in their seats.

The closeout crew technicians crawled through the hatch back into the White Room.

Ten minutes later, the hatched was closed and locked.

After a communications check, the Astronauts started their preparations for launch and followed the directions of the test team from the firing room from the communications net.

In the dorm room at Space Camp, all the kids slept in their bunks except for Todd and Ricky.

Cindy appeared in the doorway of the boy's dorm. She was still exhausted from yesterday while she counted heads on pillows. She yawned. She counted again. She yawned, and her eyes closed. She opened them and looked at the beds. She shrugged her shoulders and left as she figured the boys were all there.

She walked away yawning and looking forward for a much needed good nights sleep.

Chapter 7

It was early that morning at the Space Coast of Florida. It was beautiful morning without a cloud in the sky. It was a perfect morning for a Magellan launch and there were over four hundred thousand people that drove to the area to view this historic launch. They came from all around the United States and other areas from around the world.

Tater drove his pickup truck with hitched trailer and lawn mowers down a street in Atlantis. He parked his pickup in front of a house along the street. He wanted to see the launch but knew he had obligations of his job that came first. After all, these were the customers that gave him a chance to make money with his new business after getting laid-off from the space center.

Inside her shop in Cocoa, Lilly carried a poodle, called Touché, with the saddest puppy dog eyes, to a large tub. She placed the poodle in the tub then grabbed a remote off a nearby table. She pressed a button and a nearby TV turned on.

On the TV, she watched a soap opera while she proceeded to bath Touché.

At Louie's dentist practice in Titusville, a man sat nervous in the dentist chair. A TV hung from the ceiling for his viewing pleasure. The news by Channel 13 was currently available but there was a commercial in progress.

Louie entered the room. “Well Mister Yarbrough, are you ready for me to work on that filling?”

The man shook his head in disagreement when he saw Louie bring what he thought was a huge needle to his mouth.

In Winter Park, Rose drove her Mercedes down a street. She was on her way for a day of shopping for new dresses and shoes.

Outside Space Camp, Cindy and Jack gathered the kids outside to view the launch of the Magellan V rocket. Cindy glanced at the kids. Something seemed wrong, and he looked harder at the kids then it dawned on her.

“Where’s Todd and Ricky?” she asked Jack.

He looked at the kids and didn’t see them. “I don’t know,” he said then thought for a few seconds. “I haven’t seen them since we went to the launch pad yesterday,” he responded.

Cindy rushed back inside the Space Camp building.

Cindy rushed to the boy’s dorm room. Todd and Ricky were not inside that room.

Cindy rushed to the training room. Todd and Ricky were not inside that room.

Cindy rushed to the cafeteria. Todd and Ricky were not inside that room.

Cindy rushed back outside.

Once she got outside, Cindy rushed back over to Jack. "I can't find them," she said with a worried look.

Then "ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one, lift-off," was heard over the outside loud speakers.

All eyes were aimed to the east for the launch.

Cindy worried that Todd and Ricky were left behind at the Kennedy Space Center.

In the storage cabinet in the Magellan capsule, Todd and Ricky still slept. The roar of a rocket engines firing was heard. The cabinet shook and vibrated. Todd and Ricky woke up and looked around in a daze. Then it dawned on them what happened when they heard the roar of the rocket's engines.

"I think we're in deep do doo," Todd told Ricky.

The cabinet shook and the roar of the rocket engines continued.

"I think your right," Ricky added.

Around the space coast area, people all around the neighborhoods watched while the Magellan 5 rocket rumbled into the sky with a fiery smoke trail.

In Atlantis, Tater mowed the front yard on his riding mower. He stopped the riding mower when he saw the Magellan 5 rocket while it zoomed into the sky, and watched the launch.

In Titusville, Louie and Mister Yarbrough watched the launch from the Channel 13 news channel on his TV in his dentist office.

In Winter Park, Rose could care less about a rocket launch while she walked into a fancy dress store in Winter Park. Some people stood at the sidewalks and looked east at the sky and saw the Magellan rocket soar upward.

In outer space above Earth, the first stage of the Magellan V rocket separated. The engine of the Magellan second stage fired, and it ascended into space.

The first stage fell back down to Earth.

The second stage of the Magellan V rocket separated.

The engine of the capsule and payload module separated from the second stage. Its engine fired and it started to orbit Earth.

The second stage dropped back down to Earth.

Inside the Magellan 5 capsule, light came through the slits in the door of the storage cabinet. Todd and Ricky floated to the top of the cabinet and thought that was so cool.

“Should we tell them?” Ricky asked.

“And risk going to jail? I don’t think so. We just better sit here and remain quiet. We can sneak out after they land,” Todd responded.

They continued to float inside the cabinet scared to death. It dawned on Ricky. “But they land in the ocean!”

Todd and Ricky looked scared and were clueless on how to get out of this pickle.

Astronauts Rod, Lance and Clint floated around the capsule in slacks and golf shirts.

Lance connected a small cable to a camera that was aimed at Rod and Clint. Lance floated back to Rod. They all floated and faced the camera.

A red light came on the camera.

“Hello Earth,” Rod addressed the camera lens.

Down on Earth at a home in Atlantis, an old lady, over eighty years old, watched TV from her couch. Behind the old lady was a sliding glass door. From the door, Tater was visible while he mowed her backyard on his riding mower.

She watched Channel 9 News on her TV, which showed the Magellan Astronauts while they floated in their capsule.

“We would like to take some time to explain how our mission will unfold,” Rod said from the TV.

In Lilly’s shop, she dried Touché’ on top of a nearby table and eyed the nearby TV, which also showed the Channel 9 News. She watched Rod, Lance and Clint perform their new conference from inside in the Magellan capsule.

In Louie’s dentist office, Louie entered and where the nervous man waited in the chair.

“Okay Mister Yarbrough, I think you’re numb enough to start,” Louie said while he sat down next to his patient.

In Winter Park, Rose drove her Mercedes down the street with four shopping bags in the passenger seat.

At Space Camp, Cindy frantically searched the grounds of the camp for Todd and Ricky. She couldn't find them and got sick to her stomach.

In the Magellan capsule above Earth, Rod, Lance and Clint floated and looked at the camera.

"That's a very good question. The R1D1 robot is a prototype that was developed for flying unmanned rockets. We'll install R1D1 in the old Apollo lunar module and it's been programmed to fly the Asteroid away from Earth," Clint addressed the camera.

They paused while Lance listened to a question from a news reporter.

"Sure, we can show you," Lance said then he floated over, unlocked and opened up the storage cabinet door. He reached inside and unknowingly pulled Todd out by his shirt.

He held Todd up to the camera and thought it was R1D1.

"I would like to introduce R1D1," Lance addressed the camera with Todd in hand.

Ricky floated out of the cabinet.

Clint and Rod stared at Todd and Ricky in disbelief.

"Space camp kids? What the?" Clint said stumped.

Lance saw Ricky then realized he had Todd in his grip, and he looked bewildered.

Back at the old lady's home in Atlantis, Tater drove his riding mower by the old lady's sliding glass window and eyed the TV inside. The TV showed Todd and Ricky in the capsule.

Tater whistled as he mowed her backyard and glanced back at the sliding glass door. His eyes widened when it dawned on him that Todd was on TV.

He jumped off his mower, and ran back to the sliding glass door.

His mower drove by itself to the neighbor's yard and splashed into the neighbor's in-ground pool.

Tater stared at the sliding glass door with his eyes widened in shock at the sight of Todd in the Magellan capsule.

At Lilly's shop, she stared at the TV with eyes widened and mouth dropped open in shock. Poor Touché had a Mohawk haircut, of which the dog loved. But that's not the style she wanted to give the poodle.

At his Louie's dentist office, Louie stared at the TV in shock at the sight of Ricky inside the Magellan capsule. He stuck the drill into Mister Yarbrough's mouth while he stared at the TV. Mister Yarbrough screamed bloody murder, as Louie drilled the wrong tooth. It was a tooth that was not numbed. Mister Yarbrough's eyes rolled back and he passed out.

In Winter Park, Rose drove her Mercedes down a street. She drove past a TV store with numerous TVs in the window front.

All the TVs showed Todd and Ricky while they floated in the Magellan capsule with the Astronauts.

"That's nice. Ricky's on TV," Rose said while she glanced at the TVs. It dawned on Rose, and her

eyes and mouth dropped in shock. She slammed on her brakes and screeched her Mercedes to a stop.

Cars behind her swerved to avoid her rear end and missed her by inches yet crashed into each other.

Rose jumped out of her car and ran to the store windows. She stared in disbelief at the sight of Ricky up in space inside the capsule.

In her living room, Lucy watched TV from her couch. She saw Todd and Ricky while they floated in the Magellan capsule. She stared in disbelief at Todd being up in space inside the capsule.

“Todd?” she said while she stared at her TV in disbelief.

At Space Camp, Gary Michael sat at his desk with his eyes glued to at TV on the wall while Cindy moped into his office.

“Gary, we have a major problem,” she said.

“I know, two of our space camp kids somehow snuck aboard the Magellan capsule and are now in space,” he told her while he pointed at his TV.

Cindy looked and saw Todd and Ricky while they floated in the Magellan capsule along with Clint, Rod and Lance. They boys still wore their Space Camp tee shirts.

Cindy fainted and dropped to the floor.

Gary jumped up out of his chair and ran over and assisted Cindy.

Chapter 8

Way above Earth, the Asteroid of space junk orbited around the planet.

It bumped into a piece of space junk, which ricocheted off the Asteroid and dropped down to Earth.

Back at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson drank coffee at his console, and read a magazine.

He glanced over at his radar screen. His eyes widened the second he took a sip of coffee, but his cup missed his mouth and spilled coffee onto the crotch of his pants. He jumped up in extreme pain.

“Wilbur!” Johnson screamed out while he danced around fanning his wet spot on his pants.

Wilbur ran over with a new bottle of Maalox in hand.

He looked at Johnson's radar screen and saw the huge green blob while it orbited an earth symbol. But this time there was a dotted line down to Earth with an "Asteroid, 18,320 Miler Per Hour - 350 Miles Away – And Will Impact Earth in Two Weeks” message that flashed and beeped.

Wilbur looked extremely nervous while he opened his bottle of Maalox. He gulped down the entire bottle. “Validate that message,” Wilbur ordered then ran off while Maalox dripped off his chin.

“Yes sir,” Johnson said then his fingers started frantically pounding on the keyboard.

In a corn field deep in the farmland of Iowa, a farmer drove his tractor with a bush hog across a baseball outfield surrounded by a corn field. Something caught his attention. He saw a fireball in the sky while it zoomed at him.

He stopped his tractor, and he looked at ball field. He looked up at the fireball in the sky.

He jumped off his tractor and ran scared across the field then zoomed off down a dirt road in a panic.

Back at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson watched the Iowa corn field on another monitor next to his radar screen. He watched while the fireball zoomed down to the field. "Wilbur!" he cried out.

Wilbur ran over to Johnson with his Maalox bottle in hand. "What now?"

"A piece of space junk bounced off the Asteroid and fell to Earth. It's heading toward a corn field in Iowa," Johnson said while he pointed at his monitor.

From the monitor, they saw the fireball of space junk while it smashed into the corn field, and exploded.

Wilbur opened up his Maalox bottle and took another huge gulp.

He paced around Johnson's console and hated to make another phone call.

At NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC Richard and Jennifer sat at a conference room table with numerous other NASA men and women.

On a wall hung an 80-inch high definition TV, which showed Rod, Clint and Lance, Ricky and Todd while they floated in their capsule.

Richard shook his head in disbelief. "Great. We had two boys sneak into our capsule. Just great. The news media will fry me until I'm burnt to a crisp."

"We need to get those boys home as soon as possible," Jennifer said.

All the other NASA folks nodded in agreement.

"Call the station and let them know what's going down," Richard told Jennifer.

Jennifer picked up phone and made a call.

Up in the Multinational Space Station above Earth, Astronaut Buck Williams, forty-years-old, with his name embroidered on his golf shirt, floated by a console with clipboard in hand. He looked at a monitor and wrote down some data onto his board.

A phone near him rang. He floated over to the phone, picked it up. "Space station," he answered.

"Buck, it's Jennifer down here at headquarters," she said from his phone.

"Hello Jennifer, how are things down on Earth?"

"We have a situation with two young boys that apparently snuck aboard the Magellan five capsule," she told him.

"We heard," Buck replied.

"Good. We want the Magellan to drop the boys off at the station so they can complete their mission with that Asteroid," she said.

"Sure. Bring the little tikes by, we can babysit them," Buck replied then hung up the phone.

Astronaut Natasha Popov, a thirty-five-year-old Russian Cosmonaut with her name embroidered on

her golf shirt floated up to Buck. "Who was on the phone?" she said in a thick Russian accent.

"Jennifer, she needs a huge favor. She wants us to babysit those two young boys that snuck aboard the Magellan five capsule," he told her.

"Sure, why not. We have plenty of room," she said then floated away.

Back at the conference room in NASA Headquarters, Richard sat at the table with the NASA folks. They all stared at the TV on the wall.

On the TV, they saw Buck, Lance, and Clint with Ricky and Todd while they floated in the Magellan capsule.

"Lance, fly them to the space station, drop them off and we'll send up another capsule to bring them home," Richard instructed him.

"Yes sir. We'll do that right away then commence with our mission on the Asteroid," Lance replied from the capsule.

"Good, now let's talk about the mission," Richard said but was interrupted when his phone rang. "Excuse me," he said then he answered his phone.

"Richard," he answered.

"Richard, Wilbur here," I have an update for you," Wilbur said over the phone.

"Give it to me," Richard replied.

"Well, for starters, we saw where a corn field exploded in Iowa," Wilbur said.

"A corn field exploded. Why should I care about some stupid corn field in Iowa?" Richard said.

“Well, it appears a piece of space junk ricocheted off the Asteroid and fell down to Earth and impacted with the corn field,” Wilbur said over the phone.

“Great. That’s just great,” said Richard and he got worried. “Anything else?” he added.

“Yeah. Our computers verified that the Asteroid is falling down to Earth and we have two weeks until impact,” Wilbur said

“What? Two weeks? Are you sure?”

“We validated the data and it comes down in two weeks,” Wilbur said.

Richard hung up the phone and looked scared to death.

“Change of plans. Keep the boys in the Magellan capsule. We need to complete our mission right away,” Richard told the room.

“But why?” Jennifer asked.

“Because our Space Spy Agency just confirmed that the Asteroid is falling down to Earth with impact in two weeks,” Richard said.

All eyes were on Richard and they couldn’t believe their ears.

Back at the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby continued to read his “Dummies Method To Being President,” book with his shoes kicked up on his desk. His phone rang and he answered it.

“President Barnaby,” he said.

“Mister President, we have some developing news,” Richard replied.

President Barnaby sat straight up. “I’m ready,” he said.

“Well, the Space Spy Agency just validated that the Asteroid is falling down and will impact Earth in two weeks,” Richard said over the phone.

“Two weeks, huh. Well, that sure messes things up a bit,” President Barnaby said. “I hope our Astronauts can save us,” he added.

“Yes Mister President,” Richard replied. “If they don’t, then we’ll end up extinct like the dinosaurs.”

President Barnaby looked worried while he hung up the phone.

Later that day at Todd’s home, Tater, Lilly, Louie and Rose watched Channel 9 News on TV from the edge of the couch in the living room.

On the TV, anchorman Biff Barker reported the evening news. “NASA has come up with a plan to take the two stowaway boys to the space station. Then they will launch another Magellan five rocket to fly to the station and bring the boys home,” Biff said from the TV.

They all got off the couch, locked arms and danced around the room with joy knowing Todd will be home safe and sound soon.

“Wait...we just received a change in NASAs plans,” Biff said from the TV.

They all stopped and stared at the TV with concerned eyes.

“It was just confirmed that the Asteroid is falling and will impact Earth in two weeks and we’ll end up extinct like the dinosaurs. So returning the stowaways to the station will not provide ample time to get rid of this new threat. It looks like they’re have to stay in the Magellan capsule,” Biff said from the TV.

They all sat down on the edge of the couch and looked worried to death.

In New York City, out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth in Two Weeks – We’ll End Up Like The Dinosaurs - Extinct” message.

The people looked scared to death.

In Munich, Germany, out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth in Two Weeks – We’ll End Up Like The Dinosaurs - Extinct” message.

The people looked scared to death.

In Bombay, India, out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth in Two Weeks – We’ll End Up Like The Dinosaurs - Extinct” message.

The people looked scared to death.

In Tokyo, Japan, out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth in Two Weeks – We’ll End Up Like The Dinosaurs - Extinct” message.

The people looked scared to death.

In Los Angeles, California, out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth in Two Weeks – We’ll End Up Like The Dinosaurs - Extinct” message.

The people looked scared to death.

Way up above Earth inside the Magellan 5 capsule, Todd and Ricky floated and watched while Rod, Lance and Clint fired their smaller rockets to change orbits.

The capsule headed toward the Asteroid.

Todd and Ricky looked excited about being up in space, yet they were also a little scared about heading to that threatening Asteroid.

Later that night in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby stood in front of the wall of TVs. They were lit with the leaders from around the world.

“And now you have two little boys going on this mission?” the German Chancellor said in disbelief from his TV.

“Trust me, it was unavoidable. We didn’t know they stowed on the capsule,” President Barnaby pleaded.

“That Asteroid is three hundred and fifty miles away. We need to implement another plan,” the Spanish President said from his TV.

“I agree! We need backup plan,” the Prime Minister of Japan said from his TV.

“I can use my HariAnne rocket to send up a robot and rocket engines,” the French President said from his TV.

“I say go with HariAnne,” the South Korean President said from his TV.

“No! I say we fire nukes at it and blow it out of orbit,” the Chinese President yelled from his TV.

On the TVs, all the world’s leaders argued. England, Australia and Canada wanted President Barnaby's plan. South Korea, Italy, Germany, France, Spain and Japan wanted HariAnne to get ride of the Asteroid. China and Russia wanted nukes to get rid of the Asteroid.

“Come on guys! The good ole U S of A won't fail. We can do it!” President Barnaby pleaded to the TVs.

All the world leaders turned off their cameras.

President Barnaby stared at the blank TVs and got depressed.

He turned around and moped back to his desk.

Chapter 9

The next day in France, in the south part of that country was located a secret government facility for the HariAnne Rocket Programme.

Inside the HariAnne facility, was a huge building the size of an airplane hangar.

Inside that hangar, on the far wall hung a huge “HariAnne Rocket Programme” sign above a big picture of Pierre Lefebvre. He was seventy years old and the founder of France’s rocket program.

South Korean, Italian, German, Spanish and French scientists worked in lab coats. They flew into France under secrecy after last night’s TV talks with President Barnaby. They feverishly worked throughout the night.

Near them was a small rocket engine on the floor next to a large "Asteroide" wooden box. At one end of the wooden box was a seat with control stick. This wooden box was a simulation of the Asteroid so they can practice their mission.

Near the box was a robot that had two mechanical legs; four mechanical arms with fingers and it wore a French beret.

The scientists all watched while the robot walked over and picked up the rocket engine off the floor with one of its right arms.

The robot walked back to the front of the box.

The robot grabbed some coiled cable with one of its left arms. It installed one end of the cable to the front of the box with its free right arm.

The robot walked down the entire length of the wooden box stapling the cable to the top of it with its free right arm.

After the robot arrived at the rear of the wooden box, it installed the small rocket engine with its free right arm.

The robot installed the other end of the cable to the engine with its free right arm.

All the scientists cheered and patted each other on their backs for a job well done.

There was a large field near some woods in the middle of China.

The field was quiet. Then the roar of numerous trucks filled the air ruining the quietness of the woods

Three Chinese military trucks, with nuclear missiles on the back, drove into the field followed by two military troop-carrying trucks and a supply truck.

The trucks with the nuclear missiles stopped in the field.

The troop carrying truck stopped and all the Chinese soldiers jumped out.

The supply truck stopped at another location in the field one hundred feet away.

A Chinese military helicopter landed in the field four hundred feet away.

A Chinese Major General jumped out of the helicopter with two Captains.

The General rushed fifty feet away from the helicopter. The two Captains tagged along like obedient servants.

He watched while soldiers worked on the nuclear trucks and other soldiers started to offload supplies from the supply truck. He was happy with the progress his soldiers were making with preparing the missiles.

In a secret military base control room in Russia, military personnel started their start-up procedures for their nuclear missiles.

Outside the control room eight hundred feet away, four missile silos opened up and the tips of the nuclear missiles were visible.

Up in outer space inside the Lunar Module, Scoota relaxed with his boots up on the console while he waited for his rescue craft. He opened up a plastic tube and squeezed some food into his mouth. It was a pasty substance and today's cuisine was barbecued Moolian; a creature that resembled a cow on his planet. He did not realize the Asteroid he created was slowly sinking down to Earth while he chewed.

He finished his cuisine in a tube then turned on his Space Pad. He punched a few buttons then the hologram of Litta appeared.

"Why haven't you called me or answered my calls?" Litta asked a little upset.

Scoota hesitated on whether he should tell her the truth. "Ah, well, ah," he stuttered.

"What did you do now?" she asked, as this was a familiar story with Scoota.

He looked at her hologram and didn't notice the Magellan 5 capsule while it orbited toward the Lunar Module.

“I kind of bumped into some space junk around Earth and my space craft is broken,” he confessed.

“Sounds like something you would do,” Litta said.

“I know. I know. But don’t worry, Senior Space Knight Tockka is sending out a rescue craft to bring me home,” he told her.

“Well they better hurry up, I made reservations for the Royal Galaxy Space Cruise. We leave in one week,” she said.

Scoota didn’t notice the Magellan 5 capsule when the front fairings opened up and revealed the docking adapter. The capsule headed straight for the Lunar Module.

“I’ll be there in time. I promise,” he said then turned off his Space Pad.

He kicked up his boots on the console and closed his eyes.

Out in space above the Asteroid, the Magellan capsule with Payload Stage Module flew above the Lunar Module.

Inside the Magellan 5 capsule, Todd and Ricky floated by the windows and stared outside while Rod, Lance and Clint worked the controls in their seats.

From their windows, Todd and Ricky saw Earth down below. They stared in awe and Todd was no longer depressed since he finally got a trip into space. They placed arms around each other’s shoulders while they stared at Earth below.

Down at Space Camp, Tater, Lilly, Louie and Rose sat inside Gary Michael's office, and they were furious! Gary sweated bullets.

"I'm going to sue and own this stupid camp! And my attorney is good," Louie screamed, and sprayed a little spit of which Gary was able to duck.

"Yeah, sue!" Tater yelled out.

"Please, we don't need to go that far, it's not our fault your boys snuck aboard the rocket," Gary said hoping that would ease the situation.

Tater, Lilly, Louie and Rose pondered for a few seconds over his comment. "We're going to sue!" they all yelled out in unison the got up and stormed out of Gary's office.

Gary sank lower in his chair depressed and he looked like he wanted to cry.

Out in space above the front portion of the Asteroid, the Magellan 5 capsule and Payload Stage Module flew above the front part of the Asteroid.

It slowed down then hovered five feet above some space junk.

Two small doors opened up on the right and left side of the Payload Stage Module. A metal cable with hook attached lowered from the Payload Stage Module. The cable lowered until the hook grasped and connected to a piece of space junk.

The capsule separated from the Payload Stage Module with small puffs of white smoke.

The capsule moved away from the Payload Stage Module and the smaller engines on it maneuvered the capsule into a 180 degree turn and headed back to the front of the Lunar Module.

Inside the Magellan 5 capsule, Rod, Lance and Clint undressed down to their long underwear. They got inside their white space suits for going outside in space.

Todd's stomach growled and Clint heard him.

"Hungry?" he asked.

"Starving," Todd said and Ricky nodded in agreement.

Clint floated over and opened up a cabinet door. He reached inside, pulled out two silver packets and floated over to Todd and Ricky. He handed the packets to Todd and Ricky.

"Here's some food. It's mac cheese," he told them.

"You can sit in our seats, just don't touch any of the controls. We'll be back after we install the robot and control box in the Lunar Module," Lance told the boys.

Rod floated over to the storage cabinet while Todd and Ricky floated over to the seats.

Rod opened up the cabinet, and removed R1D1 and a roll of Duct tape.

Todd and Ricky sat in the two seats, and strapped themselves down. They opened up the tubes, and proceeded to squeeze mac cheese into their mouths. They thought it was cool that they were eating authentic Astronaut food.

Clint floated over, and pressed a couple of buttons on the console.

"The computer will now automatically dock us with the Lunar Module," he told Todd and Ricky who watched with interest.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota was still sound asleep.

The Lunar Module shook while the Magellan 5 capsule docked with it.

Scoota woke up concerned then he floated up, and looked out his windows. He sat back down in his seat. He did a double take and floated back up to the windows. He saw the Magellan 5 capsule outside the front end of the Lunar Module.

He got scared to death. “The Earthlings are going to dissect me,” he cried out.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance opened the hatch. Rod floated with R1D1 through the hatch into the Lunar Module. Lance and Clint followed.

Todd and Ricky continued to swallow their mac cheese while they stared at the hatch.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota heard someone enter so he quickly floated to the other side of the module. He cowered and shook in fear.

He saw Rod secure R1D1 to the floor with Duct tape, and then he saw Clint and Lance.

They looked and saw Scoota cowered at the other side of the module. Their eyes widened in shock and had to do a double take to make sure they saw what they saw.

Scoota screamed in fear, and his scream sounded like a Whale. “Don’t dissect me!” he cried out.

Todd, Lance and Rod all screamed in a panic.

Scoota screamed louder and it was two octaves higher than his original scream.

From the Magellan capsule, Todd and Ricky dropped their tubes when they heard the Astronauts and Scoota all scream in unison.

Their tubes floated away.

“What are you?” Clint screamed from inside the Lunar Module.

Todd and Ricky curiously looked at the hatch just as Rod, Lance and Clint all tried to squeeze through the hatch at the same time with fear in their eyes.

They got stuck in the hatch and fought with each other to be the first to get out of the Lunar Module. They succeeded but each ripped their space suits on the hatch while they tumbled in the air into the Magellan capsule.

They furiously floated to the other side of the capsule and covered by the console.

Todd and Ricky looked baffled at their behavior.

“What’s wrong?” Todd asked.

Todd, Lance and Clint shook in fear.

“There’s, there’s an Alien in there,” Lance said and pointed to the hatch.

“Cool! An Alien!” Ricky said and quickly unbuckled his straps and floated away to the hatch.

Todd couldn’t resist the opportunity to see an Alien so he quickly unbuckled his straps and floated after Ricky.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota stayed covered in fear by the other side of the module.

Ricky floated through the hatch into the module.

Todd floated through the hatch into the module.

They saw Scoota cowered at the other end of the module.

“Cool!” Todd said.

They noticed Scoota was shaking scared to death.

“It’s alright. We’re friendly,” Todd said to Scoota to calm him down.

Todd and Ricky slowly floated closer to Scoota.

“We won’t hurt you. We just want to be friends,” Ricky said in a calming voice.

Scoota’s instincts kicked in and he suddenly felt safe, and he floated up. “My name is Scoota and I’m from the planet Stardonia,” he said.

“Wow. You speak English,” Todd responded.

“Yes. We’ve been studying your language for many years,” Scoota replied.

“My name is Todd and my friend here is Ricky,” Todd said while he stuck out his hand.

Scoota didn’t know why Todd’s hand was out there and Ricky sensed it.

“This is how we greet,” Ricky said then shook Todd’s hand.

Scoota watched and stuck out his hand. Ricky and Todd took turns and shook it, and Scoota liked this form of greeting.

“Come, we’ll introduce you to our Astronauts,” Todd said then floated around, and floated back to the hatch.

Ricky and Scoota followed.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd floated into the capsule from the hatch. Ricky and Scoota floated through the hatch after him.

“There’s Lance, Rod and Clint over there. They’re Astronauts from the United States of America,” Todd told Scoota.

Rod, Lance and Clint gave Ralph a little cautious wave but still looked scared.

“This is Scoota and he’s from the planet Stardonia. He’s friendly,” Todd said then placed an arm around Scoota’s shoulder. Scoota placed an arm around Todd’s shoulder.

Rod, Lance and Clint felt brave. They got up and floated over to Todd, Ricky and Scoota. They all shook hands.

Chapter 10

Down in Rutland, Vermont, it was a quiet morning, people milled around town and cars drove through the streets. It was business as usual while people made their treks to their places of employment.

All of a sudden it got dark across the area.

Cars screeched and crashed into each other, as they were not prepared for the sudden darkness that fell upon their peaceful town.

“The news didn't mention a solar eclipse!” a man said from a sidewalk.

Everybody in Rutland looked up at the sky and saw a solar eclipse.

The part of the sun became visible.

Then half of the sun became visible.

In Liverpool, England, everything was quiet while everybody stopped and looked at the sky.

They saw three quarters of the sun.

The whole sun becomes visible.

It was daylight again.

People's eyes widen and they pointed at the Asteroid that was visible, and watched while it moved across the sky. Then everybody panicked, screamed and ran around in chaos.

In Rutland, Vermont, people's eyes widened in fear. They pointed at the Asteroid while it slowly moved across the sky. Then everybody panicked, screamed and ran around in chaos.

In Moscow, Russia, the Russian President sat at his desk and stared at a small digital display. On the display was “Asteroid 18,203 Miler Per Hour – 330 Miles Away” message. The President tapped his “Launch Missiles” phone, and debated in his mind if he should proceed.

In Beijing, China, the Chinese President sat at his desk his desk and stared at a small digital display. On the display was “Asteroid 18,203 Miler Per Hour – 329 Miles Away” message. The President tapped his “Launch Missiles” phone and debated in his mind if he should proceed.

Back up in space inside the Magellan capsule, Todd, Ricky, Lance, Rod, Clint and Scoota floated around the capsule.

“It’s our Lunar Module from our Apollo 17 Moon mission. After our Astronauts lifted off from the Moon, that Lunar Module was supposed to have impacted the Moon,” Clint told Scoota.

“So your planet only traveled to the Moon?” Scoota asked, and wasn’t impressed but he already knew that, as they watched Earth numerous times in the past. But he did not want to convey that information to the Earthlings.

“Yeah, and that was forty-six years ago,” Todd said.

“Very primitive,” Scoota said quietly to himself while he discreetly rolled his eyes.

Todd, Ricky, Rod, Lance and Clint all nodded in agreement and looked a little ashamed they haven’t gone farther in space.

“How did you get our Lunar Module?” Lance asked.

“I bought it at Scrappy’s used space craft dealership,” Scoota said. “Scrappy was great at searching outer space for antique or classic spaceships. He told me he found your Lunar Module floating in space a few years ago,” Scoota said.

“Wow,” Rod said.

“Okay, but why were you here in our orbit around Earth?” Clint asked.

“I’m a Junior Grade Space Knight back home and took a little vacation. I thought I would come over here and get a glimpse of your,” Scoota stopped himself when he realized he should not let them know he was aware of their launch. “A glimpse of your planet,” he lied afraid of telling the truth.

“How do you like our planet so far?” Rod asked.

“It’s extremely beautiful, but my craft malfunctioned for some unknown reason,” Scoota replied.

“Well, apparently, you smacked into our space junk and kept on smacking into them and now you’re grown into a huge Asteroid,” Lance replied.

Scoota thought about what Lance said. “Now that explains why my controls won’t work and I slowed down,” Scoota said, but then he looked bothered. “But you Earthlings need to clean up your junk,” Scoota scolded.

Rod, Lance, Clint, Todd and Ricky all nodded in agreement and were a little ashamed.

“We were suppose to perform a mission to get this thing out of here before it impacted Earth and we become extinct like the dinosaurs. But we can’t

now,” Rod said then touched his ripped arm of his space suit.

Scoota felt so bad. “I heard about your dinosaurs. Oh my, I feel responsible for this mess. Maybe I can perform your mission?”

“You can't perform it by yourself,” Clint said.

“Maybe I can if you tell me what it involves,” Scoota replied with confidence.

“After the R1D1 robot is configured we can install a control box. Then install cable to the box and run cable across the top of this heap of junk to the rear. Then install three rocket engines at the rear and connect the cable to them,” Clint said.

Scoota thought for a second. “You’re right, I can’t do that all alone,” he said. Then he thought for a second while he glanced at Todd and Ralph. He sized them up in his mind then smiled. “I have a solution.”

Everybody looked curiously at Scoota and wondered what he had in mind.

Scoota whispered in Clint’s ear. After a few minutes, Clint looked surprised at Scoota’s proposal.

“I don’t think you have a choice,” Scoota said.

Clint pondered his statement for a few seconds, and then he nodded in agreement.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson watched his radar screen. On his console, he pressed an “Update Data” button. The radar screen went blank for a second then the updated data showed that the Asteroid was “327 Miles From Earth.” His eyes widened with concern at this message.

“Wilbur!” he screamed.

Wilbur ran over with his bottle of Maalox.

Johnson pointed at his radar screen. Wilbur saw the updated information on the screen.

“The Asteroid is dropping into a lower orbit!” he said then opened his Maalox bottle and took a swig.

Meanwhile, in a NASA Headquarters conference room in Washington, D.C., Richard banged his head on top of the table in frustration.

Jennifer and the NASA folks watched him and felt his frustration.

On the TV on the wall, Lance, Rod, Clint, Todd and Ricky floated in the Magellan capsule. The Astronauts changed out of their white space suits and sported their slacks and golf shirts.

Richard quit banging his forehead and a red spot on his forehead formed. “Again, how did you rip your space suits?” Richard asked the Astronauts.

“Well, you won't believe it,” Lance said while he looked at Rod and Clint and wondered who would spill the beans.

“Try me.”

“Well, we ripped it when we tried to rush through the hatch from the Lunar Module at the same time,” Lance said from the TV.

“And why would you have to rush through the hatch of the Lunar Module at the same time?” Richard asked and looked baffled.

Everybody in the conference room watched while Scoota moved into view on the TV.

“Hi. My name is Scoota and I'm from the planet Stardonia,” Scoota said then waved from the TV.

“Hello Scoota. I'm Richard.”

Everybody's eyes widened and mouths dropped open in shock when it dawned on them that an Alien was up in the Magellan capsule.

A NASA woman screamed and then the entire room screamed.

It was utter chaos in the conference room while they all ran to the far end of the room and huddled in fear.

On the TV, Scoota felt terrible for causing their fear. Then Todd and Ricky floated into view and both placed an arm around Scoota's shoulder.

"Don't be afraid, he's friendly," Todd said from the TV.

On the TV, Clint floated over and placed his arm around Scoota. "He's friendly. Trust me."

Everybody in the room felt safer while they cautiously inched back to their seats.

"So we found an Alien. That doesn't help us get rid of the Asteroid," Richard cried out.

On the TV, Scoota smiled, as he wanted to help his new friends. "Oh we can do that," Scoota said.

"How?" Richard asked.

"Well, don't have a cow when you hear this, but it's our only option," Rod said.

"Okay," Richard said and waited a few seconds.

Everybody else in the room cautiously walked behind Richard.

"I can install your cable and rocket engines to the Asteroid," Scoota said from the TV.

"All by yourself?" Richard asked, as he knew that would be an impossible feat, even for an intelligent Alien.

“Well ah, no,” Scoota said then paused. “I will have to use young Todd and Ricky to assist me,” Scoota said.

Richard stared in disbelief at the TV, and then he smiled. He laughed out loud the second he thought it was a joke. Then he looked at the TV, and Rod, Lance, Clint, Todd, Ricky and Scoota were not laughing. They all looked dead serious with this proposed plan.

Jennifer and the rest of the NASA folks watched while Richard banged his forehead on the table top. He stopped and the red spot on his forehead was huge.

“No! We could hurry up and send another Magellan capsule to the Asteroid with new suits,” Richard said and felt better.

Jennifer’s cell phone rang, and she looked at the viewfinder and frowned. “Ah, no can do. A hurricane is heading to Florida. We won't be able to get the rocket to the pad and launched in time,” she said.

“We don't have a choice, we must use the boys and Scoota,” Lance said from the TV.

“Are you sure the Alien's, I mean Scoota's space suits will work on the boys?”

“We're the same size, no problem and we have a built in air supply. We're quite an advance planet,” Scoota said from the TV.

“We'll follow and watch them from the Magellan capsule,” Rod said from the TV.

“How will you communicate?” Richard asked.

“Our suits are able to tap into your communication systems, as we have a universal connection system,” Scoota said from the TV.

Richard looked trapped with no other alternatives. “The news media will have a field day with this, but we don't have a choice,” he said.

Richard's cell phone rang. He looked at it and knew this call wouldn't be good news.

“Richard,” he answered his call.

“Wilbur here. We got updated information that the Asteroid dropped twenty feet closer to Earth,” he said from Richard's cell phone.

“Twenty feet? Are you sure?” he asked.

“We're positive.”

“Thanks,” Richard and disconnected the call. He made another phone call.

“Hello Mister President, I have some news that's not so good,” he said.

Later that night in the oval office at the White House, President Barnaby stared at his wall of TVs from behind his desk and he didn't want this discussion.

“You now have little boys saving Earth with some Alien?” the German Chancellor said from his TV.

“US of A plan stink! We should nuke!” the Chinese President said from his TV. A Chinese General behind the President nodded in agreement with a smile on his face.

“I agree. Nuke it! After all, it is now three hundred and twenty-five miles from Earth,” the Russian President said from his TV.

“My HariAnne rocket will be ready in a couple of days. We can't take a chance on that Alien coming down to Earth and munching down on us all,” the French President said from his TV then he

paused and looked scared. "I don't want to become a Crepe Suzette to some Alien monster," he added.

"I say go with HariAnne. It's our only hope," the South Korean President said from his TV.

"Don't worry. I've been assured that this Alien is friendly and offered to help us," President Barnaby addressed the TVs.

"I say let Sam's boys try it," the Prime Minister from England said from his TV.

All the TVs, except for Prime Ministers of England turned off.

President Barnaby sank lower in his chair and got extremely depressed.

From the TV, the Prime Minister of England felt sorry for Barnaby, but he would support him as his country always had in the past.

Later that night, Biff sat behind his news desk in the Channel 9 newsroom with cameras on him.

"The Astronauts in the Magellan capsule have apparently ripped their space suits and cannot perform their mission. But, they discovered a friendly Alien inside the old Lunar Module. The Alien's name is Scoota from the planet Stardonia. Scoota offered to perform the mission to get this Asteroid away from Earth. But the kicker to this story; Scoota needs the help of our stowaway boys Todd and Ricky. The young boys will use his space suits, so they can perform this historic mission. The Astronauts will watch from their Magellan capsule," Biff reported.

Everybody who worked in the newsroom behind the scenes stared at Biff in shock over the news they just heard.

In Todd's home, Tater and Louie faced each other, mad. Lilly and Rose faced each other, and they were all mad.

"It's Ricky's fault for getting Todd stuck in space. And now Todd will be eaten by an Alien!" Tater said while he got in Louie's face.

"No. It's Little Tater's, fault for getting my Ricky stuck in space. And soon to be eaten by an Alien," Louie said while he moved closer to Tater's face.

Tater pushed Louie, who pushed back. Tater jumped on Louie. They rolled on the floor and fought.

Lilly pushed Rose, who grabbed Lilly's hair. Lilly grabbed Rose's hair. They rolled around the floor and fought.

Christina entered the room with face and arms full of red welts. She saw the adults while they fought and rolled around the living room, and she loved the sight.

In Lucy's home, Lucy watched Biff from Channel 9 News from the edge of her couch. She stared in shock after she heard the news, and she looked extremely worried about Todd.

In the Bullies tree house, Rocky and Buster had a small battery operated TV inside their tree house where they just finished watching Biff on Channel 9 News. They had huge grins on their faces as they like what they heard on the news.

"The nerds will be gone forever!" Buster yelled out then high-fived each other.

Chapter 11

It was the next morning in Chicago, Illinois, and out in front of a TV store, people gathered at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed the recorded video from the Magellan capsule.

On the TVs they saw, Ricky, Ralph, Lance, Rod and Clint in the Magellan capsule while "Stowaway Boys Will Save Earth" graphic appeared at the bottom of the screen.

They all looked scared to death, as they didn't have much faith in Todd and Ricky saving their lives.

It was daytime in London, England, and out in front of a TV store, people gathered at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed the recorded video from the Magellan capsule.

On the TVs they saw, Ricky, Ralph, Lance, Rod and Clint in the Magellan capsule while "Stowaway Boys Will Save Earth" graphic appeared at the bottom of the screen.

They all looked scared to death, as they didn't have much faith in Todd and Ricky saving their lives.

It was morning in Sidney, Australia, and out in front of a TV store, people gathered and at the windows and watched the TVs.

They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed the recorded video from the Magellan capsule.

On the TVs they saw, Ricky, Ralph, Lance, Rod and Clint in the Magellan capsule while "Stowaway Boys Will Save Earth" graphic appeared at the bottom of the screen.

They all looked scared to death, as they didn't have much faith in Todd and Ricky saving their lives.

Up in space in the Magellan Capsule and Lunar Module, Rod, Clint and Lance gave Scoota a detailed briefing on their mission.

While that was in progress, Todd and Ricky were inside the Lunar Module.

Inside the Lunar Module, Todd and Ricky looked out one of the windows, which showed a view of Earth. They saw a piece of space junk that zoomed by the module, and both looked nervous.

"I can't believe we got ourselves into this situation," Todd said.

"I know, and I'm terrified of heights," Ricky said.

"I'm not sure I'm cut out to be an Astronaut," Todd said.

"Me too. Me too," Ricky added.

They continued to stare out the window and longed to be back down at Earth while they thought about their lives.

Todd had numerous flashbacks while he glanced down at Earth.

In Todd's flashbacks...

Tater mowed a customer's front yard with his riding mower and had Todd, then six years old,

between his legs. Todd had a blast while he helped Tater steer the mower. Tater let Todd steer alone then Todd accidentally ran over some flowers.

Todd, then seven years old, waited at the kitchen table. He got a huge smile when Lilly brought him a huge bowl of chocolate ice cream. He was in heaven while he took a huge bite of ice cream.

Tater and Todd, then eight years old, were in his fishing boat. Tater sat with a fishing rod in hand and his line in the water. Todd casted his fishing line, lost his grip of the rod and it splashed into the water. Tater looked disappointed with his son.

In their backyard, Tater threw Todd, then ten years old, a baseball. Todd missed it and it bounced off his forehead. Tater looked disappointed with his son.

In his classroom from two months ago, Todd stared at Lucy with love in his eyes.

Ricky had numerous flashbacks while he looked down at Earth.

Ricky's flashbacks...

Louie worked on another patient in his dentist's office while Ricky, then six years old, watched with interest in a nearby chair.

Ricky, then seven years old, sat at his kitchen table with a huge smile on his face while Rose brought him a plate of chocolate chip cookies and a glass of ice cold chocolate milk. Ricky quickly grabbed a cookie and dunked it into his milk.

Louie worked on another patient in his dentist's office while Ricky, then ten years old, looked

extremely bored sitting in a nearby chair. He discreetly read a book on space travel.

In his bedroom four months ago, Todd and Ricky looked happy while they assembled model rockets at his desk.

In his classroom two months ago, Ricky discreetly glanced over at Betty. He secretly had a crush on her but was afraid to make a move on her, as he didn't want his butt beaten.

Back to reality in the Lunar Module, Todd and Ricky suddenly got heroic looks on their faces.

"I don't want to miss out on a life full of good times," Todd said.

"Me neither," Ricky added.

Todd got curious and floated over to a locker door. He opened up the door and saw three orange futuristic space suits with four straps on the front and back of the suit and six orange gloves. Near them hung three fish bowl types of glass helmets with a small port in the front.

"Here's our chance to be finally become Astronauts," Todd said.

"Yeah, astronauts, but on a dangerous mission to save Earth," Ricky sang out.

Todd and Ricky raised a hand and they locked pinkies.

"Friends!" they cried out in unison.

They floated back to the windows and stared back at Earth.

"Do you think we'll save our planet?" Ricky asked.

Scoota floated over and placed an arm around Todd then his other arm around Ricky.

“We’ll give it our best shot,” Scoota said to comfort them.

Meanwhile, down on Earth in a field in the middle of China, Chinese soldiers were all over the missile with wrenches and screwdrivers to prepare them for launch.

There was numerous tents in the field two hundred feet away that was their camp. The helicopter was long gone and back at the military base.

Meanwhile, in that secret military base in Russia, workers have been working feverously for over twelve hours while they prepared the nuclear missiles in silos for launch.

In French Guiana, inside a huge building not too far from the launch pad, France’s Ariane rocket was poised on its mobile platform. An access platform was extended to provide access to the capsule.

On that platform, workers walked the robot, with French beret, to an open hatch. They placed the robot inside the capsule. They closed the hatch and walked back down the platform.

Up in space inside the Lunar Module, Todd and Ricky continued to stare out the window at Earth.

Clint floated into the module through the hatch and stopped once he got inside.

“Boys, the President would like to say a few words,” Clint said.

Todd and Ricky's eyes lit up knowing the President of the United States wanted to speak to them. "The President?" they both cried out in unison.

"Yes, the President of the United States," Clint replied then floated back through the capsule.

Todd and Ricky quickly floated through the hatch.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd and Ricky floated over to Rod, Lance, Clint and Scoota and looked across the capsule where a small monitor was below a camera.

"We're all here," Clint addressed the camera while Scoota, Todd, Ricky, Rod and Lance all huddled together, and made sure they were in view of the camera.

President Barnaby appeared on the small monitor, and he sat behind his desk in his oval office.

"Hello up there in space," President Barnaby said from the monitor.

"Hello Mister President," Clint responded.

"Is that the Alien I see?" President Barnaby asked.

Scoota moved out in front of everybody. "Hello. I'm Scoota from the planet Stardonia," Scoota said.

"Well Scoota, I'm President Barnaby of the United States of America," President Barnaby said from the monitor. "I don't know how you got involved in all this mess, but I heard how you offered to help us. And for that I thank you," President Barnaby said.

"It's all my pleasure," Scoota replied.

"Now, I see we have Todd and Ricky present," President Barnaby said.

Todd and Ricky floated out in front of everybody, and saluted.

From the monitor, President Barnaby returned a salute.

“Well boys, you have the weight of the world on your shoulders. Are you up for this historic mission?” President Barnaby asked.

Todd and Ricky looked at each other then back at the monitor. “We are,” Todd replied but deep down, he was unsure he could handle the task, and Ricky felt the same.

“Good, now, I wish you luck and I know our Astronauts will be watching over you so you’ll be safe,” President Barnaby said from the monitor.

The monitor went blank.

Todd, Ricky, Scoota, Lance, Clint and Rod all looked at each other.

“Well guys, tomorrow is the big day. Let’s get some rest,” Clint said.

Everybody else nodded in agreement.

Todd and Ricky looked very nervous.

Meanwhile, in a galaxy far far away, the Stardonia Spacecraft Tow Ship zipped through space and pasted by some exotic and weird looking planets.

Inside the Stardonia Spacecraft Tow Ship, Biggka and Redka relaxed in their seats.

Biggka reached up and pressed a button in their OSPS.

“You are nine hundred and forty eight trillion miles from your destination,” the female voice from the OSPS said.

“Ready for a movie?” Biggka asked Redka.

“You bet,” he responded.

Biggka reached back up and pressed another button on the console. A 3-foot by 3-foot platform slid out of the side of the console. The platform was a “Hologram Video Device” or called a HVD. Biggka pressed another button on the platform and a movie appeared.

First, a 3-D hologram of the “Aliens Attack” credits appeared. Aliens Attack was a movie about Earth looking Aliens that attacked their planet Stardonia.

The first scene appeared and it was a 3-D hologram of countryside in Stardonia.

Then above the countryside, a large spaceship appeared in the sky.

Then smaller fighter spaceships flew out of the larger spaceship.

Redka pressed another button on the console. A small door opened and a panel with hundreds of buttons appeared. He pressed a button and another door opened on the console. Two bags of snacks appeared; snacks that looked like popcorn but was a light shade of purple.

Redka grabbed the bags and handed one to Biggka.

They kicked back and watched their hologram movie and watched the Earth looking Alien spaceships attack a Stardonia city while they munched on their snacks.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd and Ricky slept in the beds that were built into the capsule. They tossed and floated all night long, as they were nervous, yet excited about being up in space.

Chapter 12

It was morning and Clint was the first one to open his eyes in the Magellan V capsule.

He floated over and looked out the window and looked at Earth down below. He saw the United States down below and wondered what his daughter, Becky, eight years old, and his wife Nancy were doing at this exact minute. He looked at his watch. *Becky's on her way to school and Nancy's getting ready for work*, he thought to himself. He smiled having a visual of that happening.

He turned and looked at Todd and Ricky still asleep. He had doubts these young boys could pull off this important mission, but knew they were the only option when he glanced over at his space suit with the tear. Yet he felt sorry for these boys who now had the fate of mankind weighing heavily on their little shoulders. He was going to ensure the tikes would never let them get in harms way during this mission.

Clint floated around and woke everybody up.

Then Clint floated over to the hatch and went inside the Lunar Module.

Scoota was already dressed in his orange space suit when Clint floated into the Lunar Module.

“Good morning, Scoota,” he said.

“Morning? What’s that?” Scoota asked but knew the answer but didn’t want to spill the beans that they’ve spied on Earth for years.

“We basically have three phases of our day. Morning, afternoon, then night,” Clint said.

“Oh, that. We just have two. The beginning and the end,” Scoota said then thought about what Clint said. “But I like how you call it,” he added. “We say “Welcome Beginning,” after we first wake up then before we retire at the end of the day, we say “Goodbye Ending.”” Scoota said.

“That’s interesting. Well then “Welcome Beginning,”” Clint said. “We’ll be ready in a few minutes after we get something to eat,” Clint added.

“I’ve been ready for a while now and already filled my insides with food,” Scoota said.

“We’ll be back in a few,” Clint said then turned around and floated back through the hatch into the Magellan capsule.

After they ate their tubes of scrambled eggs and bacon, they were ready to proceed.

Clint, Lance, Todd and Ricky took turns and floated through the hatch into the Lunar Module.

Rod floated over to another storage cabinet. He opened it up, reached inside and removed a stool and a roll of Duct tape.

He closed the cabinet and floated over to the hatch.

Inside the Lunar Module, Clint floated over to R1D1 still secured to the floor with Duct tape. He removed a pocket knife from a pants pocket. He opened up the knife and proceeded to free R1D1 from the floor with a knife while Rod floated through the hatch with the stool.

Clint floated over to the control console with R1D1 at the same time Rod floated over with the stool.

Rod secured the stool to the floor with additional Duct tape.

Clint secured R1D1 to the top of the stool with Duct tape. He double-checked and R1D1's arms reached the joystick.

Then Lance floated through the hatch back into the Magellan Capsule.

They waited for five minutes.

Lance floated back through the hatch with a black box. He floated the box to the stool where he secured it to the floor with Duct tape.

He opened up a side door on the box and removed a wire harness with a connector at the end. He grabbed the connector and connected it to the rear of R1D1.

Lance opened up another door on the other side of the box. He removed a thicker wire harness with a bigger connector. He floated to the hatch that was used by the Apollo Astronauts to exit to the Moon surface. They were lucky since that hatch was at the top and would provide easy access to the top of the Asteroid. Lance secured the connector to the side of the hatch with Duct tape.

Clint powered up R1D1 and the black box. In a small message box on the chest of R1D1, Clint saw a "Ready To Support This Mission" message in red digital words. "Great, things are clicking into place," Clint told everybody then looked at Todd and Ricky.

The boys swallowed hard as they knew they were on deck.

“Let’s get you into your suits,” Scoota told the boys.

Scoota floated over to the other two orange space suits that hung on the wall under the fish bowl helmets. He helped Todd and Rocky get suited up. Then he helped them into the space boots and gloves. The boys didn’t float and they both looked surprised.

“How come were not floating?” Ricky asked.

“These boots are special and create gravity,” Scoota replied.

Todd and Ricky smiled with approval.

Rod, Clint and Lance all loved the idea of gravity boots.

“We could use a pair like that,” Clint said and Rod and Lance nodded in agreement.

Scoota heard them but didn’t want to respond as these boots were secret Stardonia design, and his Commander would never approve him giving out their high technology secrets.

“Okay. This will be easy. We’ll be in the Magellan capsule and will watch your every move about twenty feet away. We’ll guide you through every step of the mission. You’ll be safe,” Lance said.

“Now, the Space Buggy is real easy to drive,” Clint said.

Todd and Ricky's eyes lit up.

“Did you say Space Buggy?” Todd asked.

“Yeah, a real Space Buggy!” Rod said all excited.

“Cool!” Todd and Ricky said in unison.

“We now need to double check the communications between our ship and your suits,” Rod said. “I’m going in the Magellan and run a test.

Adjust your suits, Scoota and I'll make sure we can transmit and receive," Rod added.

"Okay," said Scoota.

Rod floated through the hatch into the Magellan capsule.

Scoota waited a few minutes. Then he waved his right hand over a button on the right side of his chest.

To the left of that button, a small door slid to the side and revealed a pad with knobs. Scoota turned one of the knobs, and nothing happened. He turned the knob some more, and nothing happened. He turned the knob again. "This is a test. Can you hear me?" Rod said over the speaker from Scoota's helmet.

Scoota reached over and grabbed his helmet off its hook. He placed the helmet over his head. It clicked when it was locked in place.

"This is Scoota. I can receive your voice. Can you receive my voice," he said in his helmet.

"I hear you five by five, Scoota," Rod answered from inside Scoota's helmet.

Scoota waved his hand over that button and that door slid closed.

He waved his right hand over that same button on Todd's suit, and a small door slid open. Scoota turned the knob to the same setting as on his suit.

Scoota waved his hand over that button and that door slid closed.

Scoota waved his right hand over that same button on Ricky's suit, and a small door slid open. Scoota turned the knob to the same setting as on his suit.

He waved his hand over that button and that door slid closed.

“We can now test Todd and Ricky’s suit,” Scoota said across the communications net.

Scoota placed Todd and Ricky’s helmet over their heads. The helmets clicked when locked in place.

“This is a test,” Todd said into this helmet.

“I read you five by five,” Rod answered from Todd’s helmet.

“This is a test,” Ricky said into his helmet.

“I read you five by five,” Rod answered from Ricky’s helmet.

“Great. Are you all ready?” Clint asked.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota all nodded their heads that they were ready. But down inside their little bodies they trembled with fear.

Rod floated back into the Lunar Module from the Magellan capsule with a small bag in hand.

“Here’s some food for your mission,” Rod said and opened up his bag. He removed twelve tubes of space food. He handed Scoota, Todd and Ricky four tubes each.

Scoota waved his right hand over pockets on their space suits. Todd and Ricky shoved the tubes inside their pockets and closed them. Scoota did the same with his tubes of food.

Scoota reached down, tapped on Todd's, Ricky's and his boots, and they all floated.

Clint and Lance floated back through the hatch and into the Magellan capsule.

The hatched closed and locked. There was an eerie silence inside the Lunar Module. A silence that indicated there was no quitting this mission, as they were in it for the long haul.

Scoota floated up to the hatch, and he opened it.

Todd and Ricky looked at awe when they saw the stars in the darkness of outer space up above.

Scoota floated up through the hatch into outer space.

Todd and Ricky looked at each other to see who would go first.

“Go first buddy,” Ricky told Todd, as he wanted to make sure his buddy was not still depressed.

“Thanks,” Todd said with a smile then he floated up to the hatch.

In outer space at the top of the Asteroid, Scoota stood on top of the Lunar Module.

Todd floated up through the hatch into outer space.

Scoota grabbed Todd’s glove and brought him down to the top of the module. He tapped on Todd’s boots and he stayed on top of the Lunar Module.

Ricky floated through the hatch, and floated into outer space.

Scoota grabbed Ricky’s glove. It slipped through his grip and Ricky continued to float into space. Ricky’s eyes were as big as baseballs when he realized he was floating away into outer space. He was too scared to scream.

Scoota quickly grabbed one of Ricky’s boots. His grip held and he lowered Ricky to the top of the module. He tapped on Ricky’s boots and he stayed on the top of the Lunar Module.

While they waited, Todd and Ricky looked in awe at all the stars.

They looked and saw the Moon. The vastness of outer space was awesome and it brought a tear to the eyes of the young men.

The boys looked at the thousands of pieces of collided space junk that made up this twenty mile long Asteroid.

“Man, I can’t believe we had all this junk floating around Earth,” Todd said.

“I know. There has to be thousands and thousands of this stuff. We Earthlings look like slobs,” Ricky added.

“You took those words right out of my mouth,” Scoota replied.

It was quiet while they looked at the monstrous Asteroid. Then the Lunar Module shook while the Magellan capsule separated.

“Okay, we’ve undocked from the Lunar Module and will be near the top in a few minutes by the Payload Stage Module,” Lance said from the communications net.

Scoota, Ricky and Todd then looked and saw the Payload Stage Module still secured above some space junk.

They walked over to it and had to climb over some space junk in the process.

Three minutes later, the Magellan capsule floated ten feet above them. The capsule slowly floated down to the top of the Asteroid.

The door on the Payload Stage Module opened and the Space Buggy, with the reel of cable and three rocket engines was revealed where two straps secured it to the payload stage.

“You can now drive the Space Buggy out,” Clint said from the radio net.

“No wheels?” Todd asked.

“It hovers,” Rod replied from the radio net.

Todd and Ricky loved that thought.

Todd walked inside the payload stage and climbed inside the Space Buggy. He sat in the drivers seat and installed the seat belt over his waist. This seat belt was left over from the 1960s VW dune buggy.

“I’m in the real Space Buggy,” Todd called out in joy. “A real Space Buggy!”

Rod chuckled on the communications net over his excitement.

“Good, now press the start button,” Rod said from the radio net.

Todd pressed the start button and the Space Buggy started up with a whirl then it quieted down to a low hum.

“It’s started,” Todd said.

“Good. Look at the console. Now, you have a “U” button for up movement, “D” button for downward movement, “F” button for forward movement. “B” for backward movement, “L” for left side movement and “R” for right side movement. The “H” button will hover the buggy. Wait until I tell you to move,” Rod said from the radio net.

Todd looked and saw the “U”, “D”, “H”, “R”, “B”, “L” and “R” buttons where they circled a joystick.

Then the straps automatically disconnected from the Space Buggy from a button that Rod pressed inside the capsule.

“Okay, the joystick will accelerate the movement. Just push it forward and the movement you choose will accelerate. Push the joystick backward and it will slow down. Are you ready to

move the buggy out of the Payload Stage Module?" Rod said from the radio net.

"I'm ready," Todd replied.

"Move out," Rod said from the radio net.

Todd pressed the "R" button and the Space Buggy slowly moved to the right. Todd slowly moved the joystick forward and the buggy accelerated a little and moved out of the Payload Stage Module.

Todd pressed the "H" button and the Space Buggy hovered four feet above the Lunar Module.

Ricky looked in awe at the Space Buggy while it hovered.

Scoota wasn't too impressed since their planet had these types of crafts for the past ninety years.

The Magellan capsule turned 180 degrees where the front of the capsule gave the Astronauts a perfect view of the boys from their windows.

"Your mission is simple, but I'll still explain," Clint said. "Do you see the connector at the end of the cable on the spool?" Clint asked.

Ricky looked at the spool of cable at the rear of the Space Buggy, and he saw the end of the connector. "I see it," Ricky responded.

"Good. Unreel the cable and mate that connector with the connector just inside the Lunar Module hatch. Then while you move down the top of the Asteroid to the rear, you'll need to unreel the cable and periodically secure the cable to space junk with Duct tape. There are rolls of Duct tape located inside a storage bin, marked "Duct Tape" in the bed of the buggy. When you get to the rear of the Asteroid, you will be able to unreel the rest of the cable and you'll see another connector. Throw it

over the rear of the Asteroid. Are you still with me?” Lance said from the radio net.

“We understand the instructions,” Scoota said.

“Good. Then you’ll have to remove the engines from the space buggy and secure them to some space junk. You’ll have to lower an engine one at a time to about half way down the rear end of the Asteroid.

There are some special ropes provided in the bed of the buggy for lowering these engines. Also, in the bed of the Space Buggy, there’s a boom with a rope and hook that’s stored inside a bag marked “Engine Installer Boom. That needs to be removed from the cabinet and installed at the rear of the Asteroid on a piece of space junk. You’ll find instructions on how to install it by the crank,” Lance said.

“Got it,” Todd replied from the radio net.

“Okay, hook an engine to it and then you can lower it down the rear of the Asteroid. There you will install the rocket engines, onto a piece of space junk, per the instructions on the placard on the engine. There’s also a toolbox with all the proper attachment hardware and tools. It’s located in the small cabinet marked “Tool Box” in the bed of the Space Buggy. Then you’ll mate the connector end of the cable to the first engine that has a “Main Cable” label. Then you will remove wires out of another control box on the engines. Connect all the engines together with those wires. Don’t worry; we’ll guide you along if this is too much to digest at first,” Clint said from the radio net.

“Do you understand your mission?” Lance asked from the radio net.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota all looked at each other.

“Astronauts Todd and Ricky are ready to perform our assigned mission,” they both said in unison and saluted the capsule.

Rod, Lance and Clint chuckled across the radio net while they saw the boys saluting from their capsule windows.

“Oh one other thing, there’s two lanyards with hooks on both side of the buggy bed, just in case you need to secure it to some space junk,” Rod added from the radio net.

“Okay fellow Astronauts, let’s start our mission,” Lance said.

Scoota, Todd and Ricky all felt confident they could complete the mission.

“Okay. Let’s have Todd in the Space Buggy, Ricky in the back of the buggy where he can unreel the cable and Scoota can tape it down with duct tape,” Rod said.

From the Magellan capsule, Lance pointed a portable camera out his window, which provided live coverage of this mission for NASA down at Headquarters. “Let’s move out,” Clint said.

On the top of the Asteroid, Ricky walked over and climbed into the rear of the buggy. In the back, he saw all the storage cabinets with the required equipment and the two lanyards with attached hooks.

“Unreel some cable, Ricky,” Rod instructed from the radio net.

Ricky unreeled about ten feet of cable.

“Okay Scoota, grab the connector end of the cable and take it back to the hatch of the Lunar

Module and mate it to the cable connector just inside the module.

Scoota walked, climbed over space junk to the Space Buggy, and he grabbed the cable connector.

While he walked back to the Lunar Module hatch while Ricky unreeled more cable by using the hand crank.

Scoota walked the connector to the opened hatch. He got down on his knees and ran the connector inside. He grabbed the connector inside and mated it with the connector from the outside cable.

“The cable is connected to the cable inside the Lunar Module,” Scoota said while he stood up.

He walked and climbed over space junk and got back to the Space Buggy.

“Great, now let’s move out,” Clint said from the radio net.

Todd pressed the “F” button and the Space Buggy slowly hovered forward. He ever so cautiously pressed the joystick forward a tad. The Space Buggy moved forward a little faster and moved out two feet above the collided of space junk.

Scoota climbed over space junk while the space buggy moved and Ricky unreeled cable, which draped on top of the space junk.

“Stop here,” Rod said from the radio net.

Todd stopped the Space Buggy.

Ricky unlatched the tape storage cabinet and removed a roll of Duct tape.

Scoota climbed and walked over space junk and got to the rear of the buggy.

Ricky handed him the roll of Duct tape. Scoota looked at it unsure how to use it.

Ricky grabbed another roll of Duct tape and quickly gave Scoota a Duct tape 101 lesson.

“Got it,” Scoota said after Ricky’s lesson and climbed and walked over space junk to the cable. Scoota tore off a piece of Duct tape and taped the cable to a piece of space junk.

Chapter 13

Down at Earth in the NASA conference room, Richard watched the mission unfold live from the TV on the wall. He sipped his third cup of coffee and looked happy that things were going smooth.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson watched his radar screen where he saw a green symbol for the Magellan capsule while it was just above the front of the Asteroid.

Back up in space on the top of the Asteroid, things were still going smooth.

“Super,” Rod said while he watched from the Magellan space capsule. “Now let’s move forward and stop every ten feet and secure the cable with the duct tape,” said Rod.

“Got it,” Todd replied and pressed the “F” button and moved the joystick forward.

The Space Buggy moved forward.

Then all of a sudden, a piece of space junk whizzed upward from underneath the Asteroid. It smacked into the bottom of the capsule, bounced off and the space junk tumbled down to Earth.

On the Magellan capsule, gas vented under high pressure out of a hole and this caused it to spin uncontrollably toward the direction of the Moon.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota stared in shock while they watched the Magellan capsule spin out of control toward the Moon.

“That doesn’t look normal,” said Ricky.

Todd nodded in agreement. "I think we're in deep do doo."

Ricky and Scoota nodded in agreement.

Inside the Magellan capsule, it continued to spin out of control and Rod, Lance and Clint were tossed around.

While Rod was tossed around, he banged his head against one of the seats. He passed out cold.

While Lance was tossed around, he banged his head against the console. He passed out cold.

While Clint was tossed around, he banged his head against the capsule wall. He passed out cold.

Down in a conference room at NASA Headquarters, Richard and Jennifer watched the TV from the room's table. The camera inside the capsule floated around and provided live coverage of this accident. They watched while Rod, Lance, and Clint were tossed around the capsule all unconscious.

Then Lance smacked into the video camera, and the video turned to static.

Richard looked at the static on the TV, and then he banged his head on the table.

Jennifer slipped a pad of paper under his forehead.

He continued to bang his head.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson ate a Milky Way candy bar while he watched his radar screen. Then a "There's A Huge Problem" message that flashed. Johnson looked and saw the green Magellan capsule icon while it went topsy-turvy to the Moon icon.

“Ah Wilbur, we have another huge problem,” Johnson screamed out.

“Crap!” Wilbur cried out while he ran over with his Maalox bottle in hand.

He looked at Johnson’s radar screen.

“Ah man,” he said then gulped down some Maalox. He picked up the phone receiver from Johnson’s console, and made a phone call.

At the NASA Headquarters conference room, Richard stopped banging his head and Jennifer looked at the huge red spot.

Richard’s cell phone rang, and he answered it.

“Now what Wilbur?” he said.

“Well, it appears that the Magellan capsule is out of control and tumbling to the Moon,” Wilbur said from Richard’s cell phone.

“We know! How could that happened?”

“We don’t have a clue,” Wilbur replied.

“That’s just great. Just great!” he cried out then he paused for his blood pressure to lower. “Okay, keep me informed if they get it back under control,” Richard said in a calmer voice then disconnected his call. He started banging his head on the table.

Jennifer looked curious at Richard. “I think you should make the call,” Jennifer told him.

Richard stopped banging his head on the table. He hated this part of his job description.

He opened up his cell phone and made a call.

At the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby read his “Dummies Method To Being President” book at his desk while he sipped a cup of

hot cocoa with marshmallows. He was a third of the way through his read.

His phone rang, and he picked up the receiver.

“President Barnaby,” he answered.

“It’s me, Richard.”

President placed the book down on his desk.

“What now?” he asked as if figured it wouldn’t be good news.

“Well we have another situation. For some unknown reason, the Magellan capsule is out of control and tumbling to the Moon,” Richard said over the phone.

“Did I hear you correctly? They’re out of control and tumbling to the Moon?” he asked.

“Yes sir.”

“That’s just great,” President Barnaby said and looked stressed. “Now what?”

“We don’t know,” Richard replied.

“Let me know if you come up with any ideas that will save the day,” President Barnaby said.

“I will,” Richard responded.

President Barnaby hung up his phone and was frustrated while he ran his fingers through his hair. He wanted to scream but knew if he did, the doors to the oval office would bust down and his Secret Agents would rush in with pistols aimed. He didn’t want to risk being accidentally shot.

Later that night in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sat depressed at his desk while he stared at the wall of TVs.

“And now those two boys are stuck on the Asteroid with an Alien?” the Italian President said from his TV.

“Launch another Magellan capsule with Astronauts. They can pull off this mission,” the Canadian President suggested from his TV.

“We can't. That hurricane down in Florida damaged the launch tower. It will take over eight months to get it ready for any rocket launches,” President Barnaby said.

“When will that Harianne rocket be launched?” Australian President said from his TV.

“We'll be launching tomorrow. My robot can bring those boys home,” the French President said from his TV.

“Hurray for France!” the Prime Minister of Japan said from his TV.

“Sorry Barnaby. But I'm now for the Harianne rocket. It's our only hope,” the Canadian President said from his TV.

“Don't give up on the US now! Those Astronauts will find a way back,” the English Prime Minister said from his TV.

“Don't give up on nukes either,” the Chinese President said from his TV.

“Here, here! Let's nuke the Asteroid,” the Russian President cried out from his TV.

Barnaby looked mad while he grabbed his remote and turned off the TVs.

He got up and walked over to his windows. He stared out the windows and gazed at the full Moon.

Then the lower bottom of the Moon slowly disappeared while the Asteroid passed.

In Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the couch and watched Biff on the Channel 9 News.

“There’s more bad news from above our planet. Apparently, something happened to the Magellan capsule and it is out of control and headed to the Moon. If the Magellan capsule can return is unknown at this time. However, France will be launching their Harianne rocket with robot and engines. They plan to complete the mission and bring those stowaway boys home, safe and sound,” Biff said from the TV.

Lilly stared at the TV then fainted on the couch.

Tater quickly grabbed a Field and Stream magazine and fanned Lilly hoping she would get conscious.

Christina, without the red welts, sat worried about Todd for the first time in years.

In Ricky’s home, Rose fainted on the couch. Louie fanned her with a newspaper.

In Lucy’s home, she watched the Channel 9 News from her couch. Her eyes welled up when she thought about Todd stranded up there on the Asteroid.

Inside the Bullies tree house, Buster and Rocky ate popcorn and watched Biff on their small TV.

“This is better than the movies,” Buster said.

Rocky nodded in agreement then high-fived each other.

In French Guiana, the Harianne rocket moved to the launch pad on the mobile platform.

In the secret military base in Russia, alarms and sirens blared while missiles came out of silos in the ground.

They got into position to be fired at the sky.

In the field in the middle of China, all missiles on the three military trucks rose at the same time. All the missiles pointed at the sky and stopped.

One hundred feet away, the General stood outside his tent and stared at the missiles. He was ready to fire them as soon as he had permission from the President.

Back up in space above Earth on the Asteroid, Todd and Ricky, from the Space Buggy, and Scoota, from on top of a piece of space junk, stared and saw a dot in the center of the Moon, which was the Magellan.

“Now what?” Ricky asked while he stared at the Moon.

“We will finish the mission,” Scoota said and looked confident even though the capsule was still tumbling out of control to the Moon.

“But the Astronauts are gone!” Todd cried out.

“We'll have to think positive in that they'll figure out a way back. After all, I'm a Junior Space Knight and I've been trained to handle emergencies,” Scoota said. “Besides, I think your planet needs you right now,” Scoota said while he turned around and pointed at the part of Earth that was visible from the other side of the Asteroid. “Besides, I previously send out a message back home. They're sending me a rescue ship,” Scoota added.

Ricky and Todd looked where Scoota pointed and saw Earth. They knew their families now depended on them being brave young men.

“Well, I have nothing else better to do,” Todd said.

Ricky nodded in agreement.

“Well, let’s get our mission back in work,” Todd said then he pressed the “F” button and inched the joystick forward.

The Space Buggy moved and Ricky unreeled more cable.

Scoota walked and climbed over space debris while he followed the Space Buggy and the unreeling cable.

Todd drove the Space Buggy another twenty feet down the Asteroid and stopped.

Scoota Duct taped a section of cable to a piece of space junk.

Todd moved the Space Buggy forward.

Scoota walked and climbed over space junk while he followed. He stopped and discreetly removed his Remember Life hologram camera from one of his suit pockets. He snapped a picture of Todd and Ricky on the Space Buggy. He put his camera back in his suit pocket. He wanted a souvenir of his new Earth friends.

Back down on Earth at Todd’s home, Tater, Lilly and Christina stood in their backyard. They all stared up at the Moon. Christina looked back at the house.

“Can I extend my bedroom into Todd's?” she asked.

Tater and Lilly both glared at Christina who now felt bad about her suggestion.

At Ricky's home, Louie and Rose stared at the Moon from their backyard. Rose had a tissue in her hand and wiped away tears while she worried about her little boy up there in outer space.

Louie's eyes also welled up thinking about little Ricky.

At Lucy's home, Lucy lay in her bed and stared at a class photo with Todd in the row behind her. She smiled when she touched Todd's face in the photo.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson drank a Coke and gobbled on some pretzels at this console while he watched his radar screen.

On his radar screen, the Magellan capsule symbol was close to the Moon. The message, "Asteroid 18,320 Miles Per Hour - 310 Miles From Earth" was visible.

Wilbur walked up with his bottle of Maalox. He looked at Johnson's radar screen then took a swig of Maalox then ran away in a panic.

Up above the Earth on the Asteroid, Todd drove the Space Buggy across the top of the Asteroid while Ricky hand cranked the reel and cable unreeled and fell upon the top of space junk.

Scoota walked and climbed over space junk behind the Space Buggy.

Todd stopped the Space Buggy.

Scoota went into action and Duct taped another section of the cable to a piece of space junk.

Then they looked at the rear of the Asteroid and saw it was still a long journey.

They turned and looked at the Moon, and the dot that was the Magellan capsule was no longer visible. They looked worried about the safety of the three Astronauts.

“Let’s move on down the Asteroid,” Scoota said.

“Okay,” Todd replied then pressed the “F” button and inched the joystick forward. The Space Buggy moved and Ricky unreeled cable while Scoota walked and climbed over space junk behind them.

Chapter 14

Out in space, the Magellan capsule spun closer toward the surface of the Moon.

Inside the Magellan capsule, the spinning capsule continued to toss Rod, Lance and Clint around unconscious.

Lance woke up. He looked around the capsule dazed and confused while he was being tossed around. He remembered he was in the capsule.

He looked at the windows and saw the surface of the Moon coming at them fast. His eyes widened in panic and he furiously fought to get to the controls.

He finally got to the console, pushed buttons and flipped switches.

He grabbed the control stick, the thrusters fired and the capsule settled down.

On the surface of the Moon, the Magellan capsule descended and slammed engine first into the Moon surface. It buried its rear engine nozzle deep into the surface and Moon dust flew everywhere.

Inside the Magellan capsule,

Lance sat down exhausted in his seat.

Rod and Clint were sprawled out on the floor.

Rod woke up in a daze, and he looked around confused.

Clint woke up in a daze, and he looked around confused.

“Where are we?” Clint asked.

Lance went to the nearest capsule window.
“We’re on the Moon,” Lance replied.

“Oh, that’s good,” Clint said.

Then it dawned on Rod and Clint what Lance said.

They quickly got off the floor and raced to the windows. They looked out and saw the Moon surface.

Rod and Clint stepped away from the windows.
“What are we going to do now?” he said.

“I don’t have a clue,” Lance replied.

They all sat down in their seats and each tried to figure out a way back to Earth.

Fifteen minutes passed and the capsule suddenly lifted up and moved. That startled Rod, Clint and Lance, and they quickly shot up from seats and rushed to the windows. They looked out and saw that the capsule slowly moved along the Moon surface.

“Can you see what’s going on?” Clint asked.

“No,” Rod said while he strained to get a view from a window.

“How are we moving?” Clint asked.

“I don’t have a clue,” Lance said.

They walked away from the windows and sat back down in their seats and looked concerned while the capsule slowly moved across the Moon surface all by itself.

On the surface of the Moon, two metal beams held up the Magellan capsule. There were twelve bald headed silver skinned male Aliens in silver space suits with glass helmets that carried the beams. Six Aliens were on each side of the beams.

They walked the Magellan capsule to a nearby mountain.

Elderly bald silver skinned male Alien walked in front of everybody. He was called “The Man In The Moon” and his colony was called “The Moonies.”

When walked the capsule closer to the mountain, a door opened up and they carried the capsule inside a huge cave.

Inside the Moon mountain cave, it was rocky and lit with electrical lights. Off at the end of the cave were all the old Apollo Lunar Modules from the Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 missions. By the old Lunar Modules were three Apollo Lunar Rover’s and all the United States flags that were left behind.

The Moonies carried the capsule inside the cave.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance, Rod and Clint looked scared while the capsule slowly descended. They looked out the windows and saw the inside of the cave.

“Where are we now?” Rod asked.

“Looks like the inside of a cave,” Clint responded.

They continued to look out the windows.

Then there was a knock on the hatch that scared the crap out of them. They jumped and stared at the hatch not knowing how to react to that sudden knock.

There was another knock and they raced back to their seats. There was another knock on the hatch.

They all looked at each other and hoped the knocking would stop.

There was another knock on the hatch.

Lance took a deep breath and got the courage to check it out.

He got up and went over to the hatch. He cautiously opened it and took a peek outside.

He raced back to the others, scared to death.

The Man In The Moon, with his helmet removed, crawled through the hatch and stepped inside the capsule.

“Hello. I’m the Man In The Moon, leaders of the Moonies. Who might all you be?” he asked then gave them a warm smile.

“I’m Lance.”

“I’m Rod.”

“And I’m Clint.”

It dawned on them what the Man in the Moon said.

“Did you say, the Man in the Moon?” Clint said, as he didn’t believe he ears.

“Yes I did,” the Man in the Moon replied.

“You mean you’ve always lived here in the Moon?” Lance asked.

“Of course, for the past three hundred years. We’re a colony from the planet Mootania, which is located about four trillion miles away,” the Man in the Moon responded while he looked around the capsule then saw the American flags on their suits.

“Wow. We never knew,” Rod said.

“We’re good at staying hidden. But don’t worry. We’re friendly. And it’s been about forty-six years since we’ve had Earth visitors. Why did you come back?”

“It was an accident,” Clint said.

“We were on a mission to get rid of an Asteroid made up of collided space junk, when a piece of junk hit our ship and sent us here,” Lance said.

“Space junk. You Earthling should learn to clean up your space around Earth,” the Man in the Mood said with a stern look.

“We know,” said Rod while he along with Clint and Lance and they all looked ashamed of their planet.

“Well enough of that, I guess we'll have to figure out a way to get you back home so you can complete your mission. Follow me.”

The Man in the Moon left through the hatch.

Lance, Rod and Clint took turns and followed him through the hatch.

Inside the Moon mountain cave, Lance, Rod and Clint followed the Man In The Moon around the Magellan capsule and they looked around the cave.

They saw all the old Apollo Moon equipment over at the far side of the cave. They stopped and stared in disbelief.

“Is that our old Apollo equipment?” Rod asked.

“Yeah. We didn't mind you earthlings walking around and taking our rocks, but why did have to leave your stuff behind? I find that extremely rude.” the Man in the Moon said with a tone of displeasure.

“Sorry about that,” Clint replied.

“Please don't do that again,” the Man in the Moon said.

The Man In The Moon walked them over to a big long picnic type of table made out of Moon rock. “Have a seat. It's dinner time,” he said.

Lance, Rod and Clint sat down at the table with the Man in the Moon.

Four beautiful bald young adult female Moonies walked over with gray-colored pies in hand. They set the pies down in front of them with a weird spoon.

The Man in the Moon grabbed his spoon and ate his pie.

Rod, Clint and Lance looked apprehensive and The Man in the Moon noticed.

“We call them Moon pies. Eat up and then we'll work on fixing your ship,” the Man in the Moon said. “And we'll repair your suits,” he added while he saw their rips.

Rod, Clint and Lance scooped up some moon pie and took a nibble. Their faces lit up when they tasted it, and it was good. They took bigger bites, then shoved more pie in their mouths and gobbled it down.

The Man in the Moon chuckled at the sight of the Earthlings loving their food. He looked at one of the females. “Get our guests some suits to wear,” he said.

“Yes sir,” the female responded then walked away.

The four females walked away.

The Man in the Moon looked over at two Moonies walking near him. “Laa and Daa. Come here,” the Man in the Moon ordered.

Laa and Daa rushed over.

“Go take a look at their capsule. Let's come up with a fix so they can get back home to Earth,” the Man in the Moon instructed them.

“Yes sir,” Laa replied then he rushed off toward the Magellan capsule with Daa.

They immediately walked around and inspected the capsule.

Five minutes later and three females returned each with a silver space suit in hand.

“You can wear these until we repair your suits,” the Man in the Moon told Rod, Clint and Lance.

“If you follow me, I can take you to where you can exchange your suits,” one of the females said.

Laa and Daa ran off from the Magellan capsule and headed toward the stash of Apollo equipment.

Rod, Lance and Clint got up from the table and the three females escorted them away.

Chapter 15

Back on Earth at the Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center in Texas, the controllers monitored their consoles.

Kara a young twenty-six-year-old female controller monitored the radio nets for transmissions from the Magellan capsule.

“Magellan five, this is Mission Control. Do you read me?” Kara said into the microphone of her headset. Nothing but static was heard from her headset. She looked concerned.

Howard her fifty-five-year-old boss, walked up to Kara’s console with his fourth cup of coffee in hand. “Any word from Magellan?” he asked then took a sip of coffee.

“No,” Kara said with a worried look.

“Okay, let me know the minute you hear something,” he replied.

“I will,” she said.

Howard walked away disappointed.

At Richard’s office in NASA Headquarters, Richard worked on some paperwork at his office. His phone rang and he picked it up. “Richard,” he answered the call.

“It’s me Howard at JSC. We still haven’t heard a peep from Magellan five,” he said from the receiver.

Richard sighed over the disappointing news. “Okay. Let me know the minute you hear something,” he said.

“I will,” Howard replied.

Richard hung up his phone and looked out his window. He wondered if this was going to be the end to mankind.

Meanwhile, in a universe far, far away, the Stardonia Spacecraft Tow Ship zoomed through another galaxy. It came upon a lime green with yellow land mass planet called Limetonia, which had a two parallel multi-colored rings around its center.

Inside the Stardonia Spacecraft Tow Ship, Biggka and Redka relaxed inside their ship. The “Aliens Attack” movie was over and the Stardonia Space Knights defeated the Aliens.

Redka pressed a button on the HVD and the ending credits disappeared. He pressed another button on the console and the HVD slid back inside the console.

Biggka pressed a button on the OSPS. “Turn left forty five degrees after passing past Limetonia. Proceed for another sixteen billion miles,” the female voice said from the OSPS.

Biggka looked out his window and saw Limetonia at his one o’clock position.

“We’re right on track,” he told Redka.

It wasn’t too long before their tow ship passed by Limetonia. Biggka turned the control stick to the left and the tow ship made a 45-degree turn to the left toward another galaxy.

On top at the middle section of the Asteroid, the buggy hovered with the two lanyards secured to pieces of space junk.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota all knelt down and looked underneath the front of the buggy. They saw a bar from a piece of space junk wrapped around a piece of the buggy's linkage.

They all stood up and looked at each other.

"Now what?" Ricky asked.

Scoota thought for a second then his eyes widened with an idea. He opened up a pocket on his space suit and removed a Ginsu looking knife from a pocket. "I'll cut it loose," Scoota said while he held up the knife.

Scoota got underneath the buggy with his Ginsu looking knife and started cutting on the bar wrapped around the buggy linkage.

Todd and Ricky knelt down and watched Scoota.

A piece of space junk whooshed over the buggy by a couple of feet, and the buggy rocked.

They all looked up and watched the space junk while it flew away.

"That was close," Todd said.

"A little too close if you ask me," Ricky added.

Scoota nodded in agreement.

Scoota went back underneath the buggy continued to cut on the space junk bar.

Two more pieces of space junk whooshed over the buggy by a couple of feet. The buggy rocked.

Then there was a loud bam, bam, bam, while the Asteroid shook violently. A huge piece of space junk bounced off the side of the Asteroid and tumbled down to Earth.

Scoota cut through the bar and freed the Space Buggy.

Scoota got out from underneath the buggy.

"Let's secure the cable," Scoota said.

They walked to a section of wire behind the buggy. He knelt down and taped the wire to space junk.

Meanwhile, down at Earth in China, the space junk that bounced off the Asteroid was now a fireball that zoomed out of the sky toward the Great Wall of China.

The space junk fireball slammed into a section of the Great Wall with a loud kaboom. When the dust settled, a huge section of the historic wall was gone.

In the field in the middle of China, the three Chinese missiles on trucks stay pointed at the sky.

A Chinese Private, twenty-one years old, guarded one of the missile trucks.

He looked up at the sky and could see the Asteroid while it slowly flew across, which looked like a large bright star.

He got scared, and he ran off toward the tents.

The Private ran over to the biggest tent. He stood outside and snapped to attention. "Sir, danger lurks amongst us!" the Private yelled at the flaps of the tent.

The General, forty-five years old, stepped outside his tent. He looked around the field and didn't see any signs of danger. "What danger?" the General asked and was a little perturbed that the Private interrupted him and was about to slap the young kid.

The Private pointed to the Asteroid in the sky.

The general looked up where the Private pointed. His eyes widened with concern and quickly unclipped his cell phone off his belt, and quickly

made a call. "Sir. The Asteroid is within firing range, what shall I do?" the General asked into his cell phone.

At the President's palace in Beijing, the Chinese President, with his cell phone to his ear, sat at his desk and stared at an electronic picture of destroyed great wall section on his computer monitor. He was furious!

"Destroy it!" he yelled into his cell phone. He slammed the picture down on his desk, and his eyes welled up at the sight of part of the Great Wall destroyed.

Back in the Chinese field, the General pointed at the Asteroid in the sky while he clipped his cell phone back to his belt.

"Fire the missiles!" the General yelled out at the top of his lungs.

The Private looked proud while he watched his fellow soldiers run from their tents to the field. *I'll be promoted!* He thought to himself.

The soldiers run up to the missile trucks and immediately started the firing sequences.

The three missiles launched from the trucks and zoomed up to the sky toward the Asteroid.

The soldiers jumped for joy thinking they just saved mankind from extinction.

The General grinned ear to ear as he believed he just saved the world.

In outer space above Earth, the three Chinese missiles ascended to outer space from Earth.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson sat at his console and watched over his radar screen. The screen showed the “Asteroid 18, 874 Miles Per Hour - 275 Miles From Earth – Not Many Days Until We End Up Just Like The Dinosaurs” message.

“Wilbur, the Asteroid is two hundred and seventy-five miles away,” Johnson screamed out.

On the top of the Asteroid at the middle section, Scoota Duct taped another section of cable to a piece of space junk.

Todd and Ricky also had a roll of Duct tape in hand and helped tape other sections of the cable. They decided to triple up on this section of cable.

Todd’s stomach growled. “I’m hungry. Can we take a break?” he asked.

Ricky’s stomach growled. “Yeah. I’m also hungry,” he added.

“That sounds good,” Scoota said.

They all sat down on a piece of space junk and opened up their pockets on their suits. They each removed a tube of food and held onto their rolls of Duct tape with their other hand. The other end of their tape was wrapped around a section of cable.

Todd looked at his tube. “I got roast beef,” he said then opened up his tube and squeezed his meal into the eating port of his helmet.

Ricky looked at his tube. “I got chicken,” he said the opened up his tube and squeezed his meal into the eating port of his helmet.

Scoota looked at his tube. “I got something called turkey,” he said a little cautious about eating Earthling food.

“Turkey is good, especially around Thanksgiving,” Todd said then squeezed more roast beef into his mouth.

Scoota looked at the tube and decided to give it a try. He opened it up and squeezed his meal into the port in his helmet. He munched on it a little hesitant at first. Then once he tasted it, he liked it. He squeezed more into his port.

They sat there and stared at the Moon.

“I wonder what happened to the Astronauts?” Todd asked while he stared at the Moon.

“Probably lost forever,” Ricky said.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota looked worried about the Astronauts.

“Maybe my rescue ship will get here soon and help us,” Scoota said.

“I hope so,” Todd said but looked doubtful.

Ricky nodded in agreement and he also looked doubtful.

After ten minutes of eating, they placed their empty tubes back in their suit pockets.

“I could use a few more minutes of rest,” Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky nodded in agreement while they relaxed and held onto their rolls of Duct tape. They both closed their eyes.

Scoota looked off at the stars. He looked in the direction he knew Stardonia was located, and he thought about Litta. He really missed his sweetheart.

Off in the far away galaxy on the planet Stardonia, it was nighttime and Litta stood out in her backyard of her home. She had her Space Pad in her

hand while she stared up at the stars. She pressed some buttons and looked at the screen where the “Calling Scoota” message appeared.

Back on the top of the Asteroid, a strange ring sounded from Scoota’s pocket on his space suit.

He opened up the pocket and removed his space pad. He saw the “Call From Litta” message on the screen. He got up and walked a few feet away to be alone. He pressed some buttons and answered his call.

“Hi Litta.”

Litta’s hologram appeared and she looked worried. “Are you still safe?” she asked.

Todd and Ricky saw her hologram and thought that was the coolest device in the world.

“I’m fine. I’m helping the Earthlings get his Asteroid, I created, away from their planet. If I don’t, then all the Earthlings will eventually die when the Asteroid impacts their planet,” he told Litta.

“Is the rescue ship there yet?” she asked.

“No.”

Litta looked like she was going to cry. “I’m worried about you, Scoota,” she said while she held back her tears.

“Don’t worry. I’ll be fine. I’ll call you when I’m on my way home,” he told her.

“You better!” Litta said then her hologram disappeared.

Scoota placed his space pad back in his space suit. He turned around and saw Todd near him. “Was that your girlfriend?” he asked Scoota.

“Yes. Her name is Litta.”

“I want a girlfriend. Her name is Lucy. But she doesn’t want me as a boyfriend,” Todd said and looked rejected. He looked over at Ricky for him to reply.

Ricky wanted to say that he really liked Betty but kept his mouth shut.

“Well then, she must not be very smart to miss out on having a great guy like you as a boyfriend. You’ll find another one,” Scoota said and placed an arm around Todd’s shoulder.

They all closed their eyes, and soon fell asleep.

Back on the planet Stardonia, Litta’s eyes welled up, as she was worried that Scoota will never make it back home.

Chapter 16

Thirty minutes had passed.

On the top of the Asteroid, Scoota's ears suddenly perked up and he looked concerned.

A Chinese missile flew upward, missed the Asteroid by thirty feet.

They watched while the missile flew off into space, and all looked worried.

Another Chinese missile flew upward and missed the Asteroid by forty feet and flew off into space.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota got scared, dove and grabbed a piece of space junk while the other hand still held onto their roll of Duct tape still attached to space junk.

The Asteroid violently shook with a loud bam while the third missile clipped the side.

A piece of space junk became dislodged from the side of the Asteroid.

It tumbled down to Earth.

The Asteroid rolled wildly and dropped to a lower orbit. The Space Buggy hung on by the lanyard.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota screamed while they flew all over the place while they held onto their roll of Duct tape, which unrolled down the side of the Asteroid.

The Asteroid steadied and stayed right side up. The buggy hovered above space junk with its lanyard still attached.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota dangled underneath the Asteroid. They still grasped onto their rolls of Duct tape, which was unrolled down the side of the Asteroid. They were fifteen feet underneath the bottom of the Asteroid.

They looked down and could see Earth below their boots.

They look up and saw it was a long way up the tape to the bottom of the Asteroid. They look scared to death.

“What do we do now?” Ricky asked and he looked scared while he glanced at Earth below his boots.

Todd looked up to the bottom of the Asteroid. “I guess its gym class all over again.”

“This doesn't look fun,” Scoota said while he looked down at Earth then up at the Asteroid.

Todd and Scoota climbed up their Duct tape like it was rope.

Todd looked down and saw Ricky frozen with fear.

“Come on Ricky. Up is the safest way we can go,” Todd called out.

Ricky shook in fear while he looked down. Then he looked up and stayed frozen.

Scoota noticed Ricky froze in fear so he climbed down his Duct tape to assist. He grabbed the dangling end of his Duct tape, reached over and ran it through a strap on Ricky's space suit and then through a strap on his space suit. “Get on my back and hold on,” he told Ricky.

Scoota reached over and grabbed another strap on Ricky's suit and pulled Ricky over to him. Ricky immediately placed his arms around Scoota's neck.

Scoota climbed up his Duct tape and for a small Alien he was extremely strong.

Todd climbed up his Duct tape to the bottom of the Asteroid.

Scoota with Ricky on his back, climbed up his duct tape to the bottom of the Asteroid.

Meanwhile, back at the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby stood in front of his wall of TVs where the other entire world leaders were present and Barnaby was mad.

“You almost killed my boys!” he screamed and pointed a finger at the Chinese President’s TV.

“I’m sorry we missed!” the Chinese President responded with a disappointed look.

“We won’t miss!” the Russian President added from his TV.

“My HariAnne rocket will launch tomorrow to save the world and the boys,” the French President jumped and added from his TV.

“Come on guys, the US of A can save the boys and the world!” President Barnaby said.

All the world leaders turned off their TVs.

President Barnaby moped over to his desk and sat down.

Then he heard yells from outside so he got up and looked out his curtains.

Some protesters jumped the fence and got on the White House lawn.

He saw a protester with a “We Hate Barnaby” sign.

He saw a young boy with a “The President Eats Boogers” sign and another man with an “Asteroid Is A Fake, Just Like The Apollo Moon Landing” sign.

The White House security guards ran over and tackled the protesters to the grass.

They got them up on their feet and escorted them away.

“Man, being President stinks!” President Barnaby said then plopped down at his desk depressed.

Back up in space above Earth, Todd climbed up the side of the Asteroid like he was rock climbing.

Scoota with Ricky with eyes closed, hung on Scoota's back with his arms around his neck while Scoota climbed up the side of Asteroid.

Down on Earth in Todd's home, on the TV, Biff gave everybody the bad news.

“President Barnaby is furious with the Chinese for firing missiles at the Asteroid. We're lucky they missed but still don't know if the stowaways are safe and sound,” Biff said to the TV audience.

Tater, Christina, and Lilly fainted on the couch.

In Ricky's home, on the TV, Biff gave them the news.

Louie and Rose fainted on the couch.

In Lucy's home, on the TV, Biff gave the news.

Lucy sat on the couch and looked worried for Todd.

In the Bullies tree house, Rocky and Buster watched their TV and looked disappointed.

“Man, I thought the Chinese were better than that!” Buster said.

“Me too,” Rocky replied.
They both pouted in disappointment.

Back up in space above Earth, Todd climbed into view up the side and climbed to the top of the Asteroid.

Scoota with Ricky, with eyes still closed on his back, climbed into view up the side and climbed to the top of the Asteroid.

They stood on some space junk.

“We're finally back,” Scoota said and was exhausted while he huffed and puffed.

Ricky opened his eyes and looked relieved. He loosened his arms from around Scoota's neck. Scoota immediately rubbed his throat for relief.

Scoota removed a Ginsu knife from his space suit pocket and sliced the Duct tape from his straps. Ricky fell and landed on his butt on some space junk.

Ricky got up. He looked at Todd and Scoota while they walked and climbed over space junk to the buggy. He now felt ashamed for being afraid down there.

Meanwhile, back on the Moon, Rod, Clint and Lance watched while three-middle aged female Moonies applied a special patch to the ripped portions of their space suits.

The Man In The Moon walked up behind them. “It looks like your suits will be ready later today,” the Man in the Moon said.

“How do we get back to Earth?” Clint asked.

“We're still trying to figure out how to repair the damage on your capsule. We can't let you use one of our ships,” the Man in the Moon replied.

The Man In The Moon walked away with Rod, Clint and Lance.

“Your ship? You travel in space?” Lance asked curious.

“We've done some traveling just to check up on you Earthlings,” the Man in the Moon said. .

It dawned on Rod, Clint and Lance what he said.

“Cool!” Lance said.

“Our job in this universe is to keep the Moon safe as without it, Earthlings will not survive.”

“Can we see your spaceship?” Rod said.

“I don't see why not,” the Man in the Moon replied.

The Man in the Moon walked Rod, Todd and Clint to the area where the old Apollo equipment was located. He walked to a large and wide grey door.

He pressed a button on the cave wall and the door slid open.

Rod, Todd and Clint stood in awe when they saw the Moonie spaceship inside the room. It was a 1950s style shiny silver saucer with a bubble canopy. The canopy was opened and an access ladder provided access into the cockpit area.

“Can we take a closer peek?” Clint asked.

“Be my guest,” the Man in the Moon replied.

Inside the room, Rod, Clint and Lance ran inside like curious school boys over to the access ladder.

They all climbed up the ladder and stood on the platform at the top. They looked inside the spaceship.

Inside the ship, they saw a control stick, four seats and a console that had tons of buttons, switches, knobs and gauges.

Rod jumped down inside the spaceship, and he sat in the pilot's seat.

"This is so cool. Just like a 1950s science fiction movie," he said while he gripped the controls.

Rod got out and Lance and Clint took turns sitting in the spaceship. They acted like young boys when they sat inside a jet fighter mock up at an air show.

They got out of the spaceship and walked down the ladder.

They followed the Man in the Moon out of the room. He closed the door and they walked away.

Out in the main part of the cave, the Man In The Moon walked them to the picnic table where those four females Moonies stood with four moon pies.

Rod, Lance and Clint's eyes lit up at the sight of those pies. They quickly sit down and licked their chops.

Inside another cave, Laa and Daa previously moved the Magellan capsule into this cave that was their workshop. They also moved the Apollo 17 Lunar Module Descent stage and some thrusters from the Apollo 16 Lunar Module ascent stage that impacted the Moon after its mission was completed.

Off to the side of the cave was a rocket engine that belonged to the Moonies. Their engines had a fuel tank already installed.

"Go tell Taa to get the launcher ready," Laa told Daa.

Daa rushed out of the cave.

Laa walked over to a bench and grabbed a strange looking toolbox and walked back to the Magellan Capsule.

Back on the top of the Asteroid, Scoota, Todd and Ricky unhooked the space buggy and resumed their mission.

Todd drove the space buggy over space junk while Ricky unreeled more cable from the reel.

Scoota walked and climbed over space junk and followed the cable while it sat down on top of junk.

They stopped every twenty feet and Scoota would tape sections of the cable to junk.

Back down on Earth in Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the couch with their fingers crossed and stared at the TV, which had the Channel 9 News, and hoped for an update on Todd. Nothing, just a report of bank robberies, car accidents, house fires, murders; it was your typical day. They were disappointed and worried about Todd.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose sat on the couch with fingers crossed and stared at the TV, which had the Channel Nine News. They waited for an update on Ricky. Nothing. They were disappointed and worried about Ricky.

In Lucy's home, she sat with Betty on the couch with fingers crossed and stared at the TV, which had the Channel Nine News. They waited for an update on Ricky. Nothing. Lucy worried about Todd. Betty showed an indication that she was worried

about Ricky. She never told Lucy that she actually liked Ricky.

In the Bullies tree house, Buster and Rocky sat in their tree house and stare at the TV, which had the Channel 9 News.

“Where's the bad news when you want it?”

Buster said and pouted.

Rocky nodded in agreement.

Up on the top of the Asteroid around the middle section, Todd, Ricky and Scoota sat inside by the Space Buggy while it hovered. They had the lanyards out and they were hooked to the junk below. They finished eating and removed the tubes out of their helmet ports.

Scoota burped then sniffed the inside his helmet.

Todd and Ricky thought that was cool.

Then they get a look of discomfort on their faces, and they both farted in their suits. They sniffed and looked sickly as it stunk!

Scoota stretched and yawned.

He got out of the Space Buggy and down to a piece space junk. “I need some sleep,” Scoota said while he snuggled down in a piece of junk.

“That sounds good, but I wish I could air out my suit!” Todd said then he climbed into the bed of the Space Buggy, and curled up.

Ricky chuckled with Todd’s comment while he climbed out of the Space Buggy and snuggled down in a piece of junk.

Chapter 17

Meanwhile, down on Earth in French Guiana, the HariAnne rocket was on the launch pad.

“Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one,” said the male voice in French from the loudspeakers.

The HariAnne’s engines fired, and it lifted off the pad.

The HariAnne rocket ascended upward into the sky.

Back at the oval of the White House, President Barnaby stood and stared depressed at the wall of TVs where they all showed the HariAnne rocket while it ascended into the sky.

He stomped his feet like a little kid not getting his way then moped back to his desk.

Up in space on top of the Asteroid, it was forty minutes later, and Todd, Ricky and Scoota were all sound asleep.

The Space Buggy hovered nearby with lanyard hooked to space junk. It was very quiet up in space.

The Asteroid violently shook with a loud bam, and the buggy swayed around.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota woke up in a panic, and then it was quiet.

The Asteroid violently shook with another loud bam, and the buggy swayed around again.

They all cautiously stood up and looked around, and then it was quiet again.

The Asteroid violently shook again with another loud bam, and the Space Buggy swayed. They fell on their butts.

It was quiet so they stood up and looked around.

Then something caught Todd's attention over at the edge.

Todd got out of the bed of the Space Buggy. He climbed and walked and over space junk to the edge of the Asteroid.

Ricky and Scoota noticed Todd while he headed to edge of the Asteroid.

"Where you going?" Ricky asked.

"There's something over the edge," Todd replied.

Scoota and Ricky walked and climbed space junk after Todd.

Todd walked and climbed to the edge where he got on his knees. He tightly held onto a piece of space tightly and leaned over the edge.

"Oh no!" Todd cried out when he saw that one of the solar arrays of the space station was stuck to a piece of space junk at the bottom of the Asteroid.

Ricky and Scoota walked up behind Todd.

"What's wrong?" Ricky asked.

"The space station is stuck to the bottom of the Asteroid," Todd replied.

Ricky looked worried after hearing that news.

Scoota also looked worried. He knew what the space station was and thought it was crude technology.

Inside the control room of the Multinational Space Station, audible alarms blared along with flashing lights on the main console.

“Oh Crap! Oh Crap! Oh Crap!” went an audible alarm with a female generated voice.

The audible alarms and flashing lights repeated. Buck and Natasha hurriedly floated into the control room worried about what danger the alarms were informing them about.

Natasha floated over to the main console and flipped two switches. The audible alarm and flashing lights stopped.

Natasha and Buck scanned over the gauges on the console. They looked baffled at each other when everything looked normal.

“What could be wrong?” Natasha asked Buck.

“I don’t know, but alarms don’t lie,” Buck said while he hurriedly floated to a monitor on another console.

He flipped a couple of switches.

He moved a joystick around.

Natasha floated over to Buck where they stared at the monitor while Buck moved the joy stick and performed a visual scan outside the space station.

“Everything looks nominal,” Buck said while he scanned outside the station. Then he looked at another gage and got concerned.

“We’re dropping to a lower orbit,” he said.

“What? How’s that possible?” Natasha replied while she floated over to Buck.

Buck used the camera joystick to view outside the space station on the monitor.

Then their eyes widened in fear when they saw one of their solar arrays’ stuck to space junk underneath the Asteroid.

Down on Earth at the Space Spy agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson stared panicky at his radar screen when he saw the Asteroid blob over top of the space station.

Then the “Space Station Dropping To Lower Orbit” message flashed on the screen. “Space Station And Asteroid To Impact Earth In Four Days” message also flashed.

“*Wilbur!*” Johnson screamed.

Two minutes later, Wilbur ran over with his Maalox bottle in hand, and he quickly looked at the radar screen. His eyes widened in fear while he opened up his Maalox and swallowed a gulp.

He picked up the phone on Johnson’s console and made a call.

“Richard. Wilbur here. We have another situation,” he said.

At the Mission Control, Kara worked at her console.

“This is Mission Control Magellan five. Do you read me Magellan five,” Kara said into the microphone and prayed she would hear a radio transmission from them. Nothing.

“Oh no!” Jack, a thirty-two-year-old controller cried out from his console in the row in front of Kara.

She quickly removed her headset and ran over to Jack’s console. He looked scared when he pointed to his monitor, and it showed the space station stuck to the bottom of the Asteroid.

“Howard!” Kara screamed out.

Howard ran over and looked at Jack’s monitor, and fear set in his eyes. He quickly grabbed a phone

on Jack's console and made a phone call, but he got a busy signal.

At Richard's office in NASA headquarters, Richard sat at his desk with his mouth dropped open in shock. "Are you sure?" he asked.

"Yes sir. We revalidated the information. The space station, and the Asteroid will impact Earth in four days," Wilbur said over his phone.

Richard hung up the phone. He looked at his red phone, and didn't want to make that call, but he knew it was his job. He picked up the red phone.

"Mister President, we have another situation," he said into the phone.

Later that day in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby stared at the wall of TVs from his desk. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw live footage of the solar array of the space station stuck to space junk underneath the Asteroid.

All the leaders are on TV and they all looked scared to death while they watched the live footage from their country.

"You now have space station and Asteroid going to slam into Earth at the same time? We have no choice but to *nuke it!*" the Chinese Presided said.

On the TVs, Russia agreed, while other leaders pondered that proposal, as it might be the only hope.

President Barnaby stood up furious from his desk.

"Don't! You'll kill four people plus and an Alien. And we can't risk his planet racing to Earth and destroying us!" President Barnaby yelled out.

“We already going to be destroyed!” the Chinese President yelled back from his TV and sprayed spit on his monitor. A Chinese girl rushed up into view and wiped the monitor clean. She rushed back out of view.

“My cosmonaut will sacrifice herself for the world. So, I agree to nuke!” the Russian President added from his TV.

“Our superior engine can handle the additional weight of the space station, no worries,” the French President said from his TV.

On the TVs, the rest of leaders thought about the discussions, and then all the TVs went blank.

President Barnaby got up from behind his desk and paced around the room frustrated.

In Mission Control, the room was utter chaos while the controllers looked at the live footage of the space station stuck to the bottom of the Asteroid.

They looked at their consoles, they flipped switches, they turned knobs, and they reviewed their emergency procedures. They couldn't find any procedure that covered this scenario, so they threw them on the floor in frustration. They didn't have a clue on how to free the space station.

Hours have past since it became known about the dangerous dilemma of the space station.

Over at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson looked scared at his console when it flashed an updated message. “Wilbur,” he screamed.

Wilbur ran over scared with a fresh Maalox bottle in hand.

He looked at the radar screen and saw the Earth symbol with the Asteroid blob with a line connected to a space station symbol. A dotted line went from the space station down to Earth. “Asteroid 19,128 MILES Per Hour - 225 Miles From Earth – Fewer Days Left Until Death And Destruction” message flashed.

“Wilbur, the Asteroid is 225 miles away,” Johnson screamed out.

Wilbur opened up his Maalox bottle and gulped down the entire contents. His hand shook while he picked up the red phone, and Maalox dropped off his chin and splattered on the floor.

“Richard, Wilbur here. We got updated news,” Wilbur said into the phone.

Later that day at the conference room in NASA Headquarters, Richard sat at the table with Jennifer, Quinton, and numerous other NASA folks.

Everybody was in deep thought, as they stared at the TV on the wall.

On the wall TV, Buck and Natasha floated in the space station while they had their video conference.

“Sorry Richard, but our lanyards are too short for us to reach the top of the solar array,” Natasha said from the TV. Buck nodded in agreement with her analysis.

Richards looked frustrated. “Does anybody have any suggestions? Anything?” he asked and looked at everybody at the table.

All the NASA folks shook their heads, as they didn’t have a single clue.

“Quinton, can the engines designed to fly the Asteroid fly it away with the space station attached?” Richard asked.

“Are you suggesting that we fly away with the Asteroid?” Buck cried out nervous from the TV.

Richard thought about what he said for a few seconds. “I guess we don’t have a choice,” he said.

Quinton did some figuring in his head.

“Actually, the engines will not handle the additional weight of the space station. It might keep it from falling to Earth until it runs out of fuel after three hours,” Quinton said.

Richard banged his forehead on the table in frustration.

Up in space on top of the Asteroid around the middle section, Todd, Ricky and Scoota sat in deep thought inside the Space Buggy while they thought about their dilemma.

“With the additional weight of the space station, the Asteroid must be dropping to Earth a little faster,” Todd said.

“Don't you have Earthlings living inside that place? Can't they do something?” Scoota asked.

“They could space walk and cut the junk away, but ladders on the solar array are too short so they cannot reach the bottom of the Asteroid,” Todd added as all those years of studying space stuff gave him a good understanding of the design of the space station.

Scoota thought for a minute then his eyes lit up. “Why don't we cut the junk away?”

Todd and Ricky looked at Scoota in disbelief in what he just suggested.

“What?” Todd asked.

“How?” Ricky added.

Scoota removed his Ginsu knife from his space suit pocket. “We go underneath and cut it away,” Scoota said.

Ricky looked nervous, as he’s still terrified of heights.

“But you only have one Ginsu,” Todd said.

Scoota smiled while he removed two other Ginsu knives from another pocket from his suit.

“We believe in triple redundancy,” Scoota said while he held up three knives.

Scoota handed them each a Ginsu knife. They all shoved them in a pocket on their suits.

“But how do we get underneath without falling?” Ricky said and started to tremble scared about the thought of hanging underneath the Asteroid with only the Earth and the space station below his boots.

Scoota thought for a few minutes while he tried to figure out a safe way to perform this rescue task. Then his eyes lit up with an idea. He smiled as he held up a roll of Duct tape. “We can make a lanyard,” he suggested.

Todd nodded agreement. Ricky looked extremely nervous.

Chapter 18

Meanwhile, back down on Earth, in Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the couch. Their eyes were glued to the TV while Biff from the Channel 9 News reported.

"We have an alarming development. NASA just released the news that the Asteroid of space junk has snagged one of the solar arrays to the space station. It now appears that the Asteroid and space station will impact the Earth in four days," Biff said from the TV.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose were sprawled out fainted on the couch.

On the TV, Biff just finished giving the bad news. Behind him was a picture of the space station attached to the Asteroid.

In Lucy's home, she sat with Betty on the couch and just saw the bad news from Channel Nine News. They looked scared to death while they looked at the picture of the space station and the Asteroid on the TV behind Biff.

In the Bullies tree house, Buster and Rocky danced around their tree house with joy with their arms locked together.

"Ding dong the geeks are dead," Buster sang out in mocking the Wizard of Oz tune.

"Which ole geeks?" Rocky sang back in the Wizard of Oz tone.

“The geeky geeks,” Buster sang out his reply.

“Ding dong the nerdy geeks are dead!” both Rocky and Buster sang out in unison.

They danced around the tree house with joy but were too dumb to realize their lives were also in jeopardy.

Back up in space at the top of the Asteroid by the edge, Todd, Ricky and Scoota stood near the edge.

Ricky looked scared to death and Todd and Scoota sensed it.

“Ricky, you can stay up here if you want,” Todd said.

“Yeah. I don't have the strength to carry you again,” Scoota added.

Ricky thought about their offer for a few minutes. He decided he didn't want to stay behind and be a coward and regret it later in life.

He looked brave and took a couple of deep breaths. “No. It's about time I come to grips with this fear!” Ricky said and looked determined.

Todd and Scoota looked proud of him.

“Okay, lets make some rope,” Scoota told the boys.

Hours later on the top of the Asteroid, Scoota, Todd and Ricky finished making long rope out of Duct tape.

Scoota looked at their completed project. “I think that'll cover it,” he said.

Scoota showed them a special knot while they tied one end of the Duct tape rope to a piece of space junk.

They ran the other end through the front straps of their suits in a pattern Scoota illustrated. Then he showed them another special knot with the end of the rope to their suit straps.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota grasped onto space junk while they climbed down the side of the Asteroid like mountain climbers.

Their Duct tape rope trailed above them.

They grasped on space junk while they climbed down the side of the Asteroid.

Ricky looked below and saw the space station and Earth. He got nervous and lost his grip of the space junk.

“Ahhhh!” Ricky cried out while he quickly grabbed a piece of space junk and dangled by one glove gripping it tight.

While Ricky dangled by one glove, he eyed the space station below, and he looked scared. His fingers started to slip away from the piece of space junk.

Todd and Scoota quickly climbed down to Ricky.

Scoota reached over and grabbed a strap on the back of Ricky’s space suit. Scoota pulled Ricky up, and Ricky quickly grabbed a piece of space junk with his free glove.

“That was close. What a rush!” Ricky said and looked braver. “Let’s save the station!”

Ricky climbed down the space junk.

Todd and Scoota watched Ricky while he climbed down the Asteroid. They looked surprised and proud while they climbed down after Ricky.

Twenty minutes had passed.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota finally made it to the bottom of the Asteroid and paused.

“Now what?” Todd asked while he saw that the solar array of the space station was thirty feet away.

Ricky reached under the Asteroid and grabbed a piece of space junk by one glove then he swung over and grabbed another piece of space junk. “We can finally use those monkey bar skills,” Ricky replied while he continued to move under the Asteroid like he was on monkey bars on the playground, and his Duct rope trailed behind.

Todd and Scoota moved under the Asteroid after Ricky like they were on monkey bars.

Back down on Earth in Munich, German, people stood at the storefront windows of a TV store.

They watched the Disaster channel on TV, and watched the live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they swung like monkeys to the solar arrays of the space station.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

The people looked leery those boys could perform such a task.

In Prague, Czech Republic, people stood at the storefront windows of a TV store.

They watched the Disaster channel on TV, and watched the live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they swung like monkeys to the solar arrays of the space station.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

The people looked leery those boys could perform such a task.

In Hong Kong, China, people stood at the storefront windows of a TV store.

They watched the Disaster channel on TV, and watched the live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they swung like monkeys to the solar arrays of the space station.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

The people looked leery those boys could perform such a task.

In Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the edge of the couch and stared at the TV in horror.

They saw Biff on the news, and a picture of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they hung underneath the Asteroid by their gloves.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose sat on the edge of the couch and stared at the TV in horror.

They saw Biff on the news and a picture of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they hung underneath the Asteroid by their gloves and Duct tape rope.

In Lucy's home, Lucy and Betty sat on the edge of the couch and stared at the TV in horror.

They saw Biff on the news and a picture of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they hung underneath the Asteroid by their gloves.

In the Bullies tree house, Rocky and Buster saw Biff on the news and a picture of Todd, Ricky and

Scoota while they hung underneath the Asteroid by their gloves.

Buster and Rocky coached the TV.

“Fall, fall, fall, fall!” they cried out hoping the boys would lose their grips and become balls of flames racing down to Earth.

Back up in space in the space station, Buck and Natasha floated in front of a monitor; and watched live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they finally arrived at the bottom of the Asteroid that was stuck to the solar array.

“I don’t believe it. We have kids trying to free us,” said Buck.

Natasha nodded in agreement.

Underneath the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota hung underneath the Asteroid by their Duct tape rope that ran through their suit straps, and through pieces of space junk above them.

They reached out and started to cut at the pieces of space junk that was punctured through and wrapped around the top of the solar array.

Back down on Earth in Los Angeles, California, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel on TV.

They stared at live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they cut away at the space junk above the space station’s solar array.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

They looked proud of the young boys.

In Rome, Italy, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel on TV.

They stared at live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they cut away at the space junk above the space station's solar array.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

They looked proud of the young boys.

In Seoul, South Korea, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel on TV.

They stared at live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they cut away at the space junk above the space station's solar array.

The "Stowaways Will Free Space Station From Asteroid" message scrolled across the screen.

They looked proud of the young boys.

Up in space underneath the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota made their final cuts through the last piece of space junk that held the space station prisoner.

They waited and looked down below at the station. The solar array slowly inched away from the Asteroid.

Scoota, Todd and Ricky looked proud of their work.

Inside the space station, Buck and Natasha were in the control room and floated in front of a monitor.

They watched with joy while the space station moved away from the Asteroid.

“Way to go boys!” Buck cheered along with Natasha.

They hugged each other knowing they were safe from being burnt to a crisp while the station plummeted down to Earth.

Back down on Earth in the oval office of the White House, on the wall of TVs was live footage of the space station solar array. President Barnaby watched, from his desk, while the space station moved away from the bottom of the Asteroid with Todd, Ricky and Scoota who still dangled underneath.

President Barnaby jumped up from his desk and strutted to the center of the room.

“We're back in business!” President Barnaby cried out while he did a victory dance around the oval office in joy. And yes he would never make it as a professional dancer.

In Todd's home, in their living room, Tater, Lilly and Christina cheered at the TV, which showed live footage of the space station while it moved away from the Asteroid. Todd, Ricky and Scoota were visible while they dangled from underneath the Asteroid.

“That's my boy!” Tater yelled out while he did a goofy country style of dance around the living room that involved lots of knee slapping.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose cheered at the TV, which showed live footage of the space station while it moved away from the Asteroid. Todd, Ricky

and Scoota were visible while they dangled from underneath the Asteroid.

“Hooray for Ricky!” Louie cried out and did a victory dance and then high-fived Rose.

In Lucy’s home, she cheered with Betty at the TV, which showed live footage of the space station while it moved away from the Asteroid. Todd, Ricky and Scoota were visible while they dangled from underneath the Asteroid.

Way to go Todd!” Lucy cried out.

“You the man, Ricky!” Betty cried out.

Lucy and Betty locked arms and danced around the room in joy.

In the Bullies tree house, the TV showed live footage of the space station while it moved away from the Asteroid. Todd, Ricky and Scoota were visible while they dangled from underneath the Asteroid.

Buster and Rocky sat on their butts with their arms crossed and were mad.

“Why can’t they screw up?” Buster cried out.

In New York City, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel and saw live footage of the space station while it moved away from Asteroid.

The "Stowaways Saved The Space Station from being burnt to a crisp!" message scrolled across the screen. Everybody cheered and danced around in joy.

In Paris, France, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel on TV.

They stared at live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they cut away at the space junk above the space station's solar array.

The "Stowaways Saved The Space Station from being burnt to a crisp!" message scrolled across the screen.

Everybody cheered and danced around in joy.

In Bangkok, Thailand, people stood at the storefront window and watched the Disaster channel on TV.

They stared at live footage of Todd, Ricky and Scoota while they cut away at the space junk above the space station's solar array.

The "Stowaways Saved The Space Station from being burnt to a crisp!" message scrolled across the screen.

Everybody cheered and danced around in joy.

Chapter 19

Meanwhile, back on the Moon in the workshop cave, Taa and Laa feverishly worked on the Magellan capsule and removed the damaged engine. They then lifted the capsule with a small weird looking crane and mounted it to the Apollo 17 Lunar Module descent stage. While they were accomplishing this task, another Moonie, Saa, worked underneath the descent stage and installed one of their rocket engines.

Up on the Magellan capsule, another Moonie, Zaa installed some old Apollo 16 thrusters

Inside the capsule, another Moonie, Qaa, installed all the control wiring and control boxes to operate the engine.

Outside on the surface of the Moon, Moonies Naa and, Raa, worked on assembling their sling shot launcher.

In space on top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota climbed up the side of the Asteroid and eventually reached the top.

They stood on the top of the Asteroid, and they looked down below.

They saw the space station while it slowly orbited away, they cheered and high-fived each other.

“We did it! I can’t believe we did it!” Todd cried out.

Todd and Ricky raise one arm in the air and linked their glove pinkies together.

“Friends!” they cheered.

Scoota smiled at the boys. “Come on friends. We have more adventures ahead of us,” Scoota told them.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk.

They headed toward the Space Buggy that remained hovered above the space junk with the lanyards attached to some junk. They removed their Duct tape ropes from their space suits and placed them in the rear of the space buggy.

“We can use these when we install the engines,” Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky nodded in agreement.

Meanwhile, they didn’t know that the Harianne capsule orbited Earth and was heading to the Asteroid.

Todd and Ricky climbed in the Space Buggy.

Ricky unhooked the lanyards then he climbed in the rear and sat inside. He was exhausted from their recent adventure but proud he didn’t chicken out.

Ricky secured the Duct tape rope in a cabinet in the rear of the buggy.

Todd climbed in the driver’s seat and pressed the “F” button and inched the joystick forward.

The Space Buggy moved forward to the rear of the Asteroid.

Ricky unreeled cable and it lay on space junk.

“We are the Champions, my friends,” Todd sang out.

Ricky smiled. "Cause we are the Champions," he sang along.

"Of the world," Todd and Ricky sang out in unison.

"Of the universe," Scoota sang out while he Duct taped a section of the cable to some space junk.

Todd and Ricky chuckled with Scoota's change of words to that song.

They moved down the Asteroid for another one hundred feet singing that song while Scoota secured the unreeled cable with Duct tape.

Todd drove the Space Buggy within twenty feet from the rear edge of the Asteroid.

Todd stopped the Space Buggy. Ricky unreeled the remaining cable until the connector end was visible.

They forgot to secure the Space Buggy to some space junk.

Scoota walked and climbed over space junk and got to the Space Buggy.

Ricky handed Scoota the connector end of the cable.

Scoota walked and climbed over space junk to the rear of the Asteroid and ran the cable with connector end to the edge of the Asteroid.

He walked and climbed over space junk to the Space Buggy.

"Let's get the engines out and secure them to some junk," Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky went over to the rear of the buggy and climbed inside.

Inside the rear bed of the space buggy, Ricky unzipped the bag marked "Engine Installer Boom"

and it revealed a boom with two hand cranks. The boom had a wire rope with hook at the end of it. He zipped up the bag and lifted it.

He handed the bag to Scoota who laid it on some space junk.

Todd then grabbed the first engine and lifted it. He handed it over to Scoota who immediately secured it to some space junk.

They repeated this process until all three engines and the installer boom bag were secured to space junk.

Todd looked over at the Moon then he looked around the blackness of outer space. *Where are they?* He wondered to himself and started to have doubts that he could perform this mission to save Earth.

Five minutes had passed and all the supplies were out of the bed of the Space Buggy and secured to some space junk.

“Well, let’s finish this mission,” Scoota said.

Unbeknownst to them, some space junk flew at the Asteroid.

Bam! Space junk slammed into the Asteroid and it violently shook and knocked them on their butts.

They looked around and don't see anything. They stood up.

Another piece of space junk slammed into the Asteroid, and it violently shook again knocking them back on their butts.

They looked around and saw the Space Buggy while it flew off to the rear.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota hurriedly climbed over space junk after the Space Buggy. They got

extremely close to the edge and were almost within reach of it, but it flew over the edge and tumbled down to Earth.

They looked over the edge in horror.

Meanwhile, the Harianne capsule orbited up to the Asteroid.

The Space Buggy tumbled downward and slammed into the capsule.

They both tumbled down to Earth in different directions.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked back to the rocket engines.

“What do we do now?” Ricky asked.

“We install the engines,” Scoota replied.

“Then what? Our Astronauts haven’t returned, and are probably lost in space,” Todd said.

“We walk back to the front and get back inside the Lunar Module,” Scoota responded and walked over to an engine.

“Then what?” Ricky said a little nervous on Scoota’s answer.

“We help your little robot fly this thing away from Earth.”

“And where to?” Todd said.

“My home,” Scoota replied.

“But that’s not our home,” Ricky said and Todd nodded in agreement.

“If we don’t get this thing away, you won’t have a home. Remember how an Asteroid destroyed your dinosaurs?” Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky thought about his reply for a few seconds.

“I can't imagine nobody being around on Earth,” Todd said.

“It's up to us to make sure that doesn't happen!” Ricky added.

Todd nodded in agreement.

“Don't worry, we'll take good care of you on my planet.”

Todd and Ricky looked at Scoota and they felt better. They also thought it would be cool to make a long trip into space, see another planet then return home. Like a real Astronaut!

Back on the Moon, in the workshop cave, two other Moonies, Daa and Doo, each entered with a fuel can in hand. Daa and Doo were not the brightest stars in the universe but the Man in the Moon trusted they could handle filling up the engine with propellant.

They walked over to the Lunar Module descent stage.

“How much fuel do you think they need to get back to Earth,” Daa asked Doo.

Doo thought for a second. “Mmmm, let me see,” he said while he did some figuring in his head.

“Well, the way I figure, the Moon is this far away from Earth on our map,” Doo said while he held out his hands six inches apart.

Daa looked at Doo's hands. “That makes sense to me,” he said then proceeded to pour some propellant into the tank of the engine.

They finished and left the cave with the fuel can in hand.

The Man in the Moon entered the cave with a towing machine and three other Moonies, Raa, Caa,

and Faa. They hooked up at the Magellan capsule and Lunar Module descent stage to the towing machine.

The Man in the Moon towed the capsule out of the cave and went outside to the surface of the Moon.

Back down on Earth in the early morning at Paris, the Eiffel Tower was filled with tons of tourists around the base while they waited for it to open.

The HariAnne capsule fireball zoomed out of the sky at the Eiffel Tower.

This caught the attention of some of the tourists and they glanced up at the sky.

“What’s that?” said a Canadian tourist while he pointed at the fireball.

“Is it a missile?” a German tourist said in German to his wife.

Then all the tourists saw the fireball, and it was coming straight at them. They all soon realized they were in danger and they scattered and screamed.

The fireball zoomed toward the Eiffel Tower.

The fireball impacted the middle section of the Eiffel Tower with a loud kaboom. The Eiffel Tower creaked and started to lean toward the ground.

The tourists were able to run to safety in the nick of time.

The Eiffel Tower slammed into the ground with a loud bang that shook most of Paris.

In Todd’s home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the edge of the couch while they stared at Biff on the TV.

“The French’s HariAnne rocket was launched into space to rescue our young stowaway boys. But

while the French's Harianne capsule was on its way to the Asteroid, an unidentified object, possibly space junk, struck it and the capsule plummeted back down to Earth. There's no hope for rescuing our boys," Biff reported the news.

Tater, Lilly and Christina all fainted on the couch.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose were sprawled out on the couch, out cold after hearing the bad news. On the TV, Biff looked sad.

In Lucy's home, she sat with Betty on the edge of the couch. A tear ran down Lucy's cheek as she stared at the TV.

On the TV, Biff still looked sad.

In the Bullies tree house, Buster, with his small TV in hand, and Rocky walked away from the tree house. They were extremely happy with the bad news they just heard.

"No more nerds!" Buster cried out in joyfully.

Then their eyes widen with fear as it dawned on them.

"Wait. That means. No more us!" Buster said.

They stopped and looked scared to death at the sky.

They saw a fireball while it zoomed out of the sky down directly aimed at them.

They looked scared, and ran as fast as they could to get away.

Buster tripped and his TV flew out of his hand and smashed into a nearby tree.

Rocky left him behind while he made a mad dash to save his own life.

Buster got up and high tailed it away.

The fireball slammed into Bullies tree house and it immediately erupted in a huge fireball.

Buster and Rocky ran home scared to death.

Meanwhile, back on the Moon, the Magellan capsule with Lunar Module Descent stage was installed to the sling shot launcher that used a huge rubber band that was coiled up tight on a reel.

A ramp led to the hatch of the Magellan capsule, and the launcher was aimed upward aimed at Earth.

The cave in the mountain opened up.

Rod, Clint and Lance wore their white space suits that were repaired with their helmets. They followed the Man in the Moon with six other male Moonies all in space suits.

“Being on the Moon is so cool!” Lance said while he looked around the surface of the Moon.

“I can imagine those Apollo Astronauts sure had a blast up here,” Clint added.

“Don’t you know it,” Rod replied.

They walked and bounced over to their capsule. They stopped and stared at this simple launcher.

“I can't believe it. You attached an old Apollo lunar module descent stage to our capsule. This is way too cool!” Lance said.

“And a sling shot for a launcher! Now that’s very creative. Simple yet creative and effective,” Clint added.

“Sometimes the simple things work best. Besides, you’re low on fuel and this will help get you up there. I just hoped we calculated your fuel

consumption correctly,” the Man in the Moon said then stuck out his glove.

The Man In The Moon shook hands with the Astronauts.

“Thanks for helping us,” Lance said.

“Yeah, we would be dead if it wasn’t for you,” Clint said.

Rod nodded in agreement.

“It’s the job of a Moonie,” the Man in the Moon replied then reached in his space suit pocket and removed a black pen device.

“May we have a picture of our new Earth friends?” he said while he pointed the pen device at them.

Those six Moonies bounced away from Rod, Clint and Lance who stood together.

All the Moonies closed their eyes when they saw the pen device being pointed at the Earthlings.

“Like what I told those other Earthlings so many years ago. What happens on the Moon stays on the Moon,” the Man in the Moon said.

“Told those other Earthlings?” Clint said, as he wasn’t sure he understand what he said.

A bright purple flash emitted from pen and Rod, Clint and Lance stood with blank stares on their faces, and they were in eyes wide opened trance.

The Man In The Moon motioned to the six Moonies, who immediately picked up Rod, Clint and Lance and carried them over and walked up the ramp to the capsule’s hatch.

Inside the Magellan capsule, the six Moonies placed Rod, Lance and Clint in their seats and buckled their harnesses.

On the surface of the Moon, one of the Moonies closed and locked the hatch to the Magellan capsule. All six Moonies walked down the ramp and walked over to their leader.

They all walked to the rear of the launcher.

The Man In The Moon moved a lever then the Magellan capsule and Lunar Module piece wooshed up into space toward Earth.

In outer space, the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module piece ascended up away from the Moon.

Back on the surface of the Moon, the Man in the Moon removed another device from his space suit pocket that looked like a TV remote. He aimed it at outer space in the direction the Magellan capsule ascended. He pressed some buttons and typed “Earth” as the destination in the viewfinder.

“Let’s go monitor their travel,” he told the other Moonies.

They all walked back to the cave opening.

In the orbit around the Moon, the Magellan capsule slowly ascended up from outer space.

Then the engine at the rear fired, and the capsule zoomed toward Earth.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance, Rod and Clint sat strapped in their seats out cold in that wide eye trance.

On the surface of the Moon, the Man In The Moon stood by launcher and stared at Earth with the six Moonies.

“I sure would hate to lose that beautiful planet! I hope those Earthling soon learn how precious their planet is and preserve their beautiful home,” the Man in the Moon said.

The six Moonies nodded in agreement.

They walked away to the mountain cave.

Chapter 20

Back on the top of the Asteroid, Ricky, Todd and Scoota had their Duct tape ropes secured to their space suits and the other end secured to space junk.

Ricky watched while Todd and Scoota installed the boom onto some space junk per the instructions on the placard near the boom crank.

The end of the boom with the pulley with the rope and hook was extended over the edge of the Asteroid, and it was a clear shot down.

They also moved the three engines closer to the rear of the Asteroid. The provided ropes were installed to the engines.

Todd connected the hook of the boom to the first engine.

“I need help installing the engines,” Scoota told the boys.

Todd and Ricky looked at each other to see who would volunteer.

“I think you should go,” Ricky told Todd.

Todd looked at the engines then at the rear of the Asteroid. He suddenly looked unsure of himself. “What if I mess this up? Just like I did in Space Camp,” Todd said with a nervous tone.

“I’m not good with putting things together. You are. And so what you had a tough time in Space Camp. I know you can pull this off,” Ricky said.

Todd still looked extremely nervous for a few seconds. He thought about everything that had happened. He got brave again when he saw Earth down below.

Todd patted Ricky on his shoulder. “We don’t have a choice. I’ll do it.”

Ricky patted Todd on his shoulder.

“Let’s finish this mission,” Scoota said.

Ricky handed Scoota the toolbox.

Scoota wrapped the belt of the toolbox around his waist with the special belt attached.

Todd and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk to the edge of the Asteroid.

The two climbed down the rear of the Asteroid with Duct tape rope trailing.

Ricky looked at the edge of the Asteroid. Todd and Scoota were out of sight.

He looked around. He suddenly felt so alone, like he was the only human left in the universe.

Ricky waited for twenty minutes.

“Okay Ricky, you can pass down the first engine,” Todd said over the intercom.

Ricky walked over to the crank of the boom. He read the instructions on the placard.

He used the “Lower” hand crank and cranked the rope and hook down.

He grabbed the engine with “1” marked on it. He connected the hook of the boom to the hook of the engine rope.

He used the “Extend Boom” hand crank and cranked the boom until it extended out over the edge of the Asteroid. The engine now had a clear path downward.

He hand cranked the “Lower” crank and the engine lowered down the rear of the Asteroid. The engine was soon out of sight while Ricky continued to crank the engine downward.

At the middle of the rear of the Asteroid, the engine slowly lowered to Todd and Scoota who clung onto space junk.

Todd grabbed the engine. “We have it, Ricky,” Todd said from the radio net.

Todd and Scoota read the placard on the engine that contained the installation instructions.

Scoota opened up the toolbox and removed two special wrenches.

At the top of the Asteroid, Ricky waited on a piece of space junk. He stared at the Moon and wondered what happened to the three Astronauts. His eyes welled up at the thought they would be lost forever.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd held the rocket engine in place while Scoota used the special wrench and installed it to a piece of space junk with the special hardware.

Down at Earth in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sipped some hot cocoa with marshmallows while he sat at his desk. He looked at his phone and waited for it to ring with some updated news. He silently prayed for some good news for once.

At Todd’s home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the couch and watched the TV.

“There’s no updates about our stowaway boys and the Asteroid,” Biff reported from the newsroom.

Tater, Lilly and Christina looked worried to death. Lilly sobbed, and Tater comforted her.

Christina turned away to hide the fact that her eyes welled up being worried about her brother.

At Ricky's home, Louie and Rose sat on the couch and stared at Biff on the TV. They looked worried about the lack of news update about the boys.

At Lucy's home, she sat with Betty on the floor in front of the TV. They looked worried to death about the lack of news update about the boys.

At Buster's home, Buster and Rocky crouched down by his bedroom window. They stared out his bedroom window and stared at the sky. They looked scared to death of another fireball coming after them.

Over at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson sat at his console and watched over his radar screen. The screen showed the "Asteroid 19, 587 Miles Per Hour - 175 Miles From Earth – Not Long Until Death And Destruction" message.

"Wilbur, the Asteroid is one hundred and seventy-five miles away," Johnson screamed out.

Wilbur ran to Johnson's console with his bottle of Maalox, and he quickly stared at the radar screen. He took a big gulp of Maalox while he grabbed the phone on the console, and made a call.

In Richard's office in NASA Headquarters, Richard twiddled his thumbs while he waited for some news.

His desk phone rang, and he quickly answered. "Richard here."

"It's Wilbur. We're showing the Asteroid is one hundred and seventy-five miles away."

"Any indication on where my lost Astronauts might be at this moment?" Richard asked over the phone.

"No sir we still don't have a clue where they located. Sorry," Wilbur replied from the phone.

Richard hung up the phone and looked worried sick.

Up on the Moon, an antenna with a satellite dish poked up from a mountain peak. The satellite dish turned and pointed at Earth.

Inside the Moon there was a control cave inside the mountain. There was a large console with a radar screen and numerous high tech computers and tons of gages, knobs, dials and switches. In that control cave, the Man in the Moon stood behind Taa and Raa while they adjusted their radio portion of the console.

"We got a lock in on the Earthlings," Taa told the Man in the Moon.

"Good, let me know as soon as they safely arrive home," the Man in the Moon said.

"Yes sir," Taa replied.

The Man in the Moon left the control cave.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd removed the hook from the engine.

At the top of the Asteroid, things were going great with the installation of the engines.

“We need the second engine,” Todd told Ricky from the intercom.

Ricky got up and used the “Raise” hand crank and raised the rope and hook back up to the top of the Asteroid.

He used the “Boom Retract” hand crank and moved the rope and hook back to him. The rope and hook soon arrived back to Ricky and he immediately connected it to the second engine.

“Engine number two is on its way,” Ricky told them from the intercom.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd and Scoota looked up and saw the second engine slowly being lowered.

Ten minutes later, the engine arrived.

Todd held the second engine in place while Scoota used the special wrench and hardware and installed it to a piece of space junk.

At the top of the Asteroid, Ricky waited another twenty minutes.

“We need the last engine,” Todd told Ricky from the radio net.

Ricky hand cranked the “Lower” crank and lowered the third engine down the rear of the Asteroid.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd and Scoota dangled from a piece of space junk. They both looked at their boots and saw Earth below.

“If my calculations are correct, I believe the Earth is getting closer. I’m thinking this Asteroid is slowly falling out of its orbit,” Scoota said.

Todd looked at Earth below his boots and saw Florida. His eyes welled up missing home. He even missed his sister Christina.

“Well, let’s hurry up and get this thing out of here,” Todd replied knowing he’ll never see home again.

They both looked up and saw the third engine five feet above their heads.

Todd grabbed the engine. “We got it, Ricky,” he said from his intercom.

Todd held the engine while Scoota used the special wrench and hardware and installed it to some space junk.

Back down on Earth in Memphis, Tennessee, out in front of a TV store, a large crowd of people gathered at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth Soon” message.

The “No Update Available” message also appeared on the screen.

Peter Peabody, nerdy scientist around sixty years old appeared on the Disaster Channel. “Okay viewers, in case you’re wondering what will happen. Here’s the scenario. First there will be an initial blast with an estimated force of millions of tons of TNT

when the Asteroid smacks into Earth,” Peabody said on the Disaster Channel.

People looked stunned with the realization they will be extinct.

In Madrid, Spain, out in front of a TV store, a large crowd of people gathered at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth Soon” message.

The “No Update Available” message also appeared while they watched Peabody give his lecture. “Then there could be large fires started by the intense shock wave. Then there will be trillions of tons of dust, gases and water vapor thrown into the atmosphere. Then many enormous tidal waves will be started. Then a chain reaction of earthquakes and volcanic action will start and cause very high winds,” Peabody said from the Disaster Channel.

People looked stunned with the realization they will be extinct.

In Singapore, out in front of a TV store, a large crowd of people gathered at the windows and watched the TVs. They watched the Disaster Channel, which showed a picture of Earth with the “Asteroid To Impact Earth Soon” message.

The “No Update Available” message appeared while they watched Peabody give his lecture. “These high winds will carry the cloud of debris will be carried over large distances by the high winds. Meaning we will die just like what the dinosaurs did millions of years ago,” Peabody said from the Disaster Channel then walked away.

People looked stunned with the realization they will be extinct.

On the top of the Asteroid, Ricky waited by the connector end of the cable.

“We’re ready for the cable,” Todd said from the radio net.

Ricky connected the hook to the connector of the cable. He hand cranked and extended the boom out over the edge of the Asteroid. He cranked the cable downward toward Todd.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd waited by the first engine. He looked upward and saw the cable while the connector slowly move down toward him.

He grabbed the connector. “I got it,” Todd told Ricky into the radio net.

Todd connected the cable to the electrical connector to the electrical panel of the first engine.

Scoota climbed up to the engine. He opened up the electrical panel on the engine and removed a smaller cable with a connector.

He climbed down to the second engine with that connector in hand. He routed the wire and connector to the electrical panel on that engine. He mated the connector to the connector on the panel.

Todd and Scoota moved over to the third engine.

At the top of the Asteroid, Ricky waited on a piece of space junk and stared out at outer space. *I wonder if Scoota’s home planet is one of those stars?* Ricky thought to himself.

“We’re done and on our way back up,” Todd told Ricky from the intercom.

In the Magellan capsule way off in space between Earth and the Moon, Rod, Lance and Clint were still out cold in their seats while the capsule zoomed back toward Earth.

At the rear of the Asteroid, Todd and Scoota looked proud of their accomplishment.

“Let’s go back up,” Scoota told Todd.

They climbed up the piece of space junk like they were rock wall climbing.

Chapter 21

At the top of the Asteroid, thirty minutes had passed.

Todd and Scoota climbed up from the rear and stood on a piece of space junk.

“We're done. Now what?” Ricky asked.

“We walk all the way to the front and hopefully get there in time to fly this out of here and back home,” Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky looked homesick while they stared out into space.

“But it's not our home,” Todd said.

Scoota looked sad. “I know, but we'll be your new family,” Scoota said with a smile and placed an arm around Todd and Ricky. Deep inside he wanted his new Earth friends to live with him on his planet. He was afraid that if they sent a ship back to Earth with Todd and Ricky the ship might get shot down by the Earthlings.

Scoota looked out in space toward the Moon. “I guess your Astronaut friends are lost forever.” Then he remembered something and opened up one of his suit pockets. He removed his Space Pad, and he punched in a number. “Come in Rescue Ship. This is Scoota. Where are you located? I need you now. It's me, Junior Grade Space Knight Scoota,” Scoota said into his Space Pad.

Inside the Stardonia Spacecraft Tow Ship, Biggka and Redka relaxed inside their ship. Biggka reached up and pressed a button in their OSPS. “You

are eight hundred and eighty six million miles from your destination. The Saturn planet is now to your right,” the female voice from the OSPS said. Biggka and Redka looked out their windows and saw Saturn and looked in awe at the colorful and beautiful rings.

“Come in Rescue Ship. This is Scoota. Where are you located? I need you now. It’s me Junior Grade Space Knight Scoota,” his voice came across the speakers.

“Should we answer Scoota?” Redka asked.

Biggka thought for a second. “No. Remember that time when he got stranded on Crayolaian?”

Redka thought for a few seconds then chuckled. “Oh yeah. He forgot to fuel up his Fighter ship before he left home.”

“We’ll let him sweat this one out,” Biggka said.

Redka smiled and nodded in agreement.

On the top of the Asteroid, Scoota waited and looked at his Space Pad for a response. He looked worried while he shoved his Space Pad back in his pocket in his space suit.

“Let’s head back to the front,” Scoota told Todd and Ricky.

They walked and climbed over space junk toward the front of the Asteroid.

In outer space above Earth, numerous pieces of space junk bounced off the Asteroid and tumbled down to Earth. It was a shower of debris.

Down at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, the “Doomsday Is Pending” sign

hung on wall. Everybody could have left, but they decided to stay and prayed for a miracle.

Johnson sat at his console and looked at his radar screen. The screen showed an arc from the Asteroid down to Earth. The digital displays all flashed the "Asteroid 19,982 Miles Per Hour - 136 Miles Away, Mankind Is Doomed!" message across the screen.

Johnson reached under his console. He grabbed his own bottle of Maalox; he opened it and took a huge swig.

Inside the oval office of the White House on the TVs, all the leaders of the world looked scared to death.

President Barnaby sat at his desk.

"My Eiffel tower was destroyed. My beautiful and tall Eiffel tower!" the French President cried then wiped a tear from his eye then he sobbed from his TV.

From the Russian TV, the Russian President slammed his fist down, red faced furious. "We cannot wait!" He looked over to his side. "That Asteroid is now 135 miles away and traveling at 19,982 miles per hour. I say we nuke it and we nuke it now!" he screamed out.

"I will have more missiles ready by tomorrow!" the Chinese President yelled out from his TV.

On the TVs, all the leaders of the world cheered in agreement.

"But you'll kill my boys!" President Barnaby cried out in protest and got up from his desk and rushed over to the TVs.

“We don't know if they completed your mission. We don't have a choice. We must nuke!” the Chinese President added from his TV.

“That's right. We don't have a choice. I'm hearing that the sky is raining debris as we speak. Go nuke!” the Italian President added.

“Nuke! Nuke! Nuke!” all the world leaders chanted on the TVs. Then the TVs went blank when the world leaders turned off their transmissions.

President Barnaby got furious and didn't know how he would tell the Americans that those boys will soon be blown up.

In Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat in a family hug on the couch. They stared at the TV in fear when they watched the Channel 9 News.

“We have a major development. The Russians and Chinese are now going to nuke the Asteroid since the boys have not completed their mission. Sorry stowaways,” Biff reported from the TV.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose hugged each other on the couch in fear after they heard the news about the Chinese and Russians from Biff on the TV.

In Lucy's home, she hugged Betty on the couch in fear after they heard the news about the Chinese and Russians from Biff on the TV.

In the woods, Rocky and Buster knelt down on the ground and sobbed while they stared at their black charred and smoldering tree house.

“Our tree house is gone,” Buster cried out loud.

“Our home!” Rocky cried out loud.

In a neighborhood in St. Louis, Missouri, people frantically packed their cars with as many belongings as they could shove into their trunks.

Then a fireball zoomed down from the sky.

“Look!” a man yelled out and pointed at the sky and the fireball.

Everybody in the neighborhood looked and saw the fireball in the sky. Then there was an explosion and the ground vibrated when it hit the ground a mile away.

They panicked and rushed into their cars. They started up their cars and screeched down their driveways. They immediately drove off, and some of them crashed into each other.

Interstate 70 was packed with cars that were leaving the city.

Interstate 55 was also packed with cars that were leaving the city.

In the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, thousands and thousands of cars jammed the roads that led to the mountains while fireballs of space junk race out of the sky and explode in the valleys.

In a church in the bible belt of America, there was a "Doomsday Coming Soon – Let's Pray" sign outside a church. There's a long line of people that waited to get inside.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, it was daytime and Interstate 40 was jammed packed while everybody leaves the city and head to the mountains to the East.

At a park in Seattle, Washington, hundreds of people gather around in a huge circle and hold hands.

“Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya. Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya,” the crowd of people all sang out in unison while they stared at the sky and saw fireballs that zoomed out of the sky.

In the far away galaxy on the planet Stardonia, Litta sat in her home with her Space Pad in her hand. She stared at the screen while she waited for Scoota to call that he was on his way home. She pressed another button her Space Pad and a hologram photo of Scoota and her on that beach planet appeared. Her eyes welled up missing him terribly.

Up in space above Earth, the Space Spy Agencies Peek A Boo We See You satellite transmitted data back down to the secret location in Colorado.

The Asteroid of space junk flew in the same orbit as that satellite.

The Asteroid headed straight at the Peek A Boo Wee See You satellite. The satellite smacked into and ricocheted off the Asteroid.

The Peek A Boo satellite soared down to Earth.

Inside the Space Spy Agency’s Peek A Boo room, Johnson sat at his console and sipped on is freshly made cup of green tea. He looked at his radar screen, and it went blank. Then he had a “Transmission Lost” error message flash across his screen. Then alarms on all the consoles in the room sounded.

“Wilbur!” Johnson screamed out in a panic.

Wilbur ran over Johnson’s console with his bottle of Maalox in his hand.

“What now?” Wilbur asked while he opened up his bottle of Maalox.

Johnson pointed at his radar screen, which still flashed the “Transmission Lost” message.

Wilbur looked at his Maalox bottle. He pondered if he should gulp down the entire contents.

He threw the Maalox bottle into the trash can, and he decided to go cold turkey.

He picked up the phone on Johnson’s console and made a call.

“Richard, we have some more bad news,” Wilbur said into the phone.

In Richard’s office in NASA Headquarters, Richard sat at his desk while he took Wilbur’s phone call.

“Lost transmission? Can you restore it?” Richard asked into the phone.

“We believe the Asteroid or a piece of space junk hit our satellite. But we do have another satellite up there as a backup that we can activate,” Wilbur responded from the phone.

“Get it operational now!” Richard ordered then hung up his phone.

Richard got up from his desk and stared out his office window. His eyes welled up thinking that his world as he knew and loved would soon be gone.

In the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo room, Johnson quickly moved to another console with Wilbur. They turned on the “You Can Run But You

Can't Hide" console. He flipped a bunch of switches and turned some knobs.

Up in space above Earth, the You Can Run But You Can't Hide spy satellite was all closed up. Then it hummed while it was being energized from Earth.

Then the antenna on the satellite unfolded and became alive and was pointed down at Earth.

In the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo room, Johnson sat at the new console and turned some knobs and dials while he adjusted the radar screen. The Asteroid, Earth and the Moon were once again green blobs. Then the "Asteroid 20, 329 Miles Per Hour - 118 Miles Away – Death And Destruction Coming!" message flashed on the screen.

In the Black Hills of South Dakota, Mount Rushmore looked deserted as it was closed down due to the pending disaster. There were a few Park Rangers who were making the final closure arrangements of the park.

A fireball zoomed out of the sky that was the Peek A Boo satellite.

The Park Rangers saw the fireball and knew they could be in danger, and they skedaddled.

The fireball zoomed at Mount Rushmore. It didn't take it long before it smashed into the mountain carvings between Thomas Jefferson and Teddy Roosevelt. Pieces of rock rained on the area below the carvings, and half of Mount Rushmore was gone.

At the top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk while they headed back to the front of the Asteroid.

The Asteroid slammed into a cell phone communications satellite. The Asteroid shook and Todd, Ricky and Scoota fell on their butts.

The cell phone satellite dropped out of its orbit and plummeted down to Earth.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota got back up right.

The Asteroid slammed into a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS).

That GPS satellite dropped out of its orbit and plummeted down to Earth.

Back down on Earth in Atlanta, Georgia, a woman walked down the sidewalk in the middle of Atlanta talking into her cell phone.

“And then Bob called me...” she stopped and looked confused at her cell phone.

She saw the “Service Unavailable” message in the viewfinder.

She looked around and there were about twenty other people who also lost service to their cell phones.

They all looked like they were having withdrawal symptoms of not having the use of a cell phone.

In Stockholm, Sweden, everybody around town looked lost when they didn't have use of their cell phones.

In Honolulu, Hawaii, everybody on the beach looked lost when they didn't have use of their cell phones. A couple of women and men panicked.

All across America, thousands of drivers were now lost when their GPS devices stopped providing directions. They didn't have a clue on how to get to their destinations and they didn't have an old fashion map as a backup.

In Bavaria, Germany, it was quiet at the Neuschwanstein castle, as it was closed to the tourists due to the pending disaster. Two maintenance men were working to close up the castle.

A fireball zoomed out of the sky.

A maintenance man worked outside the castle with his partner. He saw the fireball.

"What's that?" the main said to his partner who then looked up at the sky.

"I don't know but it doesn't look friendly," he replied while they stared at the fireball.

They both looked extremely nervous.

"I think it's heading right at us," the maintenance man said.

"I think you're right," his partner said then they ran away from the castle.

The fireball slammed into the Neuschwanstein castle and it exploded.

On the top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota trekked across space junk, and headed toward the front of the Asteroid.

Chapter 22

In outer space between Earth and the Moon, the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module zoomed toward Earth.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance, Rod and Clint sat in their seats still out cold.

“Magellan five. This is Mission Control. Come in Magellan five,” Kara called out from the speakers.

Lance, Rod and Clint did not wake up.

Down on Earth, at the secret military base in Russia, alarms and sirens blared while nuclear missiles moved out of the ground and got into position from their silos.

In the field in the middle of China, three new missile trucks arrived in the field yesterday. They parked near the other trucks that previously launched their missiles.

Alarms and sirens blared while Chinese Soldiers rushed out of the nearby tents and raced to the new missile trucks.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby anxiously waited at his desk for his phone to ring with updated information.

It finally rang and he quickly snatched the receiver off the phone. “President Barnaby,” he quickly blurted into the phone.

“Mister President. This is General Hower, we just learned that the Chinese and Russians have some new nuclear missiles ready to be launched,” he said from the phone.

President Barnaby thought for a second then got mad. “Get our nuclear missiles ready to fire,” he ordered.

“Yes sir! Just give me the go ahead and I’ll fire the babies in a heartbeat!” the General excitedly replied inching to blow something up.

“Get them ready and stand by,” President Barnaby said.

“Yes Mister President,” said General Hower dancing for joy inside.

President Barnaby hung up his phone and slammed down his fist mad off with the Chinese and Russians.

Up on the top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk. The front of the Asteroid was still a long way off, and it looked hopeless plus they were exhausted.

“Can we take a nap?” Todd asked after a long yawn. “I’m really exhausted.”

Scoota and Ricky yawned. “That sounds good,” Scoota replied.

Scoota, Ricky and Todd found secure spots in between some space junk. They closed their eyes and were soon asleep.

Back down on Earth in a secret military base in America, alarms and sirens blared while nuclear missiles rose out of their silos.

In the secret military base in Russia, alarms and sirens still blared while nuclear missiles got into their final launch position from the silos.

Inside the Russian military base control room, the soldiers configured the consoles to fire the missiles.

“All missile systems are ready to be fired,” a male Russian soldier called out into a microphone, in Russian, while four Russian Generals watched over his shoulders.

In the field in the middle of China, alarms and sirens blared from the missile trucks and the Chinese soldiers raced back to the tents for cover.

A truck with a trailer drove into the field, and it was the control room.

The General got out of his tent, saw the truck, and he walked over it.

Inside the Chinese missile truck control room, four Chinese soldiers turned on the console and it soon lit up. They turned knobs, flipped switches and typed on computer keyboards.

The General entered the trailer.

“Are we ready?” he asked.

“Yes sir!” one of the soldiers snapped back.

“Good, we’ll wait for our orders,” the General said with a smile.

Up in space in the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module, Lance, Rod and Clint sat passed out, but they stirred a little.

“Magellan five, this is Mission Control. Come in Magellan five,” Kara cried out over the speakers.

Clint, Todd and Lance woke up in a daze.

“Magellan five, this is Mission Control. Come in Magellan five,” Kara cried out again from the speakers.

It dawned on them they were alive when they heard Kara’s words over the speaker.

Lance quickly released his straps and rushed over to the microphone. “Mission Control, this is Magellan five. We’re alive! I repeat,” Lance cried out into the microphone.

Down at Mission Control, Kara stared at her console in disbelief. *Did I hear correctly?* She thought to herself.

“Mission Control, this is Magellan five. We’re alive!” Lance cried out again from the speakers in the room.

All the controllers jumped up and the room erupted in cheers.

“You’re alive! What happened?” Kara asked into her microphone.

Up in space in the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module, Lance scratched his head totally confused while Rod and Clint looked baffled.

“We don’t know. All I remember is something hitting our capsule. Then we woke up on the Moon. Now we’re off the Moon somehow,” Lance said into his microphone.

“You what?” Kara asked in disbelief then there was a long pause. “Have you been drinking? Did

you sneak some booze in your capsule?” Kara asked from her microphone.

“No way!” Clint said while he grabbed the microphone.

“Where are you?”

Lance, Rod and Clint quickly looked out the windows.

“We’re back in space and headed to the Asteroid,” Lance said.

At the Mission Control, Howard grabbed the phone from Kara’s console and made a call.

“Richard, Howard here at Mission Control. We’ve established contact with the Magellan five capsule. Our Astronauts are safe and sound. They’re heading back to the Asteroid,” Howard said into the phone.

At Richard’s office in NASA Headquarters, he talked into the phone at his desk. “That’s fantastic!” Richard said. “Where did they go?”

“You won’t believe this. They claim that they woke up on the Moon then they somehow got off it, and are now on their way back to the Asteroid,” Howard said.

“Did I hear you correctly?” Richard asked, as this sounded really bizarre.

“That’s what they claim.”

“They must have hit their heads. Who cares, as long as they’re on their way back. That’s what’s really important,” Richard said. “Thanks for the update,” he added then quickly hung up this phone.

He stood up and danced around a little while he made another phone call.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby drank a cup of hot cocoa with marshmallows at his desk while he sat depressed that the stowaway boys will soon be blown to smithereens.

He phone rang and he answered it. "President Barnaby."

"Mister President. We've established contact with the Magellan Capsule. The Astronauts are alive and heading back to the Asteroid," Richard cried out in one breath.

President Barnaby slammed the phone down and quickly picked up the remote. He pressed two buttons and on the wall of TVs, the Chinese and Russian President appeared.

"We will fire our missiles any minute now," the Russian President said from his TV.

"We also fire our missiles any minute now," the Chinese President said from his TV.

President Barnaby jumped up from his desk and ran over to the wall of TVs.

"Stop! My Astronauts are alive and will be back at the Asteroid. They'll finish the job," President Barnaby cried out.

"Sorry. We can't take that chance," the Russian President said from his TV.

"We can't take chance either," the Chinese President said from his TV.

The Russian and Chinese Presidents looked at their computer screens.

Another TV came on by itself and the German Chancellor was visible and he was mad. "I just had half of my precious Neuschwanstein castle destroyed

by some space junk. Poor Ludwig must be rolling over in his grave,” he yelled out from his TV.

“We’re going to nuke the Asteroid now,” the Chinese President said from his TV.

“Good! Nuke it now!” the German Chancellor added from his TV.

“Twenty, nineteen, eighteen, seventeen...” both the Chinese and President called out in unison.

President Barnaby ran back over to his desk. He picked up his red phone.

“General, fire our nuclear missiles at Moscow and Beijing in one minute,” President Barnaby ordered.

The Chinese and Russian Presidents looked concerned when they heard his order. They typed on their computers and saw on their monitors that our nuclear missiles were out of their silos and appeared ready to be launched.

From the wall of TVs, President Barnaby watched while the Chinese and Russian Presidents quickly picked up their red phones.

“Stop the missile launch!” the Russian President yelled into his red phone.

“Stop missiles!” the Chinese President yelled into his red phone.

President Barnaby sat down at his desk relieved. “Thank you,” he said.

“If they don’t get rid of that Asteroid, we will still fire missiles,” the Chinese President said from his TV.

“Same here,” the Russian President added from his TV.

President Barnaby turned off the TVs with his remote.

He stood up and looked out is window. *I hope they succeed.* He thought to himself while he looked outside.

Chapter 23

In outer space by Jupiter, the Stardonia Tow Ship zoomed in space toward Jupiter.

Inside the Tow Ship, Redka pressed a button on the OSPS.

“You are four hundred and eighty four million miles from your destination. Keep flying past the Jupiter planet, which is to your left,” the female voice emitted from the OSPS.

Biggka and Redka looked out their window and saw Jupiter and the Europa Moon.

On top of the Asteroid, twenty minutes had passed and Todd, Ricky and Scoota woke up. They looked around and saw it was still a long haul back to the front of the Asteroid.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota got up and walked and climbed over space junk.

“Hey boys, are you alright?” Lance called out from the radio net.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota stopped and looked out toward the Moon.

“Is this the Astronauts?” Todd asked.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota stopped and looked around for the Magellan capsule.

“It’s us. Rod, Lance and Clint,” Clint replied from the radio net.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota jumped up and down for joy. “Where are you?” Todd asked.

“Oh I’d say were about fifty thousand miles away,” Lance replied from the radio net.

“Did you say fifty thousand miles away?” Ricky said.

“Yeah, give or take a few thousand,” Rod added.

“Where did you go?” Todd asked.

There was a few seconds of silence. “We don’t know. We woke up and somehow, got turned around,” Clint said.

“Who cares since you’re on your way back,” Ricky added.

“And Scoota and I installed the engines all my ourselves,” Todd bragged.

“But something smacked into the Asteroid and we lost the Space Buggy,” Scoota added.

“Where are you now?” Clint asked.

“We’re walking back to the front of the Asteroid,” Todd said.

“Very good. We’ll meet you at the Lunar Module,” Rod said.

“We’re going home!” Todd said while he jumped up and down all excited.

Ricky joined him.

“Come on guys, we still need to hurry up, and get to the front,” Scoota said then he walked and climbed over space junk.

Ricky and Todd stopped jumping up and down and they walked and climbed over space junk and followed Scoota.

In outer space between the Moon and Earth, the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module zoomed toward Earth.

The engine sputtered, and the capsule slowed down. The engine sputtered some more, and the capsule stopped.

Inside the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module, Rod, Clint and Lance looked baffled when they realized their engine quit. Lance flipped switches on the console. Rod turned knobs on the console, and the engine didn't fire. Then Clint looked at the fuel gage, and he tapped on it.

"We ran out of fuel," he said while he tapped on the fuel gage again.

Rod and Lance looked at the gage and couldn't believe their bad luck.

"Mission Control will have a field day with this one," Rod said.

Clint and Lance nodded in agreement.

On top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota continued walking across space junk.

"Okay boys, we have another problem," Clint said from the communications net.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota stopped walking. "What's wrong?" Todd asked.

There was a moment of silence. "Well, it appears we have run out of fuel," Rod said.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota looked like they wanted to cry at any moment.

"What do we do now?" Ricky asked while he held back his tears.

Scoota looked at the boys. "We have to complete the mission alone," Scoota added.

Todd and Ricky looked depressed.

“We’re sorry boys. But we know you can finish saving Earth,” Lance said.

“How will we get back home?” Ricky asked.

There was a few seconds of dreadful silence.

“I really don’t know how that can happen now,” Lance said.

“We’ll never be able to go home?” Todd asked.

There was another few seconds of silence.

“Sorry boys. But we’re also in the same boat. We’ll never get back home either,” Clint said over the radio net while he fought to show he was about to bust into tears.

Todd and Ricky looked homesick and Scoota noticed.

“Don’t worry my friends. You’ll be taken care of on Stardonia after my rescue ship shows up. Just think of all the different galaxies you’ll get to see,” Scoota said while he placed an arm around Todd and Ricky.

Todd and Ricky looked down at Earth and still wanted to go home. But came to the realization that would never happen, and knew they didn’t have a choice.

It took a few seconds. “A rescue ship. Did you say rescue ship?” asked Lance from the radio net.

“Yes.”

They walked and climbed over space junk to the front of the Asteroid.

In outer space between the Moon and Earth, inside the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module, Rod, Lance and Clint looked worried.

“Okay, who will break the news to Mission Control?” Clint asked.

“How do we tell them that another Alien spaceship will come rescue us?” said Rod.

“We don’t. They’ll think we’re loony,” said Clint.

Rod and Lance looked at each other. “Since you’re the highest ranking one here, you should have the honors, Clint,” Lance said.

Clint frowned, as he was not looking forward to this call. He floated over to the microphone.

“Mission Control, this is Magellan five.”

A few seconds passed. “Magellan five, this is Mission Control,” Kara said from the speakers.

“Ah yeah. Mission Control, we have another problem,” Clint said with some hesitation.

There was a long moment of silence on the communications net. “Now what?” Kara replied with a frustrated tone.

“We ran out of fuel,” Clint confessed.

There was a few seconds of silence. “That’s just great,” Kara responded, and waited a few seconds.

“I guess you’ll just drift back to Earth, and arrive after mankind has been destroyed,” Kara added a little mad.

“We talked with the boys and the Alien. They installed the engines on the Asteroid and are heading back to the Lunar Module. I guess they’ll have to fly it out of Earth’s orbit,” Lance said.

“Understand,” Kara said then turned off their communications.

Back on Earth at Mission Control, Kara ran her hands through her hair in frustration. “Howard,” she yelled out.

A few seconds later, Howard rushed over to her console. “What’s going on?” he asked and knew this wasn’t going to be good news.

“The Magellan capsule ran out of fuel. They’re drifting between Earth and the Moon,” Kara told him.

Howard ran his hand through his hair in frustration. He picked up the phone on Kara’s console and called Richard.

On the Moon inside the control cave in the Mountain, Raa and Taa monitored the radio transmissions from the console.

“Well, it appears we have run out of fuel,” Rod’s message to the stowaways came across the radio waves.

Raa and Taa looked concerned. “Run and get the Man,” Taa told Raa.

Raa got up from the console and ran out of the cave.

Four minutes later, the Man in the Moon ran into the cave and up to the console.

“Ah yeah. Mission Control, we have another problem,” Clint said with some hesitation. There was a long moment of silence on the radio transmission. “Now what?” Kara replied with a frustrated tone. “We ran out of fuel,” Clint confessed as his radio transmission replayed on the Moon.

The Man in the Moon looked baffled. “Who filled up their fuel tanks?” he asked.

Taa and Raa looked at each other then rolled their eyes. “Daa and Doo,” Taa replied.

The Man in the Moon rolled his eyes displeased, as he knew those two messed up. “Okay, let’s get out

the refueling ship ready to save them again,” the Man in the Moon replied.

Taa and Raa jumped up from their seats and ran out of the cave.

The Man in the Moon walked out of the cave.

Off in outer space the Stardonia Tow Ship zoomed between Jupiter and Mars.

Down on Earth in the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sat at his desk and talked into his phone.

“They ran out of fuel, Richard?” he said into the phone.

“Yes sir. They’re drifting between the Moon and Earth,” Richard said from the phone.

“And the boys and that Alien?”

“Up on the Asteroid. They apparently installed the engines and are heading back to the Lunar Module to fly the Asteroid out of orbit,” Richard said over the phone.

“I hope they fly the Asteroid out of orbit before the Russians and Chinese blow it up with their nukes.” President Barnaby said. Then he pondered for a few seconds. “Keep this a secret. We can’t afford for the news media to catch wind of this,” President Barnaby told Richard then hung up the phone.

President Barnaby got up from his desk and looked out his window. His eyes welled up at the thought of those two boys not surviving. But then he realized that if they do not survive, mankind would not survive.

Up on top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk.

Scoota's eyes widen when he thought of an idea. He immediately removed his Space Pad and punched in a phone number.

Up on the surface of the Moon, the Moonies refueled their spaceship on the surface. It was another saucer shaped space ship with a bubble canopy just like the one the Astronauts toured but larger to hold a refueling tank. The Man in the Moon walked up with Taa and Raa in their space suits. They got inside the ship, and the engine started up with a whine.

The ship slowly lifted off the surface of the Moon. It zoomed away toward Earth.

Near Mars inside the tow ship, Biggka and Redka relaxed and glanced out the windows and watched while their ship approached Mars.

"Scoota reporting. Help is immediately needed. I repeat. I need help!" Scoota's voice came over the speakers.

"Should we answer him?" Redka asked.

"Come in tow ship. We are in danger and need your help," Scoota pleaded.

Biggka sat straight up. "We have to now that he said he's in danger. A Space Knight can never ignore a fellow knight in danger," Biggka replied then he pressed the "Transmit" button on the console.

"Junior Grade Knight Scoota, this is Medium Grade Knight Biggka. We heard your transmission for help. Please provide us details."

“I’m on an Asteroid of space junk that’s orbiting Earth. I’m with two young Earthlings and our Astronauts space ship got hit by space junk and is on the way back. Their capsule ran out of fuel. I need you to refuel them and then help these young Earthlings get off this Asteroid.”

“Copy your dilemma Scoota,” Biggka replied.

“I also promised the Earthling that I would fly this Asteroid out of here. Otherwise, it will impact Earth and destroy it,” Scoota added.

“I’m impressed Scoota. We thought you were just joy riding around the universe. We didn’t know you were saving a planet,” Redka said.

On top of the Asteroid, Todd and Ricky looked in awe at Scoota’s Space Pad when they saw the hologram of Biggka and Redka in the tow ship.

“You know, the work of a Stardonia Space Knight is never done,” Scoota fibbed a little, and didn’t want to tell them that he caused the formation of the Asteroid.

“We’re on our way, Scoota,” Biggka’s hologram replied then it disappeared.

“Let’s keep on going,” Scoota said.

They walked and climbed over space junk and head to the front of the Asteroid.

At the orbit around the Moon, the Moonies refueling ship zoomed away and headed toward Earth.

In outer space between Mars and Earth, the Stardonia tow ship zoomed toward Earth.

In the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module, Clint, Rod and Lance frantically flipped switches, turned knobs and dials to see if the engine would start. It was worth the try and it kept them busy.

Chapter 24

Down on Earth in North Pole, Alaska, people stood outside and stared at the sky for signs that the Asteroid was coming to do them all in forever.

In Dublin, Ireland, people stood outside and stared at the sky for signs that the Asteroid was coming to end their lives.

In Bangladesh, people stood outside and stared at the sky for signs that the Asteroid was coming for the end of mankind.

In the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, there was a cot with a blanket and pillow by Johnson's console, as he never left since this Asteroid incident started.

At his console, Johnson tapped his fingers while he monitored his radar screen, which showed Earth, the Asteroid, a small blob for the Magellan capsule and the Moon.

Then another small blob moved from the Moon zooming after the Magellan capsule.

Johnson did a double take and stared at it for a few seconds, and then he realized this other object was for real.

"Wilbur!" Johnson screamed.

Wilbur ran over to Johnson's console with his bottle of Maalox. "What now?" he said then gulp down some of his antacid.

“Something is racing after the Magellan capsule,” he replied while he pointed at his radar screen.

Wilbur rubbed his eyes to make sure he wasn't seeing things, and then he looked a little shocked. “Could that be an Alien space ship?” Wilbur asked.

“That's what I'm thinking.”

Wilbur picked up the phone on Johnson's console and made a call.

In Richard's office in NASA Headquarters, he sat at his desk and sipped on a cup of coffee. There was also a blanket and pillow on the couch in his office, as he has not left the building either since this Asteroid incident started. His phone rang and he answered. “Richard.”

“Wilbur here. We have a strange development.”

Richard cringed, as he knew he wasn't going to enjoy this news. “What now?” he said.

“Well, it appears there might be an Alien spaceship heading to our stranded Magellan capsule,” Wilbur replied.

Richard rubbed his ear to make sure he didn't have a blocked ear. “Did you say an Alien space ship might be heading to our stranded Magellan capsule?”

“Yes sir.”

“That's just great. I wonder if they're on their way to attack Earth?” Richard said.

“I hope not,” Wilbur replied.

“Try to get a closer look,” Richard ordered.

“Yes sir.”

Richard hung up his phone and looked like he wanted to break down and cry.

Up in space in an orbit above Earth, the You Can Run But You Can't Hide spy satellite looked down at Earth.

It turned and aimed its dish toward the Moon.

Back down at the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo Spy room, Johnson moved over to another console where he moved a joystick and turned some knobs, which moved the You Can Run But You Can't Hide satellite.

He turned the focus knob and the Magellan capsule was visible on the monitor.

"I have them in sight," Johnson called out.

Wilbur ran over from his office but without his Maalox.

They stared at the monitor and could see the Astronauts moving inside the capsule. They looked beyond the capsule toward the Moon.

A few minutes later, they saw it, and they rubbed their eyes to make sure they saw what they saw.

Up in outer space between the Moon and Earth, the Moonies space ship zoomed through space to the Magellan capsule.

Inside the Moonies space ship, the Man in the Moon navigated the space ship with Taa and Raa. He looked ahead through his canopy and saw the Magellan capsule up ahead.

Taa looked at his portion of the console. "Sir, the Earthlings have a satellite watching our every move," he said while he saw the "Being Monitored" message on a screen.

“We’ll take care of that later,” the Man in the Moon replied.

In the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson and Wilbur watched the monitor and saw the Moonies space ship while it stopped above the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module.

A door opened up at the bottom of the ship and a long refueling pole came out from the opened door.

“What is that?” Johnson said.

“Some type of weapon?” Wilbur said then regretted leaving his Maalox bottle back in his office.

They both looked worried that the Magellan capsule would be blown to bits before their very eyes.

They watched while the refueling pole moved closer to the rear of the capsule.

Wilbur and Johnson looked baffled. “Is that an old descent stage to a Lunar Module attached to the Magellan capsule?” Wilbur asked while he strained to make sure he was seeing correctly.

“I believe it is,” Johnson replied.

“How did that happen?” Wilbur responded.

“This is getting really weird,” Johnson answered.

They watched while the refueling tube connected at the backside of the Lunar Module. They cringed while they expected it to suddenly blow up, but nothing happened.

Johnson’s eyes lit up with an idea. “I think this is some type of refueling ship,” he said.

“Where are they from?” Wilbur asked.

Johnson moved his control stick and zoomed in on the Moonies ship. They saw the Man in the Moon, Taa and Raa.

“Silver Aliens? I don’t have a clue,” Johnson replied. “Should we warn the Astronauts?” he added.

Wilbur thought for a few seconds. “No. We might scare the Aliens off and it appears they’re trying to help. Let them finish,” Wilbur said. “Well tell them later,” he added.

They continued to watch the refueling operation.

Five minutes later, the refueling tube quickly retracted back into the Moonies space ship.

Inside the Moonies space ship, Taa flipped some switches on his console. “The refueling tube is secured,” he stated.

“Good, let’s complete one more task before we head back home,” the Man in the Moon replied.

He accelerated the space ship toward Earth.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Wilbur and Johnson watched in disbelief while the Moonies space ship headed straight toward them.

“Are they coming to destroy us?” Wilbur said while he backed away from the console in fear.

“Hello Earthlings, I come in peace,” the Man in the Moon said from the console speakers.

Johnson and Wilbur got curious while Johnson zoomed the satellite to the canopy of the Moonies spaceship and saw the Man in the Moon, Taa and Raa.

Wilbur and Johnson stared at his monitor and looked at the Moonies.

Up in outer space above Earth, the Moonies spaceship hovered close to the You Can Run But You Can't Hide satellite.

Inside the Moonies space ship, the Man in the Moon held up his black pen device. He aimed it at the satellite then a bright purple flash emitted.

At the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Wilbur and Johnson stared at his monitor in a zombie like trance.

From Johnson's monitor, the Moonie space ship quickly turned around, and zoomed off back to the Moon.

Wilbur and Johnson continued to stare at his monitor in their trance.

Thirty minutes passed and Wilbur and Johnson continued to stare at his monitor like zombies. Then they snapped out of their trance, and looked confused and dazed.

"What were we doing?" Wilbur asked while he scratched his head.

Johnson looked around dazed. "I don't remember," he said.

"Keep on monitoring the Asteroid," Wilbur instructed then walked away and went back inside his office.

Johnson returned to monitoring his radar screen where it showed Earth, the Asteroid, the Magellan capsule and the Moon green blobs. Then the "Asteroid 20, 489 Miles Per Hour - 105 Miles Away - Death And Destruction Closer!" message appeared across the screen.

Johnson silently prayed that Earth wouldn't be destroyed.

In outer space inside the Magellan capsule, Rod, Clint and Lance continued to flip switches, turned knobs and dials, and then the engines restarted.

"We did it!" Clint cheered.

Rod and Lance high-fived each other in celebration of this victory.

"Mission control, this is Magellan five," Clint excitedly said into his microphone.

"Magellan five, Mission control here. Do you have more bad news?" Kara said from the speakers.

In outer space near the Moon inside the Moonies space ship, the Man In The Moon monitored Earth's radio transmissions.

"Actually, I have good news, our engines have started and we're heading back to the Asteroid," Clint said over the speakers.

The Man in the Moon was happy his mission was successful.

He maneuvered his spaceship into an orbit around the Moon.

In Mission Control, the room erupted in cheers when they heard the news that the engine fired on the capsule.

On the surface of the Moon, the Moonies spaceship landed on the surface near their mountain.

Another Moonie, Naa drove up with a hover tug craft. He stopped and connected the tug to the ship.

He got back in the tug and drove it back to the cave.

In outer space by the Moon, the Stardonia tow ship zoomed past the Moon and headed toward Earth.

Chapter 25

Six hours had passed.

Up on the top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked and climbed over space junk.

They were fifty feet from the Lunar Module. It took forever to get closer to the front of the Asteroid.

Todd and Ricky looked homesick. "I want to go home," Todd said while he glanced over at Ricky while they climbed over a piece of space junk.

"Me too," Ricky added.

"I wish you could, but it still looks like my planet Stardonia will be your new home," Scoota said.

Todd and Ricky eyes welled up.

"I think we can take you boys home. Could you use a lift?" Lance said across the radio net.

Todd and Ricky's eyes lit up over the sound of Lance's voice.

They looked around and saw the Magellan capsule/Lunar Module seventy feet away.

The engine to the Magellan capsule shut-off then the thrusters kicked in and slowed down the ship. It wasn't too long before the Magellan capsule hovered ten feet away from the boys.

Todd and Ricky looked in awe at the sight of the Magellan capsule.

"Cool! How did you attach your capsule to an old Apollo lunar module descent stage?" Todd asked.

"How did we do what?" Clint asked from the capsule

“There’s a Lunar Module descent stage stuck to the rear of your capsule,” Ricky added.

There was a few seconds of silence. “We don’t have a clue,” Rod added.

“Are you sure?” Clint asked.

“We’re sure,” Todd replied.

“This is way too bizarre, but who cares, as we’re back. Any way, we’ll meet you back at the Lunar Module,” Lance said.

Todd and Ricky saluted the capsule.

From the capsule windows, Rod, Clint and Lance saluted in return.

The thruster on the Magellan capsule fired and it slowly moved to the Lunar Module.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota hurriedly walked and climbed over space junk and headed to the Lunar Module.

At the front of the Asteroid, the Magellan capsule docked to the Lunar Module.

Inside the Magellan Capsule, Rod, Clint and Lance finished with their docking procedure.

“Do we tell Mission Control about the lunar module descent stage?” Rod said while he looked at Lance and Clint.

They both pondered that question for a few seconds.

“Naw, we have to get rid of this Asteroid first,” Clint replied.

“I agree,” Lance added.

Clint floated over to the microphone. “Mission Control, this is Magellan five.”

“What now, Magellan five?” Kara said from the speakers in a tone that expected more bad news.

“We’re docked at the Lunar Module. We’re ready to send this Asteroid out of here,” Lance said.

Cheers were heard from Mission Control over the capsule’s speakers.

Up on the Moon inside the control cave, the Man In The Moon listened to their radio transmission.

“We’re docked at the Lunar Module. We’re ready to send this Asteroid out of here,” Lance’s message was sounded from the speakers inside the cave.

“Things are finally shaping up,” the Man in the Moon said with a smile.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sat at his desk with his phone to his ear.

“We have some good news, Mister President. The Magellan capsule is back at the Asteroid. They’re going to complete their mission,” Richard told him over the phone.

President Barnaby jumped up out of his seat. “Great!” he said then quickly hung up his phone.

He rushed away from his desk and did a dorky victory dance around the oval office.

He stopped and looked at the wall of TVs. “The US of A will save the world!” he teased the blank TV screens.

He continued to do his dorky victory dance with arms and feet flying around in the air.

Across America, all the major cities were virtually empty as everybody headed to the mountains.

Across Europe, all the major cities were virtually empty as everybody headed to the mountains.

Across Russia, all the major cities were virtually empty as everybody headed to the mountains.

Across China, all the major cities were virtually empty as everybody headed to the mountains.

Across Australia, all the major cities were virtually empty as everybody headed to the mountains.

In Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina sat on the couch and watched Biff on the Channel 9 News in their living room.

"We finally have some good news to report for those of you that are still in the central Florida viewing area. NASA just reported that the Magellan five found its way back to the Asteroid. They will complete the mission and get rid of the Asteroid and bring our stowaway boys home," Biff reported to his viewers.

Tater, Lilly and Christina jumped off the couch, locked arms and danced around in joy.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose danced around for joy in their living room after they just heard Biff's news report.

In Lucy's home, she danced with Betty around the living room for joy after they heard Biff's news report.

At the Bullies tree house, Buster and Rocky sat by their burnt tree house and pouted.

In the secret military base in Russia, alarms sounded while the missiles retracted back into their silos.

In the middle of China in the field, soldiers stood by the launchers while the missiles moved horizontal on the trucks.

In outer space on top of the Asteroid, Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked over space junk.

"Hey boys, where are you?" Lance asked from the radio net.

"We're near the hatch of the Lunar Module," Todd replied.

"Good, let us know when you're inside with the hatch closed," Lance said.

"Okay," Todd responded.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota walked to the hatch of the Lunar Module.

Ricky floated down in the hatch first and into the Lunar Module.

Todd floated down the hatch and into the Lunar Module.

"Come in Scoota. This is Biggka," he said from Scoota's Space Pad tucked in his suit pocket.

Scoota removed his Space Pad from his pocket. He pressed a button and the hologram of Biggka and Redka emitted from his Pad.

“Where are you?” Scoota said.

“We’re about twenty yards away from you,” Biggka said from the Space Pad.

Scoota looked around and saw the tow ship.

“Let me go inside my craft and help the Earthlings finalize their plans. You can follow this Asteroid, while I fly it away from Earth,” Scoota told them.

“We’ll be standing by,” Biggka replied.

Scoota turned off his Space Pad and shoved it back in his suit pocket. He floated down the hatch into the Lunar Module.

The hatched stayed opened.

Inside the Lunar Module, Todd and Ricky waited for Scoota while he closed, and locked the hatch at the top of the Lunar Module.

“We’re inside the Lunar Module,” Todd said into the communications net.

Scoota went over to the console and pressed some buttons.

The hatch to the Magellan capsule opened.

Lance floated through the hatch in his suit with helmet on.

Clint floated through followed by Rod with their helmets on..

The Astronauts looked happy to see the boys and Scoota.

“We’re proud of you boys,” Lance said.

“Installing those engines is a major accomplishment,” Clint added.

Rod nodded in agreement.

“We don’t have much time left. Let’s get the rest of this mission completed,” Lance said then extended his hand out to Scoota. “Thank you for helping us Scoota and for taking care of our little Astronauts,” Lance added.

Todd and Ricky looked proud to be called that from a real Astronaut.

Scoota shook Lance’s glove. “It was the least I could do for causing all this mess,” Scoota said then he shook Rod and Clint’s glove.

Todd looked at Scoota. “Thanks for being our friend,” he said then shook Scoota’s glove.

Ricky shook Scoota’s hand. “Yeah, thanks for being our friend.”

“Thank you for being my friends,” Scoota replied with a smile.

Todd had an idea, and he looked at Ricky who also had the same idea. Todd and Ricky locked pinkies of their gloves. Scoota saw this and he joined in.

“Friends,” Todd and Ricky called out.

“Friends,” Scoota added.

Rod, Lance and Clint chuckled over that sight.

“Let’s go friends,” Lance said.

Todd, Ricky and Scoota unlocked their pinkies.

Rod floated through the hatch back into the Magellan capsule.

Clint floated through the hatch.

Todd floated through the hatch.

Ricky floated through the hatch.

“I hope you can get back to our home planet,” Lance said.

“No problem. As soon as this is moving away from Earth, I have a rescue ship waiting to pick me up,” Scoota replied.

“Good. I better go as time is running out. I’ll turn R1D1 on from inside our capsule. He should automatically fly the Asteroid away after we ignite the engines and that’s after we separate and move away,” Lance said then he floated through the hatch back into the Magellan capsule.

Scoota looked at the hatch of the Magellan while it slammed shut and locked. His eyes welled up as he already missed his Earthling buddies.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance, Rod and Clint floated back into their seats.

They all removed their helmets and gloves.

Todd and Ricky floated near them, and removed their helmets and gloves.

The Astronauts flipped switches, turned knobs, turned dials, typed on keyboards.

Then Lance pressed a button.

Inside the Lunar Module, R1D1 was energized and came to life.

Outside by the Asteroid, the Magellan capsule undocked from the Asteroid. The capsule fired some thrusters and backed away from the Asteroid.

It slowly flew away from the Asteroid.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota floated near R1D1.

“Scoota, can you still hear me?” Lance said across the communications net.

“Yes I can,” Scoota answered.

“Great. Monitor R1D1’s activities for us,”
Lance replied.

“Yes sir,” Scoota responded.

R1D1 lit up and beeped. One arm reached over and grabbed the joystick on the console with its mechanical hands. Then R1D1 suddenly turned off.

“There’s a problem. The small robot turned off,”
Scoota said.

“Wait. I’ll turn him on from here,” Lance said.

Scoota waited, and R1D1 didn’t power up. “It didn’t work,” Scoota said.

“Rats. Okay. There’s a start button on R1D1’s front body. Press it,” Lance said.

Scoota looked around the front of R1D1 and found the start button.

He pressed it, and R1D1 lit up and beeped. Scoota smiled that it worked. Sparks emitted from the rear of R1D1. Smoke emitted from the rear of R1D1. It vibrated and fell off the stool, and went dead.

“Ah, we have a problem,” Scoota told Lance.

“Now what? We don’t have time for this,” Lance replied.

“Your robot’s broke for good.”

“That’s what we get for using the lowest bidder. It now looks like Earth is really doomed,” Lance replied in a depressed tone.

Scoota pondered this dilemma while he looked at R1D1, and then his eyes lit up. “Don’t worry. I’ll fly it away,” Scoota cried out while he jumped on the stool.

In outer space above Earth, the Asteroid started to dive downward toward Earth.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd and Ricky floated while they stared out the windows and saw the Asteroid.

“The Asteroid is falling down to Earth. You better fire the engines now,” Todd yelled out.

The Astronauts looked concerned.

Rod typed on his keyboard and activated a backup program for controlling the engines. He clicked on the “Start Engines” button. “What’s the Asteroid doing now?” Rod asked.

Todd and Ricky looked out the windows.

“Still falling down to Earth,” Ricky replied.

“Great. Billions of dollars spent on this high tech stuff, and it still breaks down,” Clint cried out upset.

Chapter 26

Inside the Stardonia tow ship, Biggka and Redka heard all the transmissions and knew Scoota was in big trouble.

“We better see what we can do,” Biggka told Redka while he pressed some buttons and moved his control stick forward.

In outer space above Earth, the Asteroid smacked into the You Can Run But You Can’t Hide satellite.

The satellite tumbled down to Earth.

In the Space Spy Agency Peek A Boo We See You room, Johnson pulled out his hair when he sees the “Lost Transmission” message flash across his screen.

“Wilbur, we lost our last satellite,” Johnson yelled out.

He heard a door slam shut as Wilbur was scared and left the building.

In outer space above Earth, the Asteroid continued to fall down to Earth and it smacked into numerous satellites along the way. This caused a shower of debris to tumble down to Earth.

High in the sky, an airliner was on its way to Germany where people wanted to hide out in the Alps thinking they would be safer in those mountains.

Inside the airliner, a woman looked out her window and saw four fireballs race out of the sky. She got horrified and screamed and pointed at her window.

Other passengers quickly looked out their windows and also saw showers of fireballs that zoomed out of the sky.

A big bulky muscular man screamed like girl when he saw some fireballs from his window.

Soon all the passengers screamed thinking they were going to die any second.

High in the sky, the airliner made numerous evasive maneuvers and missed the fireballs by inches.

It flew away safe toward Germany.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Lance, Clint and Rod worked the controls.

“Mission control, this is Magellan five,” Clint called out in his microphone.

“Go ahead Magellan five,” Kara replied from the speakers.

“The engines of the Asteroid will not start. I repeat, will not start. The Asteroid is falling down to Earth at a faster rate,” Clint cried out in a panic into his microphone.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby sat at his desk with his phone stuck to his ear. He looked like he wanted to cry.

“That’s not the news I wanted to hear, Richard,” President Barnaby softly said into his phone while he fought back the tears.

“I’m sorry sir. We gave it our best shot. It was nice knowing you and we had some great times in the past,” Richard replied from the phone.

President Barnaby hung up the phone.

The wall of TVs came on by themselves.

“US of A failed. It’s time we nuke!” the Chinese President yelled from his TV.

“We also nuke!” the Russian President yelled from his TV.

All the other leaders of the world cheered in agreement.

President Barnaby got up from his desk and stormed out of the oval office.

In the secret military base in Russia, alarms and sirens blared while the nuclear missiles came out of silos in the ground. They got into position and were aimed at the sky.

In the field in the middle of China in the field, Chinese soldiers worked on the trucks. Then all the nuclear missiles from the three military trucks rose at the same time. They pointed at the sky and stopped.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota floated to the window and looked out.

He saw Earth while it got closer. Scoota wondered what he could do. Then he looked at the control box on the floor.

He floated over to it and kicked it. He banged the box with his fist a couple of times.

Outside in outer space, the Stardonia tow ship zoomed after the Asteroid.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd, Ricky, Lance, Rod and Clint all huddled together while they looked out their windows. They saw the tow ship while it zoomed to the Asteroid.

“That spaceship must be from Scoota’s planet,” Lance said.

“He did say he had a ship coming to rescue him.” Todd replied.

“What happens if, you know?” Ricky asked while he held back his tears.

“We head up to the space station and survive as long as we can,” Clint replied.

Todd and Ricky’s eyes welled up thinking they would never see home again.

They all continued to watch out the windows.

In outer space, the tow ship flew to the middle of the Asteroid.

It slowed down and stayed even with the Asteroid.

A boom with a hook came out of the back of the ship. The boom was maneuvered from inside the ship and the hook latched onto a piece of space junk.

The tow shop fired its engines and moved upward a little then it slowed down.

The tow ship was able to slow down the Asteroid from falling. But the tow ship looked like it was straining and wouldn’t be able to keep this up for much longer.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota flipped switches and turned knobs on his control panel.

“Hurry up Scoota,” Biggka cried out from Scoota’s Space Pad.

Scoota removed his Space Pad from his suit pocket and pressed a button.

The hologram of Biggka and Redka emitted from the Space Pad.

“Our ship can’t last much longer if you don’t ignite those engines, Scoota,” Biggka yelled out.

Scoota floated around the module while he tried to figure things out.

He floated by the hatch where the cable that ran from the control box through the opened hatch and to the engines was located. He saw sparks while the cable touched some metal. Scoota moved the cable and saw some of the insulation was missing and bare wires were exposed.

He let go of the cable and floated over to the locker where the suits were hung. He opened up a toolbox inside the locker and removed some special tape.

He floated back to the cable and quickly taped over the bare wires.

Outside the Asteroid at the rear, the three engines at the rear all started with a loud varooooom!

The asteroid Ascended upward.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota felt the Asteroid move upward. “I did it Lance!” he cried out.

“Good job Scoota. You saved Earth!” Lance cried out from the speakers.

Scoota looked proud of himself for fixing the problem.

In outer space above Earth, the Asteroid flew upward and away from Earth. The tow ship released its hook from the space junk and the boom with hook retracted back inside the ship. The tow ship flew alongside the Asteroid.

Inside the Magellan capsule, Todd, Ricky, Clint, Lance and Rod cheered over the news the engines firing.

Clint grabbed the microphone. "Mission control, we have good news. The engines of the Asteroid have fired and the Asteroid is moving away from Earth. I repeat. The Asteroid is moving away from Earth. We're on our way home," Clint said into the microphone.

In Mission Control, Kara, Howard and all the controllers danced around the room in joy after hearing the good news.

In the oval office of the White House, President Barnaby just received the good news from Richard. He hung up his phone and jumped up from his desk.

He did another dorky victory dance around his office with his arms and legs flying around in the air.

Then he remembered something important.

He rushed over to his desk and grabbed his remote. He pointed it at the wall of TVs.

They came on and the leaders of the world appeared.

“We completed our job and the Asteroid is moving away from Earth. The threat is over! I repeat; the threat is over! Please stop your missiles!” President Barnaby cried out.

“Stop them!” the German Chancellor, Spanish President, Italian President, English Prime Minister, Canadian President, the Prime Minister of Japan and the French President all cried out in unison from their TVs.

In the secret military base in Russia, alarms and sirens blared while missiles retracted back into their silos.

In the field in the middle of China, Chinese soldiers worked on the missile trucks and lowered the missiles.

Inside the cave in the Moon mountain, the Man the Moon looked relieved that the Asteroid was finally going to be sent away from Earth.

“I have one more task to perform,” he told Taa and Raa who worked the console.

The Man in the Moon left the cave.

On the surface of the Moon, the Man in the Moon walked out of the cave in the mountain in his space suit. He walked a little way from the mountain and looked at Earth. He pointed a remote control at Earth and pressed a button.

In outer space above Earth, the Lunar Module descent stage separated from the rear of the Magellan capsule.

Inside the Magellan capsule, everybody inside looked around a little concerned because the capsule shook a little when the descent stage separated.

“What was that?” Lance asked concerned.

“I don’t know,” Clint replied while he looked the console over. “But everything seems to be nominal,” he added.

“Well, let’s go home,” Lance said then grabbed the microphone.

Chapter 27

The USS Nimitz sailed out in the Pacific Ocean.

In Todd's home, Tater, Lilly and Christina watched the Channel 9 News in the living room.

"We just got word in that the Magellan five capsule is on its way back home. The USS Nimitz is sailing out in the Pacific to pick up the Astronauts and our two stowaway boys. The mission of getting the Asteroid away from Earth has been a success," Biff reported from the TV.

Tater, Lilly and Christina all jumped off the couch and danced around in joy.

In Ricky's home, Louie and Rose danced around in joy in the living room overhearing Biff's news.

In Lucy's home, she danced with Betty around her living room in joy overhearing Biff's news.

At the Bullies tree house, Buster and Rocky still pouted over the loss of their tree house.

Up in outer space above Earth inside the Magellan capsule, Rod was strapped in his seat.

Clint was strapped in his seat with Todd, and he wrapped his arms around him.

Lance was strapped in his seat with Ricky, and he wrapped his arms around him.

They waited while the capsule reentered Earth's atmosphere.

Inside the conference room at NASA Headquarters, Richard and all the NASA folks jumped up from the conference table and danced around the room with joy.

They watched live footage of the Magellan capsule while it floated down to the Pacific Ocean with parachutes deployed.

USS Nimitz waited out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Twenty NAVY seamen stood on deck and stared at the sky. Off at the other end of the deck, a Seahawk helicopter waited with its blades spinning.

“Where is it?” one of the seamen asked while they all scanned the sky.

The Magellan capsule was visible as a dot high up in the sky.

“There’s the Magellan,” one of the seamen said while he pointed up at the sky.

The seamen watched while the Magellan parachuted down to the Ocean.

The Seahawk helicopter lifted off the deck of the Nimitz.

The seamen watched while the Magellan capsule splashed down in the Ocean.

The Seahawk helicopter flew to the capsule while it floated in the Ocean.

The Seahawk helicopter slowly flew near the capsule and dropped a life raft and another raft into the water.

The Seahawk helicopter flew back to the capsule and a diver jumped out and landed in the water.

The diver installed the raft around the capsule to prevent it from sinking.

The diver inflated the life raft and swam it to the capsule. The diver opened up the hatch of the capsule and saw everybody inside.

“Welcome home, heroes,” the diver said.

Clint stuck his head out of the capsule and took a whiff of the sea air. “It’s glad to be back home,” he said.

The diver assisted Clint, Lance, Rod, Todd and Ricky out of the capsule and into the life raft.

The Seahawk helicopter flew back and lifted everybody via a sling up into the helicopter.

The helicopter flew back to the Nimitz.

Inside the Seahawk helicopter, Todd and Ricky were in heaven with getting a ride in a helicopter.

“Now I know what the Apollo Astronauts went through when they returned from the Moon,” Todd said while he looked out the door.

“I know. Isn’t this cool!” Ricky added.

Rod, Clint and Lance chuckled over the boy’s excitement on being in the helicopter and feeling like Apollo Astronauts. Then their eyes lit up as they now felt the same excitement.

The USS Nimitz, the seamen watched while the Seahawk helicopter landed on the deck.

The engine shut down and the rotor blades whined down.

Lance, Clint, Rod, Todd and Ricky all got out of the helicopter.

All the seamen cheered at the heroes.

Todd and Ricky loved the attention.

Way up in outer space near Jupiter, the Asteroid flew by Jupiter.

The Stardonia tow ship flew alongside the Asteroid and had the Apollo Lunar Module descent stage attached to its boom and hook. Biggka and Redka decided that Scrappy might pay a few bucks for this antique.

Inside the tow ship, Biggka made a call on his Space Phone.

The hologram for Senior Space Knight Tockka appeared. "Give me a report, Biggka," Tockka ordered.

"We rescued Scoota from Earth," Biggka reported.

"He's such a buffoon," Tockka said.

"I wouldn't say that," Biggka replied.

"Why not?"

"It appears that Scoota saved the planet Earth from an Asteroid comprised of their space junk," Biggka said.

"He what?" Tockka said and looked like he didn't hear Biggka correctly.

"He saved Earth by flying an Asteroid away from Earth," Biggka replied.

"He was able to get it away in the nick of time before it plummeted down to Earth," Redka added.

"I see. Well, maybe I misjudged Scoota," Tockka said then he pondered for a few seconds. "Park that Asteroid in orbit and we'll deal with it later," Tockka said then his hologram disappeared.

A couple of days later, the USS Nimitz sailed into Pearl Harbor and docked to a crowd of two thousand cheering people.

The gangplank was lowered and the Captain of the Nimitz escorted Rod, Lance, Clint, Todd and Ricky down to the dock.

Out in front of the crowd were Tater, Lilly, Christina, Louie and Rose all proud of the boys.

The second Todd and Ricky stepped foot on the docks, Lilly and Rose ran up and immediately hugged and kissed their cheeks.

Tater and Louie walked up and shook the boy's hands.

"I'm proud of you Todd and if you want to become an Astronaut, I'm good with it," Tater said.

"The same goes for me, Ricky," Louie added.

Todd and Ricky were elated that they had their father's blessing on becoming Astronauts.

Christina rushed up and looked at Todd then she hugged him tight. No words, just a loving hug to prove she missed her little brother.

The crowd cheered at the boys.

The next three weeks were spent with ticker tape parades in Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago, New York and Atlanta. Then they had some ticker tape parades in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Prague, Moscow, Beijing, Tokyo and Sidney.

The boy's were exhausted and it was time to return home to Florida to resume their childhood lives.

The next day at the space coast in Florida, thousands of people gathered along areas of the

Indian River in Titusville. All eyes were on the Kennedy Space Center while they waited.

“There it is,” a man pointed at the sky south of the space center.

Everybody looked and saw Air Force 1 while it flew north.

They watched while Air Force 1 flew over Titusville and headed north.

Then it banked to the right and banked again for a final approach to runway 15 at the Landing Site at the Kennedy Space Center.

The crowd watched while Air Force 1 landed at the Kennedy Landing Site.

At the Kennedy Landing Site, President Barnaby got out of Air Force with Richard, Rod, Lance, and Clint and walked down the stairs.

The local NASA officials at the bottom of the stairs soon greeted them.

An Air Force C17 landed on runway 15. This plane carried the French President, the German Chancellor, the Spanish President, the Italian President, the Russian President, the Prime Minister of Japan and the Prime Minister of England.

President Barnaby, Richard, Rod, Lance, and Clint were escorted to the Presidential vehicles. They got inside and drove off.

The C17 taxied and stopped next to the Air Force 1. The world leaders got out and were escorted to some other waiting government SUVs.

The convoy of Presidential and government SUVs drove down SR 3 at the center and headed to the Visitor Complex.

Later that day at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, there was a stage installed in the Rocket Garden and was heavily guarded by Secret Service Agents and Brevard County Sheriff's.

On stage, President Barnaby and Richard stood with Todd and Ricky. In back of them sat Rod, Lance, Clint, Tater, Lilly, Christina, Louie and Rose.

Off to the side were the French President, the German Chancellor, the Spanish President, the Italian President, the Russian President, the Prime Minister of Japan and the Prime Minister of England.

From the stage, Todd and Ricky had huge proud smiles. Todd's smile grew larger when he saw Lucy in the crowd.

"Thank you all for attending. It gives me great pleasure to stand before you and reward these two young heroes that saved the world," President Barnaby addressed the crowd who erupted in a cheer.

President Barnaby motioned for the crowd to become quiet, and they did. "Therefore, I hereby proclaim that Todd and Ricky are guaranteed a slot into NASA's Astronaut training after they graduate from college. And speaking of that, they may choose any college of their choice and it's free. Paid by numerous governments around the world."

Todd tugged on President Barnaby's pants and motioned for him to lean down.

President Barnaby leaned down and Todd whispered in his ear, and President Barnaby nodded in agreement.

Todd whispered something else in President Barnaby's ear. He nodded in agreement.

“Oh yeah. I hereby direct NASA to come up with a plan to clean up all the space junk over our heads,” he addressed the crowd.

“Ah, we Russians are already developing a space craft to clean up such debris,” the Russian President yelled out.

The crowd erupted in a loud cheer with that news.

“Shoot they beat us again,” President Barnaby said under his breath.

Tater and Louie got up and hugged each other. Lilly and Rose got up and hugged each other.

President Barnaby shook hands with Todd and Ricky then walked off the stage with the Secret Service agents.

The other Government leaders followed.

They walked off to a convoy of government vehicles not too far away.

Todd saw Lucy out in front of the crowd. She smiled and gave him a little wave, and Todd was in heaven.

Ricky saw Betty who smiled and gave him a little wave.

They walked off the stage and their parents followed them.

Todd walked up to Lucy. “I’m glad you came out here,” he said.

Lucy quickly leaned forward and gave Todd a kiss on his cheek. “I wouldn’t miss it for the world,” she said with a loving smile.

“Me neither,” Betty said then quickly leaned in and gave Ricky a kiss on his cheek.

Todd and Ricky both blushed.

Tater and Lilly walked up to Todd.

“Call me,” Lucy told Todd while Tater and Lilly escorted Todd away.

Todd smiled back at her.

“You also better call me,” Betty told Ricky while Louie and Rose escorted him away

He smiled back at Betty.

Inside Tater’s truck, Lilly’s demeanor suddenly changed. “You’re grounded young man for sneaking into that rocket,” she scolded Todd.

But he didn’t care, as he now knew that Lucy liked him and he was happy.

Inside Louie’s Mercedes Benz, Rose’s demeanor suddenly changed. “You’re grounded for sneaking off into that NASA rocket,” She scolded Ricky.

But he didn’t care, as he knew he had a chance to make Betty his girlfriend.

Chapter 28

Way off in outer space, the Asteroid continued to fly off into space toward Stardonia, which was one hundred and twenty-five thousand miles away.

The tow ship flew alongside of the Asteroid with the Apollo descent stage.

The engines of the Asteroid shut down and it orbited around Stardonia.

The tow ship moved into position over the hatch of the Lunar Module.

Twenty minutes later, the hatch of the Lunar Module opened up and Scoota, in his space suit and helmet, floated up from the Module with his personal belongings then he closed the hatch.

A side door opened up from the tow ship and a ladder from the tow ship dropped out. Scoota climbed up the ladder and entered the tow ship.

The ladder went back up inside the tow ship and the door closed.

The tow ship went down to Stardonia.

The Asteroid stayed in orbit around Stardonia.

Later that day on Stardonia, the tow ship landed at the military base where Senior Space Knight Tockka and some other senior officers waited by the hangar.

The door to the tow ship opened and Biggka, Redka and Scoota exited in their flight suits.

Tockka walked up to Scoota who removed his helmet along with Biggka and Redka.

“I heard about your adventure, Scoota,” Tockka said.

Scoota looked nervous that he was going to be yelled at.

“And I’m proud of you. Saving Earth warrants a promotion to Middle Grade Space Knight,” Tockka said then patted him on his shoulder.

Tockka walked off and his officers followed.

Scoota was elated that he finally got the promotion he wanted.

Later the day on Stardonia, Scoota and Litta had a romantic dinner at his home.

They slow danced to some music.

They cuddled on the couch for some romantic encounters.

There was a knock on his door.

“Ah man,” Scoota said while he was in mid-stream of giving Litta a kiss.

“Just ignore it,” Litta said then they kissed.

The knocks got louder and were too loud to ignore.

“Let me shoo this person away,” Scoot said while he got up.

He walked over to his door and opened it.

Outside was Scrappy, and he was bald with a huge pot belly.

“Scoota my friend. I heard that you have this Asteroid orbiting above us,” Scrappy said.

“That’s true,” Scoota replied.

“Well, I’m prepared to make you a handsome offer to purchase it from you. After all, you have ownership since you brought it from Earth.”

“But you can’t bring the junk down here to Stardonia,” Scoota said.

“I know. I want to build a hotel up there. Give people a outer space vacation,” Scrappy replied with a gleam in his eyes.

Litta walked up to Scoota, as she heard the offer.

“I would say that piece of prime property is worth at least half a million bucks,” Litta added.

Scrappy thought for a few seconds then smiled. “It’s a deal,” he said then stuck out his hand.

They shook to seal the deal.

Two weeks later, Scoota and Litta sailed on the Royal Galaxy Space Cruise Ship to Beonlian, and they had a blast.

Two months later up on the Asteroid in orbit around Stardonia, Scrappy’s hotel was completed and looked awesome on top of the Asteroid.

Four taxi spacecrafts flew customers up to the hotel, and Scrappy’s hotel was going to be his gold mind.

Back down on Earth during the month after his return from space, Todd spent everyday with Lucy while Ricky spent time with Betty.

They went to Disney.

They went to Universal.

They went to Sea World.

They went on a tour of the Kennedy Space Center where Todd and Ricky were the celebrity guests on their tour bus.

But Todd and Ricky were not the only ones that had a great summer, as Tater got a huge surprise. It

appeared that the other item that Todd whispered into President Barnaby's ear was for his father to get a job at the Kennedy Space Center. The President pulled through and talked with Richard who talked with the major contractor that had the ground operations contract for the Magellan rocket; Spacely's Rocket Company.

Tater was offered a technician's job at the launch pad of which he excitedly accepted. He then went out and bought himself a new 2018 Ford F-150 pickup truck.

Summer was over and Todd and Lucy spent numerous days together and strengthened their relationship. But it was time to head back to school.

First day of school at Magellan Elementary, Todd held hands with Lucy while they walked down the hallway. Ricky and Betty held hands and walked behind them.

The kids in the hallway clapped and cheered while they passed by them.

Todd stopped when he saw Rocky and Buster with clinched fists down the hallway.

"You burned down our tree house!" Buster yelled while he marched toward Todd.

"Yeah, you burnt down our tree house!" Rocky joined in.

Buster and Rocky strutted to Todd and Lucy. He pushed Lucy out of the way and she fell and landed on her butt.

Rocky and Buster circled Todd just like they did during the last day of school.

"You're going to get the beating you deserve," Buster threatened.

“Yeah! A beating that you deserve!” Rocky added.

All the kids in the hallway watched intently for a fight to begin.

Rocky and Buster stopped and faced Todd.

Ricky and Betty snuck around behind Rocky and Buster and Todd noticed and got a smirk.

“Now,” Ricky said to Betty. They quickly pulled on Rocky and Buster's underwear and gave them wedgies.

They quickly got on their hands and knees behind Rocky and Buster.

Rocky and Buster got mad and started to come after Todd. Todd quickly pushed on Rocky and Buster's chest and they flew backwards both over Ricky and Betty.

They landed hard on their backs.

The kids in the hallway roared with laughter.

Rocky and Buster saw Todd with his fists ready to fight. They got scared.

“Ah, we're late for class and besides, we'll let you slide this time, you know, since you saved the world,” Rocky said and he suddenly became afraid of Todd as he didn't expect him to fight back.

“Yeah, we'll let you slide since you saved the world,” Buster added.

Rocky and Buster quickly got up, and bolted down the hallway. This would be the last time Todd and Ricky had any confrontation with those bullies.

All the kids cheered and congratulated Todd and Ricky.

Todd helped Lucy back on her feet. She planed a kiss on his lips. His eyes widened with joy.

They walked down the hallway and held hands.

Later that night, far away at the planet Stardonia, Scoota stood out in his backyard of his home.

He stared up the nighttime sky and gazed at the stars. *I wonder what Todd and Ricky are doing right now.* He thought to himself while removed his Remember Life hologram camera from his pocket.

He pressed a button and that hologram picture he snapped during the mission showed Todd and Ricky on the Space Buggy above the Asteroid. He smiled.

Scoota played back all the pictures he captured with his hologram camera.

Later that night back on Earth, Todd and Ricky stood in Todd's backyard. They stared up at the nighttime sky and gazed at the stars.

"I wonder what Scoota is doing at this exact moment," Todd said.

"I miss him," Ricky added.

Todd nodded in agreement.

In outer space above Earth, the orbits all around Earth looked so clear since the Asteroid being formed cleaned up the vast majority of the space junk. Let's hope us Earthlings can keep the junk to a minimum in the future.

If you would like to spread the word about cleaning up the space junk orbiting above our planet, you can order a tee shirt (or other accessories) with the “Clean Up the Space Junk” message. Visit my artist shop online on the Zazzle website:

https://www.zazzle.com/clean_up_the_space_junk_t_shirt-235548172103679638

