

# Stowaway Boys

By

Gary Whitmore

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

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

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

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# Chapter 1

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

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

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, and a fluorescent blue crew cut hairstyle.

At his home, Scoota wore a light purple jumpsuit while finishing packing a suitcase.

A knock on his front door.

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

"Are you sure you want to go out of our universe again?" Litta asked.

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

"In 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, shaking her head.

"I removed some of that old antiquated equipment and upgraded the ship. She's now a sweet ride," Scoota replied with a sparkle in his eyes. "A sweet ride!"

"Whatever, Scoota," Litta replied, rolling her eyes. "Please be careful and watch your speed around Neileon. You know the Neileon space cops love handing out speeding tickets," Litta said in a motherly tone.

"I know, they're nothing but a bunch of citation terrorists," he replied.

"Now, I want you to call me 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 Stardonia Space Force gives you. I'll take a few days off when you get back," she replied.

Scoota looked disappointed. "Okay," he said. He kissed her on the lips.

He walked over to his couch, and he picked up his glass fishbowl helmet and gloves to complete his Space Force jumpsuit.

He left his home with Litta and closed his door.

Seven days had passed.

A spaceship zoomed in from outer space, racing toward Saturn at lightning speed.

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

Hours later, that spaceship zoomed past Jupiter.

A closer examination of the spaceship revealed it wasn't an alien spacecraft. It was an old American spacecraft. It was the Lunar Module's ascent stage from the Apollo 17 mission.

It departed the Moon's orbit on December 14th, 1972. It was the last mission to the Moon, and the ascent stage was designed to impact the Moon. But instead, it flew off into outer space.

The modified Lunar Module had a strange engine.

It emitted a purplish flame from its odd-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. It was from the planet Stardonia.

A label was affixed to the rear of the Lunar Module above that strange engine. It read "Scrappy's Used Spaceships – Planet Stardonia." The Lunar Module was in the same condition as when it jettisoned from the Crew Service Module in the Moon's orbit back in 1972.

Inside the Apollo 17 Lunar Module sat Scoota at the console. He bought this Lunar Module from Scrappy and enhanced it as 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 as when it left the Moon in 1972.

It had modifications like improved computers, music generator, navigational system, and Outer Space Positioning System (OSPS).

This was standard equipment for all spaceships in Scoota's neck of the universe. Plus, he added a fancy seat installed with heaters.

The music generator was cranking. Scoota listened to a techno song from the popular band "The Dim Stars" from Stardonia.

The Lunar Module raced toward Mars.

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. His boots swayed in rhythm with the music.

The Lunar Module raced past Mars and headed toward Earth.

It wasn't too long before the Lunar Module raced to the Moon.

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

Scoota sat straight up, reached into his suit pocket, and removed a small device. He opened it up and pressed a button. A 3-D hologram image of Litta is emitted from the device called a Space Pad with a half-eaten orange 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 going to make a quick trip around the Earth. I picked up on signals yesterday that they're launching their new Magellan five rocket. I want to see it," he replied.

"You've been gone for almost two weeks now. I miss you," Litta said. Her eyes widened. "Wait, did you say Earth?" she asked.

"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.

"Please hurry home. That species scares me," she said with a worried tone.

"I'll head home tomorrow," Scoota said. He reached up and pressed the Space Pad button on the console. Litta's hologram disappeared.

At the rear of the Lunar Module, the flame from the engine got smaller. The module slowed down, being closer to the planet Earth.

Scoota kicked back.

He pressed the Space Button button.

The Space Pad hologram of Litta reappeared.

"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.

An undetected piece of space junk raced 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 receive a small paycheck."

"I won't," she said.

Scoota looked up at the windows. He noticed his Lunar Module heading straight at a massive piece of space junk. An old satellite. He panicked and dropped his Space Pad, and it turned off. Litta's hologram disappeared.

He jumped up and grabbed the control stick. He swerved the Lunar Module to the left. A loud bang. The Module shook, smacking into the satellite.

Scoota didn't realize the satellite attached to his Lunar Module.

Scoota's eyes widened. He swerved the Lunar Module to the right. He came upon another piece of space junk. An old rocket part. The last piece of junk that stuck to his spacecraft smacked into the old rocket part. The two pieces of space junk are attached as one unit.

Scoota's 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 attached to the module.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota was panicking, trying to get his craft under control. He had difficulty since the pieces of attached space junk affected the maneuvering capability.

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

Scoota's craft smacked into many pieces of space junk during its orbit. Space junk is attached to other space junk with the old Lunar Module out in front. His Lunar Module began growing into a small asteroid of attached space junk.

# Chapter 2

Meanwhile, it was May 2018.

It was nighttime on Earth at the space coast area of Florida.

There was a substantial residential neighborhood built in the 1960s called Atlantis. The 1960s, developers, expected that the space program would be a booming industry.

On Abby Street, in Atlantis, lived Todd Peabody. He was a typical twelve-year-old skinny nerd. Todd loved everything about the human space program. Todd spent most of his spare time reading books and watching movies about astronauts and space travel. His dream was to travel up in space as an astronaut since he was six years old.

His father, Lester "Tater" Peabody, was forty-two years old. He was once a technician at the launch pad during the space shuttle era. But Tater lost his job in 2011, along with thousands of others.

This happened when the space shuttle program retired. So he started the lawn service called "Tater – The Grass Assassin." Business was good after three years of a slow start.

Parked in the driveway was Lester's rusty 2009 Ford F-150 pickup truck. It had a trailer with a Troy-Bilt riding mower, a Snapper self-propelled push mower, an edger, and a blower.

His wife, Lilly, owned her 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 lawn service company started showing a profit.

Todd decorated his bedroom with Space Shuttle, Saturn 5 rocket, Ares I, Ares V, and Magellan V model rockets. The wallpaper had 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 the outside of the box, and it looked like a NASA rocket ship.

One end of the box had a makeshift door cut out and was a 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 were hand-drawn gauges, switches, and knobs to make it look like the inside of a natural space capsule.

Todd's best friend was Ricardo "Ricky" Mendez.

Ricky was a twelve-year-old nerd and wore thick glasses.

Ricky sat on the inside of Magellan One. Like Todd, Ricky shared the same dream of being an astronaut.

The TV showed a computer game with the Moon, an Apollo capsule, and Lunar Module icons. The capsule and Lunar Module zoomed through the darkness of space, racing to the Moon.

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

"Are we there yet?" Ricky teased.

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

"Are we there yet?" Ricky teased again.

On TV, the rear of the Apollo flew up and then slammed back down. It came to a standstill in space. The engine idled, smoke puffing out the engine nozzle.

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

"Are we there yet?"

Todd and Ricky both chuckled and pushed each other, being playful.

On TV, the Lunar Module made a slow descent to the Moon's surface.

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

"No, Ricky! I'm the Commander. I do all the landings!" Todd barked.

"Okay," Ricky replied, pouting. He made a fake click sound while he pretended to flip an overhead switch. He made a rocket engine sound to simulate landing on the Moon.

On TV, the Lunar Module bounced on and off the surface. It flipped up and over in the air and slammed into the surface. Dust drifted off into space.

"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 their pinkies.

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

On TV, two astronauts walked and bounced on the Moon's surface.

"I was peeing on the Moon one day...in the merry month of...;" Todd sang out.

Lilly's voice outside the box interrupted his song. "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, overhearing her reminder. Todd exited the game.

The "Apollo Moon Landing Adventure" logo appeared on the TV. It showed 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 had thousands of stars and a full Moon.

All the neighbors stood out in their front yards watching the tree line on the horizon to the northeast.

They waited for the launch of NASA's Magellan 4 mission. The Magellan V rocket was like the Saturn V rocket but more abundant in diameter and had an eight-man capsule.

This was the fourth Magellan launch, and the capsule had a flight crew for the first time. This mission would have orbited around Earth eight times before landing in the Pacific Ocean.

The next mission was the Magellan 5, which would dock at the Multinational Space Station (MSS) in two months.

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

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

An orange glow appeared on the horizon. The Magellan 4 rocket ascended into the night sky and lit up the neighborhood.

The neighborhood cheered and clapped. It was great to see more rocket launches from the space center.

"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, staring at the sky.

"And Mars!" Ricky added, staring at the sky.

The boys continued to watch the Magellan rocket's ascent. It wasn't long before 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 smacking into more space junk in its path. The pieces of space junk attached to other space junk tripled in size.

Inside the Lunar Module, Scoota was panicking about why his spacecraft wouldn't respond to his control inputs.

He glanced out a window. He noticed the Magellan V rocket ascending into orbit.

Inside the Magellan capsule, the three astronauts didn't notice the small asteroid of space junk.

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

The engine of the Magellan second stage 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. The second stage engine fired, and it started to orbit Earth.

The second stage fell back down to Earth.

The Lunar Module continued to smack into additional pieces of space junk.

They all attached, growing into a larger and larger asteroid.

# Chapter 3

It was the following 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. Tater had strawberry blonde hair with a reddish goatee and beer gut. He chewed tobacco behind the wheel of his pickup.

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

Tater glanced over at Todd and frowned. He leaned out his door window and spat chewing tobacco outside. A car headed toward him in the other lane.

A woman was behind the wheel humming along to a song on the radio. Tater's chew splattered on her front windshield. She turned on her wipers, smearing chew all over her window. She was pissed!

Tater glanced again at Todd noticing residual chew dripping 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, rolling his eyes.

"How about playing a little ball tonight? Some batting practice?" he offered.

"I'm busy all night," Todd replied, concentrating on his book.

Tater frowned. "He never wants to do anything with me!" he whispered.

It remained a quiet drive in the pickup.

Tater drove to the Magellan Middle School and pulled into 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 doors.

Todd grabbed his books and opened the door.

Fourteen-year-old Rocky Adams and fourteen-year-old Buster Wilson were nearby. They always wore black T-shirts with black shorts.

They walked past Tater's pickup.

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

Rocky and Buster stopped, snickered, and pointed at Todd.

Todd saw Rocky and Buster and wanted to die.

"Please, dad! I hate that name!" he said, glaring at Tater.

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

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

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

Tater drove his pickup truck away, looking hurt.

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 gathered around and looked anxious for fists to start flying in the air.

Todd got mad. "Buster, at least they don't call me stupid for flunking," Todd blurted out at Rocky and Buster. He cringed, realizing he opened up his mouth without thinking.

Buster got furious and clenched his fists, arm cocked, ready to pounce on Todd. "You're lucky you're on school property," he said. "But be aware!" he added, touching his clenched fist on Todd's nose.

Todd's legs shook, his eyes crossed, staring at Buster's fist touching his nose. He 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 seeing Mr. Whipple. Mr. Whipple was the dorky school principal who stood at the other end of the hallway with his arms crossed.

"Get to your class, boys and girls!" Mr. Whipple yelled, 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. He often glanced over at her with hearts in his eyes.

She whispered to 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 around his neck. He had his feet on his desk and read a brochure on Hawaii. This would be his summer vacation.

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

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

All the other students watched the clock. It crept closer to 3:00 p.m.

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

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

"It's now or never," Ricky said, leaning 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 shook his head with disappointment.

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

The teacher shot up from his desk while all the students jumped up from their desks.

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