


# OUT OF THIS WORLD

TROUBLE ON VENUS

BY RAYMOND BEAN





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WORLD**

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# INTRODUCTION

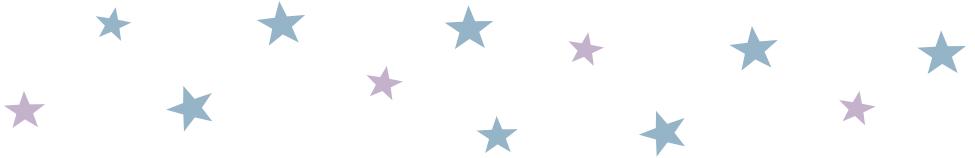
My name is Starr. I'm just like every other ten-year-old girl I know, with one big difference: I live in space.

You see, my mum is a world-class astronaut, scientist and all-round super-genius. She was chosen to be the first person to move her entire family to space. Now she's not just my mum, she's also in charge of the world's most advanced space station.

Dad is a documentary filmmaker. He's making a movie about our family being the first family to ever live in space. It's not like we're actors or anything. He just films us doing our everyday stuff like eating, playing and brushing our teeth.

I have a thirteen-year-old brother called Apollo. He thinks he's cooler than winter.

Cosmo is my super-cute, five-year-old brother.



If you ask me, he *is* cooler than winter. We call him “Cozzie” for short.

We’re helping to lead the new world of space tourism so that people can take holidays in space. I like to call them space holidays.

The head of the entire space programme is Mrs Sosa. She’s my mum’s boss. Her granddaughter, Tia, and I work together. Tia trains kids on Earth to get them ready for space. I help them with life in space once they’re on the station.

My best friend, Allison, thinks I’ll forget all about her now that I live in space, but just because I live in space doesn’t mean I don’t need my best friend.

I may be an ordinary girl, but my life is completely out of this world!





## Chapter 1

### LET'S DO THIS

“I can see Venus in the sky right now,” Allison said. We were on a video call. Allison was at home in Colorado, USA, where I used to live. I was orbiting Venus in a spaceship.

“I can see it too,” I said, taking in the view of the cloud-covered planet from my pod.

“From what I’ve read, the planet is a nasty place,” Allison said.

“That’s what everyone says, but so far all I’ve been able to see are really thick clouds covering it. It looks like

a big, blurry snowball floating in space.”

“What are you going to do there?” she asked.

“Mum says we’ll do a lot of experiments to help learn more about Venus,” I replied.

We always have a mix of scientists and tourists on the ship with us on our missions, and this mission was no different. The kids on my team were a girl named Yasmin and a boy named Lin. Yasmin was nine and Lin was twelve. They were picked specifically for the trip to Venus in a competition run by Mrs Sosa. Kids from all over the country sent in videos explaining why they should be given the opportunity to go to Venus. I didn’t see the videos they sent in, but Mrs Sosa said Yasmin’s and Lin’s were the most impressive.

“Hi there,” Allison said as Yasmin and Lin cruised into my room hanging on to the cruisers we use to move around the station.

Allison and I had talked so much on the way to Venus that Yasmin and Lin sort of knew her too. They waved,

and then Lin said, “Starr, your mum is looking for you.”

“She said we’re almost ready to run our first experiment,” Yasmin added.

“Allison, I’ll talk to you later. We’ve got to go,” I said, and then the three of us cruised off to find Mum. She was in the first place we looked: the control room. Cozzie sat on her lap, his hands on the controls.

“Hey, Starr!” Cozzie shouted. “Mum let me steer the ship. Can you believe that?”

Mum winked and nodded. “That’s right. Your little brother just steered the most advanced spacecraft in the history of mankind.”

“It was easy,” Cozzie said sweetly.

Yasmin, Lin and I giggled.

“I hope you’re all ready for our first experiment on Venus,” Mum said.

“We’re not going down there, are we?” I asked cautiously.

“Of course not!” Mum exclaimed.