

RUBY ROCKET
"VENUS VACATION"

written by

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INT. RUBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ruby tries to stuff an astronaut helmet into a tiny suitcase in her space-themed room. Her dog STARDUST lies next to the luggage and whines.

MOM (O.S.)
How's it coming sweetheart?

RUBY
I don't think everything will fit,
Mom!

MOM chuckles as she walks into the room.

MOM
We're only going for one week. I
think you'll survive without your
helmet.

RUBY
One full week! That's a really
long time. I'm going to miss home.

MOM
What can you bring to remind you
of home?

RUBY
Well, Stardust won't fit in my
suitcase! She's way too big.

The dog perks up and barks as if to say, "Can I come?"

MOM
Sorry, Stardust. Not this time.
Grandma will take such good care
of you while we're gone.

Ruby throws herself onto her bed in despair.

RUBY
I can't be away from Stardust for
one week! And what about my rocket
ship?

MOM
What about it?

RUBY
That definitely won't fit in a
suitcase!

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Mom laughs as Ruby buries her head in her pillow.

RUBY

Without my treehouse rocket ship,
how will I go on adventures?

MOM

The week will be full of new,
different adventures, Ruby. You'll
ride in an airplane instead of a
rocket.

Ruby peeks at mom with one eye.

RUBY

An airplane sounds kind of scary.

Mom snuggles Ruby.

MOM

If you love flying into outer
space, you'll love riding an
airplane.

RUBY

In my rocket, I'm in control...

MOM

I promise, you'll love the plane
ride. But we can't leave until you
finish packing. Don't forget your
toothbrush.

Ruby's shoulders slump. She's overwhelmed.

RUBY

Mom, I need a break. Can I go
outside to play before I finish
packing?

MOM

Sure.

Ruby perks up. She grabs her space helmet and runs outside.

EXT. RUBY'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Ruby runs out of the house and toward her rocket ship
treehouse. Stardust follows. A TEDDY BEAR lies next to the
fence line in the background.

RUBY
I wonder where we'll blast off to
today, Stardust!

ROVER, Ruby's toy car, is tied to the tree. With a STARWIPE SFX, he magically comes to life!

ROVER
Hi, Ruby!

RUBY
Hi, Rover!

Stardust sits on a make-shift elevator, and Ruby uses a pulley system to lift the dog up into the treehouse. Then Ruby climbs the ladder.

INT. ROCKET SHIP TREEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ruby joins Stardust in the "cockpit" complete with buttons, switches, and twinkle lights hanging from the ceiling. Ruby's telescope, TELE, and her action figure doll, CAPTAIN, both magically come to life with the STARWIPE SFX.

TELE
Clear skies ahead, Ruby!

RUBY
Great! Where should we go today,
Captain?

Captain opens a BOOK about space and points to today's mission: VENUS.

CAPTAIN
Let's go to Venus! It's next to
Earth, but that doesn't mean it's
close. It's over 25 million miles
away!

RUBY
(giggles)
That sounds far!

Tele sets her sights on Venus. Ruby looks into the telescope.

TELE
Because Venus is next to Earth,
it's the brightest planet in our
sky.

Ruby sees Venus through the telescope. It's a cloudy orange planet.

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CAPTAIN

This will be an interesting journey. Venus is really hot, windy, and full of active volcanos!

TELE

I don't think I like volcanos! Maybe we should stay here.

RUBY

Have you ever seen a volcano in person, Tele?

TELE

No, I don't think so.

RUBY

You might like volcanos if you give them a chance.

TELE

Maybe, but maybe not!

RUBY

I know you're nervous, but do you think you can keep us on course, Tele?

Tele musters up the courage.

TELE

I think I can!

Ruby presses buttons and turns knobs.

RUBY

Alright! Our course is set. Everyone hold on!

Stardust barks with excitement. Ruby puts her helmet on, and they all take their places. The rocket shakes as Ruby's imagination blasts them off into space.

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- CONTINUOUS

From outside, the treehouse morphs into a full blown rocket that soars through the stratosphere. Ruby and Tele look out from a portal window.

TELE

I have Venus in my sights. We're getting close.

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RUBY
I can't wait to see it!

INT. ROCKET SHIP TREEHOUSE - LATER

Ruby flips switches on her control panel.

RUBY
Alright team, prepare for landing.

Stardust barks as the rocket jostles down to the ground.

RUBY
We made it! Let's go explore.

CAPTAIN
Ruby, be prepared for extreme conditions. The temperature outside is 863 degrees.

TELE
That's really hot!

CAPTAIN
Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system.

RUBY
Our special space clothes will protect us. Come on, let's go!

Ruby, Captain, Stardust, and Tele stand on the elevator platform and are lowered down with the pulley.

EXT. VENUS - CONTINUOUS

The elevator lands, revealing Venus' rocky terrain. There is a billowing VOLCANO up ahead, and the yellow sky is cloudy. Ruby and her crew step forward.

CAPTAIN
Do you feel that pressure? The atmosphere is much heavier here.

RUBY
Wow, it feels like I'm wearing a ton of bricks around my body.

Rover drives out from behind the rocket.

ROVER
Sounds like you'll need a lift.

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RUBY
Thanks, Rover!

Ruby, Captain, Tele, and Stardust jump onto Rover's back and he drives them toward the volcano.

TELE
Why are we going toward the volcano? That's scary!

RUBY
We have to get a closer look. Don't worry, Stardust will protect us.

Stardust barks with pride.

RUBY
Why is it so hot here on Venus?

CAPTAIN
Venus is closer to the sun. Earth is the third planet from the sun, and Venus is the second.

RUBY
That makes a big difference! What about the planet right next to the sun? Wouldn't that be even hotter?

Captain opens his book to MERCURY. The picture moves to visually explain his answer:

CAPTAIN
Mercury is the first planet from the sun, but there isn't any atmosphere to hold the heat in.

RUBY
We already know the atmosphere here is really dense. That's why we feel so heavy, remember?

CAPTAIN
That's right, Ruby!

TELE
I see someone up ahead. Take a look.

Ruby looks through Tele's lens. She sees a stuffed TEDDY BEAR at the edge of the volcano.

RUBY
I see him. He might need our help.

ROVER
Let's find out.

Rover corrects course and heads toward the teddy bear. They hit a bump.

RUBY
Whoa! It's going to be a bumpy ride.

They laugh as Rover takes them up and down the terrain like a mini rollercoaster. They stop at the teddy bear.

RUBY
Hi Teddy, are you okay?

TEDDY
I'm so glad you found me! I've been away from home for a week and I'm homesick!

RUBY
One week is a long time to be away. I'm supposed to leave my home soon, too.

Stardust puts his paw on Ruby's shoulder for support.

TEDDY
Will you help me get home? I have to get up and over this volcano.

RUBY
Absolutely!

CAPTAIN
How do we get over the volcano, Ruby?

RUBY
Maybe we can jump?

CAPTAIN
We would have to jump very high.

RUBY
Let's try!

They all try jumping up, but they barely leave the ground.

RUBY
Remember how heavy the atmosphere is on Venus? Jumping won't work.

CAPTAIN

Venus rotates in the opposite
direction than Earth. Maybe we can
spin our way up?

RUBY

Good idea!

They spin round and round like tops. Stardust gets dizzy and falls.

TELE

(spinning)

Whoa! I can't see anything!

From Tele's POV, the yellow sky spins into a blur. She stops, but her eyes keep spinning.

Ruby holds onto Teddy's hands and they spin and spin, laughing. Finally, they fall onto the ground.

TEDDY

That was fun!

RUBY

It didn't get you home, but I'm
glad we tried it.

They laugh.

RUBY

We could try climbing the volcano,
but we have to be careful not to
step in lava.

TELE

That's not easy for a telescope!

ROVER

Or for a Rover!

RUBY

You two should sit this one out.
We'll see you soon.

Ruby, Stardust, Captain, and Teddy take off toward the volcano. They jump from safe square to square, avoiding all the surrounding lava pits.

RUBY

Be careful!

Stardust almost steps in lava. He whines. Ruby looks back.

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RUBY

Do you want to wait with Rover and Tele? This game is hard with four legs.

Stardust nods and barks before heading back.

RUBY

Captain, do you see a clear path forward?

The path is now more lava than safe spaces!

CAPTAIN

I think you should lead the way, Ruby.

Captain and Teddy clutch onto Ruby. She focuses and jumps through the lava like a game of hopscotch. She makes it through a tough patch. They cheer.

RUBY

That was hard, but exciting! We have to get a lot higher if we're going to get you home.

Ahead and above them is a sea of flowing lava they cannot pass. Ruby jumps a few squares to the left, but doesn't see a clear way forward. She jumps toward the right, but there's no way up.

RUBY

Oh no! I think we've gone as far as we can.

Teddy is disappointed.

RUBY

I'm sorry, Teddy. I know you're homesick. Let's head back to join the others.

TEDDY

That's okay, Ruby. We will find another way.

Ruby jumps back through the lava maze more expertly than before. She's gotten good at this.

They rejoin Tele, Stardust, and Rover.

TELE

The winds are picking up!

CAPTAIN

It is always windy on Venus.

Stardust barks in agreement.

RUBY

We can't leave now. We have to get
Teddy home.

ROVER

What should we do, Ruby?

RUBY

Let me think. The volcano is tall
so we need to get higher... What
if we get into the rocket and
blast off? Before we leave Venus,
Teddy could parachute out and
over?

TEDDY

That's a great idea!

RUBY

Rocket to the rescue!

INT. ROCKET SHIP TREEHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ruby presses buttons, setting their new course.

TELE

(to Teddy)

I'd be scared to jump out of a
moving rocket.

TEDDY

I trust Ruby. She's really smart.
Besides, all my stuffing will help
make a soft landing.

RUBY

(to Teddy)

Are you ready to go?

TEDDY

I guess. I've had so much fun with
you all. Now I don't miss home as
much.

RUBY

Trying new things can be really
fun.

TEDDY

Maybe one week with loved ones
isn't too long to be away, but I
guess it's time to go home.

Ruby hugs Teddy.

RUBY

Okay, prepare for take off.

They all take their seats. Teddy puts on a makeshift parachute.

RUBY

Alright, here we go. 3... 2...
1... blast off!

The rocket shakes.

EXT. ROCKET SHIP TREEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The rocket lifts off.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)

Goodbye, Venus!

RUBY (O.S.)

See you next time!

The rocket hovers over the volcano which is shaped like a fence
from this POV. Teddy readies himself at the portal window.

TEDDY

Thanks for all the fun, Ruby. See
you next time!

Teddy jumps out of the rocket, his parachute catching his fall.

TEDDY

Yippy Ki-Yay!

Ruby watches him through Tele's lens as he falls safely home on
the other side of the volcano fence.

RUBY

Yay team! We did it! We got Teddy
back home.

They cheer.

RUBY

Next stop, Earth.

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INT. RUBY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ruby packs her luggage with gusto. Mom enters as Ruby closes the case.

MOM
Are you all packed?

RUBY
Yup! I'm ready. Can we leave now?

Mom laughs.

MOM
Our flight doesn't leave until tomorrow. I'm so glad you've changed your mind.

RUBY
Trying new things can be really fun. I know once I'm on vacation, I won't want to leave.

Ruby hugs Mom.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Ruby and Mom leave the house with their suitcases in tow. They run into the neighbor kid, JOE (6). He's carrying Teddy.

JOE
Hi Ruby, guess what? I found my teddy! He's been missing for a week. I found him this morning near the fence.

Teddy winks to Ruby. She winks back.

RUBY
I'm so glad he found his way home. He must have been homesick.

JOE
Where are you going?

RUBY
On vacation.

JOE
Won't you be homesick?

RUBY
Maybe a little, but new adventures
await. I get to ride in an
airplane!

JOE
Cool! Have fun, Ruby.

Joe and Teddy wave Ruby goodbye as she jumps into a TAXI with
excitement.

THE END

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