

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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