

The story of Tommy Young, a post-Sputnik space cadet from Madison, Wisconsin, who, despite having lost his faith in government, humanity, and himself, still tries to save the world from the impending dooms of overpopulation, climate change, environmental and agricultural collapse, and war, through space commercialization and space colonization.

THE SPACE CADET

by

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FADE IN: STARS, SILENCE

PAN TO: FULLY ILLUMINATED EARTH IN SPACE, RADIO AND TV NOISE

INT. OUTSIDE OF A SMALL SPACE CAPSULE - DAY

TOMMY is inside a small space capsule hurling towards the Earth, looking out of the window. A Sputnik sound is BEEPING.

TOMMY V.O.

This is the story of how I came to be the world's most misunderstood individual, feared and reviled by many, but also the most respected and admired space cadet ever to walk on the surface of the planet Earth. In its entire history. Perhaps in the entire universe, but that's highly improbable, the universe is a big place. It is not a pretty picture. It does not have a happy ending.

PAN TO: THE CAPSULE WINDOW

Earth is rapidly getting closer and larger.

TOMMY V.O.

I am on a collision course with fate. How I got here has been a long and complicated story. I was born explosively, bombarded constantly, harassed relentlessly, and judged harshly, by my parents, my family, my friends, my peers, by you, by reality, and even by life itself, and then promptly discarded to fend for myself. But it was a great ride too, filled with magnificent wonders and long, deep contemplations, and so I thought I had better share it with you before it comes to an abrupt end in the next couple of seconds.

PAN THROUGH: THE CAPSULE WINDOW- STAR TREK PINGING NOISE

TOMMY V.O.
This is the story of my life.

INT. INSIDE OF A SMALL SPACE CAPSULE - DAY

TOMMY is typing furiously on a laptop amid floating debris, improvised electronics, tangled wires, and mechanical and electronic NOISES.

TOMMY V.O.
My entire life has been an endless
battle against entropy, powered by
the ever present force of gravity.
Gravity is the man. The man keeps
dragging me down. What a mess.
I want to be the man for once.

TOMMY finishes typing and looks contemplatively at Earth outside of the window.

TOMMY
Give me a chance, universe, that's
all I ask. One chance. I can do this.

TOMMY takes a sip of water, a bite out of a green apple, takes control and steers the craft until Earth is replaced by the sun in the window.

PAN INTO: SUN IN THE WINDOW AND THEN BACK OUT TOMMY'S EYE

TOMMY V.O.
The end is really just
the beginning.

TOMMY pulls his swimming goggles down, inserts his snorkel tube, shuts his helmet visor, hits a button blowing the fuel valves, emptying the remaining fuel tanks and propelling the capsule forward violently. Reentry plasma, flames and capsule cabin buffeting and shaking.

FADE INTO: A TUNNEL OF HOT GASES RUSHING DOWN A BLACK HOLE