

**MAN MAY GO SO  
FAR, BUT NO  
FURTHER!**

**WHY???**

WHAT DREAD SECRET  
LIES BEYOND THE  
MYSTERIOUS  
UNKNOWN??  
WHY IS  
THERE...

**NO  
WAY  
OUT**



**BEHOLD! THE 21ST CENTURY! MAN HAS CONQUERED SPACE TRAVEL-- HE HAS SETTLED ON EARTH'S NEIGHBORING PLANETS... BUT STILL HE CANNOT REACH THE STARS!!!**



THERE GOES ANOTHER SHIP, OUT TO THE STARS! WILL IT MEET THE SAME FATE AS ALL THE OTHERS?

WHAT IS THE INVISIBLE BARRIER THAT WE CANNOT BREAK THRU?

**AND AT THE CONTROLS OF THE DARING SHIP, I NERVOUSLY SIT... MY THOUGHTS SPEEDING BACK...**



I MUSTN'T LET THIS FLIGHT ALSO END IN FAILURE! I MUST REACH THE STARS! HOW DIFFERENT IT ALL WAS, JUST A SHORT YEAR AGO...

... WHEN THOSE ENDLESS MONTHS OF PREPARATION FOR MAN'S MOST AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING CAME TO AN END!



AMY, IT'S FINISHED!! EVERYTHING'S BEEN CHECKED AND CLEARED TO SEND THE STAR SHIP BEYOND OUR GALAXY-- OUT TO THE STARS-- TO THE VERY END OF THE UNIVERSE!

THE STAR SHIP HAS BEEN BUILT TO TRAVEL FOREVER! MAN HAS FREED HIMSELF! HE CAN NOW GO WHEREVER HE CHOOSES... NOT LIKE THESE POOR FISH, LIMITED TO THE SIZE OF THEIR BOWL!



SINCE THE FIRST FLIGHT WOULD BE ENDLESS, A ROBOT WAS CREATED TO PILOT THE SHIP!



SHE'S READY TO BLAST OFF AS SOON AS THE ROBOT'S ABOARD!

AND A POWERFUL EARTH STATION WAS SET UP TO WATCH AND GUIDE EVERY MOVEMENT OF ROBOT AND STAR-SHIP!



THRU THESE LENSES, WE CAN FOLLOW THE SHIP'S ENTIRE JOURNEY! NOTHING THAT TAKES PLACE WILL ESCAPE US!

THE STAR SHIP WAS JUST BEYOND PLUTO, WHEN SUDDENLY...



THAT'S ODD!! THE STAR SHIP'S SLOWING DOWN-- IT'S STOPPED!!

BUT WHY? ALL THE CONTROLS ARE IN PERFECT WORKING ORDER!

**NO, NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH THE CONTROLS, BUT SOMETHING WAS PREVENTING THE SHIP FROM GOING ANY FURTHER!! IT STOPPED--AS THOUGH A GIANT INVISIBLE HAND WAS HOLDING IT BACK!**



**SHE HAD TO BE BACKED UP AND A NEW APPROACH TRIED!**

**OTHER SHIPS WERE LAUNCHED, BUT THEY TOO MET WITH THE SAME FATE... SOME WERE STOPPED COLD... AND SOME WENT UP IN FLAMES AS THEY HIT THE UNSEEN, UNKNOWN BARRIER BEYOND PLUTO!**



**FINALLY, THE SHIPS STOPPED! MANKIND, ON THE VERGE OF LEARNING THE SECRETS BEYOND THE SKIES, HAD BEEN DEALT A CRUSHING BLOW!! WHY?? HOW??**



**GIANT COMPUTERS WERE FED EVERY BIT OF DATA FROM THE PREVIOUS FLIGHTS...**

**IF THERE'S ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN WILL SIFT IT OUT AND COME UP WITH AN ANSWER!**

**IT BETTER--OR WE'LL NEVER LEARN THE AGE-OLD RIDDLE OF WHAT LIES BEYOND THE STARS!**



**BUT THE RESULTS WERE UNBELIEVABLE!**

**LOOK AT THAT! NOTHING! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! ACCORDING TO THIS, THERE'S NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IN SPACE!! NO REASON FOR OUR STAR-SHIPS TO BE HALTED IN FLIGHT!**

**BUT SOMETHING IS OUT THERE, BLOCKING EVERY SHIP WE SEND OUT! SOMETHING WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT!!**



**THE MEETING OF ALL THE TOP SCIENTISTS FAILED TO SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE BARRIER!**

**IT ISN'T ANY KIND OF FIELD OR BELT SINCE NO INSTRUMENT CAN DETECT OR MEASURE IT!**

**THEN NO ONE HAS THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT IT CAN BE!**

**UNLESS WE DISCOVER WHAT IT IS, MAN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO ANY FURTHER IN SPACE... WE HAVE REACHED A DEAD END!**



**WE WILL FIND A WAY TO REACH THE END OF THE UNIVERSE! WE WILL SEND ONE MORE STAR-SHIP, WITH A HUMAN BEING AT THE CONTROLS!**

**I PERSONALLY WILL PILOT THE SHIP! IF THERE IS ANY BARRIER OUT THERE, I WILL DESTROY IT... OR ELSE IT WILL HAVE TO DESTROY ME!**



AND NOW, HERE I AM! AT THE CONTROLS OF EARTH'S  
LAST STAR-SHIP! MISSION... TO GO PAST THE  
EDGE OF SPACE!

CAREFUL, DOCTOR HARRIS!  
YOU ARE APPROACHING THE BARRIER!



THE BARRIER!  
I'VE REACHED  
IT!

THE SHIP HAS STOPPED--  
ALTHOUGH THE ATOMIC  
ENGINES ARE GOING  
FULL BLAST!



CAN'T SEE ANYTHING--EVEN  
WITH THESE SPECIAL LENSES  
AND FILTERS--WHATEVER  
THE BARRIER MAY BE--  
IT'S INVISIBLE!



NOTHING!? NO REACTION OR  
IMPULSE OF ANY KIND! THAT  
WOULD MEAN THE THING IS  
WITHOUT MASS--JUST SPACE!!  
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT  
TO DO! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE THE  
SHIP! I'LL GO TO THE BARRIER  
MYSELF!



I-I'VE COME RIGHT LIP TO  
IT... IT'S PREVENTING ME  
FROM GOING ANY FURTHER!  
B-BUT THERE'S NOTHING  
HERE!! ABSOLUTELY  
NOTHING!



THIS HYDROGEN DRILL CAN CUT THROUGH  
ANYTHING, YET I'VE WORN OUT FIVE BITS  
WITHOUT EVEN DENTING WHATEVER THE  
BARRIER IS MADE OF!!



RETURNING TO THE SHIP, I PLAYED MY LAST CARD...

THAT NUCLEAR BOMB HAD A FORCE GREATER THAN A THOUSAND H-BOMBS... BUT IT DIDN'T PENETRATE THE BARRIER!



I'VE FAILED! WE'VE ALL FAILED! MANKIND WILL NEVER BREAK THRU THE BARRIER! NOTHING CAN PASS IT!

RETURN TO EARTH, DOCTOR HARRIS! THERE IS NO MORE YOU CAN DO!



GONE WAS THE CONFIDENCE... THE DETERMINATION! I RETURNED HOME IN DEFEAT!! I HAD FAILED!

WHY, AMY? WHY CAN'T WE GO PAST THAT POINT IN SPACE-- IT ENCIRCLES US COMPLETELY, ALMOST AS IF WE WERE DELIBERATELY ENCLOSED BY A SUPERIOR POWER--



ENCLOSED LIKE -- LIKE --

OH-- NO!!



YOU DON'T THINK... YOU CAN'T BELIEVE...

WHAT OTHER ANSWER IS THERE? THOSE FISH -- WE KEEP THEM IN THAT BOWL FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION!! AND WHAT OF MANKIND? MANKIND WITH ITS WEAPONS, ITS WARS, IT'S FOOLHARDINESS! WHAT IF MANKIND ALSO IS BEING PROTECTED? BUT -- BY WHOM??



THIS IS ONLY A GUESS -- OUR GUESS! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE END