

# WELCOME TO YOUR MARS ADVENTURE

*A FIRE BREAKS OUT  
THAT COULD TAKE DOWN  
YOUR SPACECRAFT...*

*YOU'RE TREKKING  
ALONE THROUGH THE MARTIAN  
FRONTIER AT NIGHT...*

*YOU'RE ABOUT TO  
GET CAUGHT IN  
A MARTIAN DUST  
STORM...*

*WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?  
THINK CAREFULLY, BECAUSE THE  
SUCCESS OF THE ENTIRE MISSION—  
AND YOUR SURVIVAL—COULD BE AT STAKE!*

YOU are a member of the Young Astronaut program, handpicked to join a talented international crew on an incredible journey to Mars. As part of the Mars Program, your mission is to:

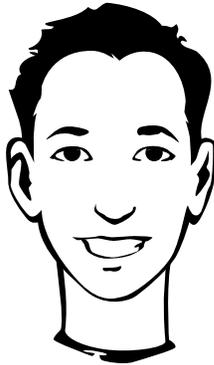
- Get to Mars, which means making a six month journey on the Fire Star spacecraft.
- Help prepare Mars Base I for its first wave of permanent settlers—and make sure you don't cause any setbacks during the year and a half you'll spend there.
- Get back home after another six month ride.

You'll be faced with all kinds of challenges throughout this fast-paced adventure. Each time, you'll be asked to make a choice will change your story. And although there are twenty-four possible endings to your mission, only ONE PATH through the book will allow you to fully accomplish your mission. Making the wrong decision will take you off this path, and lead to other adventures—or misadventures!

**Before starting your mission, make sure you're fully prepared by reading the Expedition File at the back of the book, starting on page 189.** It's filled with important information you'll need to guide you throughout your journey and stay on Mars.

You won't be alone on your mission—your fellow astronauts

## YOUR CREW



**JUNIOR ASTRONAUTS**



### NICOLAS MOREAU

*AGE: 14  
HOME COUNTRY: FRANCE*

Although he goes by Nico for short, this French astronaut isn't short on anything, especially personality. A mechanical whiz, Nico dazzles everyone with his charm and his ability to take apart anything and put it back together. But sometimes Nico can get a little overconfident and carried away with his ideas.

### ANEESA MALIK

*AGE: 15  
HOME COUNTRY: INDIA*

Aneesa has never met a circuit she didn't like. The youngest person ever to complete an electrical engineering degree in India, she went on to join the country's space program, where she is a rising star.

### WEN XIANG

*AGE: 40 HOME COUNTRY: CHINA*

Wen is the commander of the mission. He has a no-nonsense personality, does everything by the book, and demands perfection from his crew. Wen isn't sure how many more missions he will be able to lead before he retires, and he's determined that this one will succeed.



**COMMANDER**



**CREW DOCTOR**

### COOPER JACKSON

*AGE: 33 HOME COUNTRY: U.S.A.*

A born daredevil, Cooper joined the space program to fulfill his sense of adventure. Cooper loves surfing, rock climbing, and skydiving, and he's known for taking big risks to get maximum excitement—even if it means getting himself hurt. But as the flight surgeon, which is what crew doctors are officially called, he never takes any chances with anyone's health. It's possible, though, that his love of action will make six long months on board a spacecraft very challenging for him.

**SCIENTISTS****JULIE DAVIS**

*AGE: 29 HOME COUNTRY: U.S.A.*

A passionate biologist, Julie grew up on a farm in rural Iowa and is happiest around animals. Her shyness disappears if you get her talking about them —then she can go on for hours. Julie is convinced there is life on Mars, and that she will be the one to find it.

**VICTORIA ORLOVA**

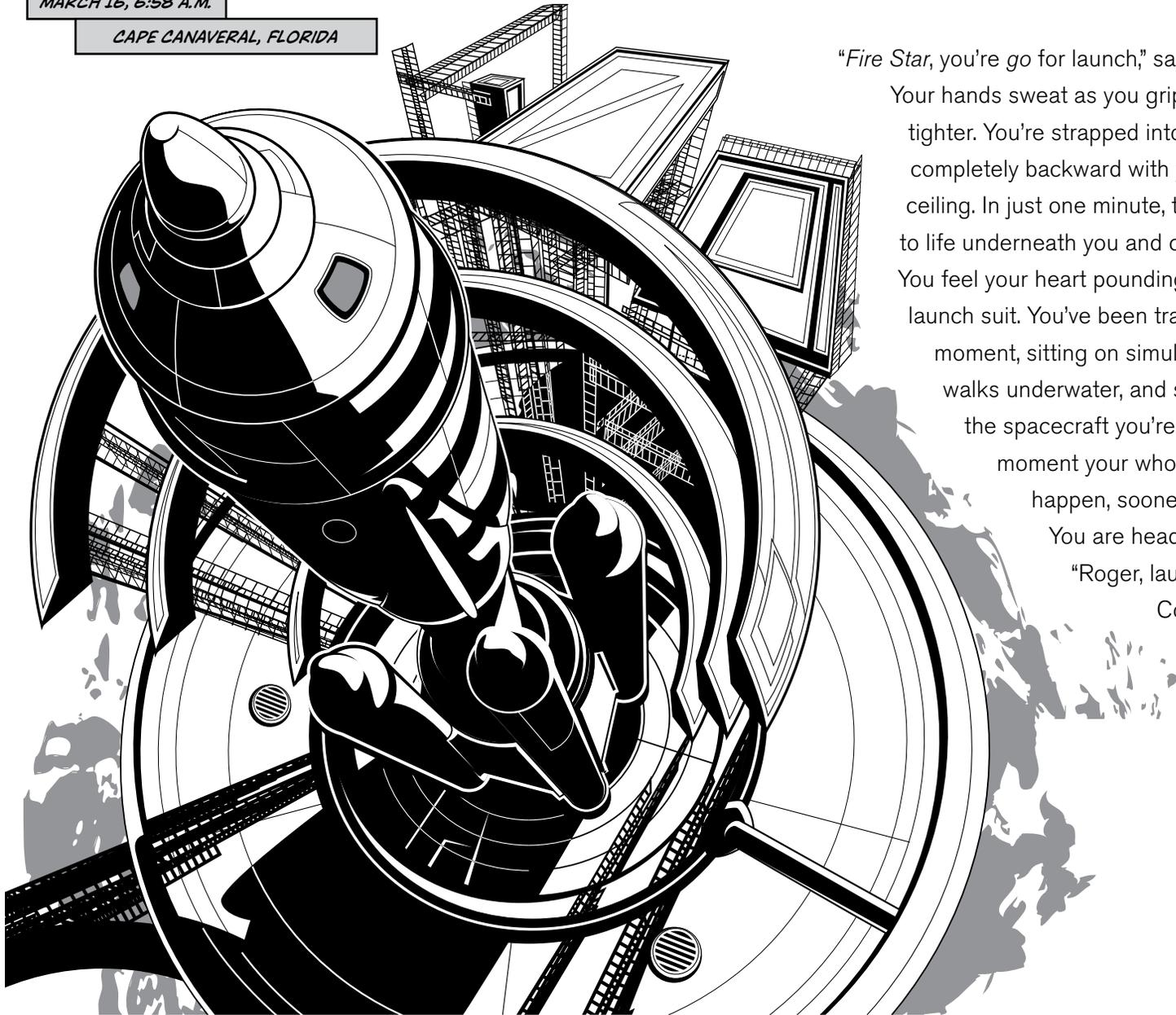
*AGE: 38 HOME COUNTRY: RUSSIA*

Victoria is a professor of astrophysics at a prestigious university, and really knows her stuff. After years in the space program, she is an expert on many things, and she knows it. Victoria can be your greatest ally, but she doesn't have patience for anything less than your best.

**THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...**

MARCH 16, 6:58 A.M.

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA



“Fire Star, you’re go for launch,” says Mission Control. Your hands sweat as you grip your arm rests a little tighter. You’re strapped into your seat, leaning completely backward with your legs toward the ceiling. In just one minute, two giant rockets will roar to life underneath you and catapult you into space. You feel your heart pounding inside your pressurized launch suit. You’ve been training for months for this moment, sitting on simulators, practicing space walks underwater, and studying every system of the spacecraft you’re in. You’ve dreamed of this moment your whole life. And now it’s about to happen, sooner than you ever imagined: You are heading to MARS!

“Roger, launch center,” says Commander Wen.



“T minus one minute and counting,” says Mission Control.

You turn to give thumbs-up to Nico and Aneesa, the other junior astronauts on the crew.

The three of you were chosen from thousands of applicants all over the world to be part of this historic mission: to prepare Mars Base I for the first wave of permanent colonists. The

goal of the Mars Program is for people

of all ages to live on the Red Planet someday, and your mission will prove that young astronauts can not only make the journey to Mars, but handle important jobs on the base too. There were a lot of skeptics, those who thought that young people had no business in space, let alone on Mars. And you know what? You are so ready to prove them wrong!

“*Fire Star*, close and lock your visors, and have a good flight,” says Mission Control as the rocket boosters fire up. You close and lock your visor and take a deep breath.

**“T MINUS TEN ... NINE ... EIGHT ...”**

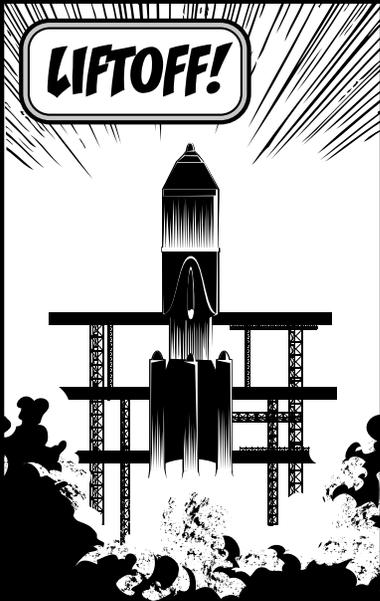


You imagine the crowds waiting and watching outside, waving flags from around the world, plus all of the people watching on screen around the world, and you feel a rush of emotion and pride. You *will* be successful on this mission—whatever it takes!

**“... SEVEN ... SIX ... FIVE ...”**

This is it! You are about to leave planet Earth!

**“... FOUR ... THREE ... TWO ... ONE ...”**

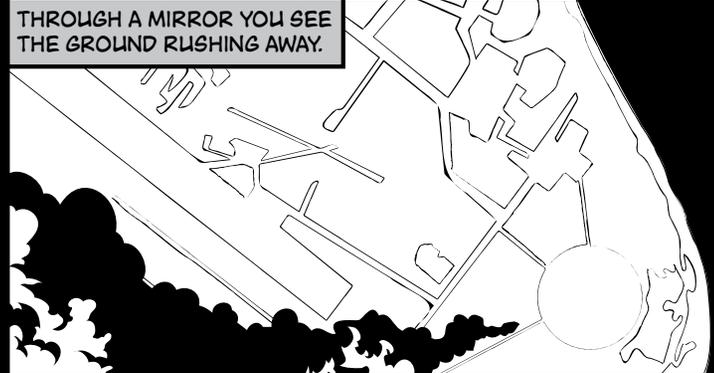


YOU FEEL A POWERFUL SURGE AS THE SPACECRAFT TEARS OFF THE LAUNCH PAD.

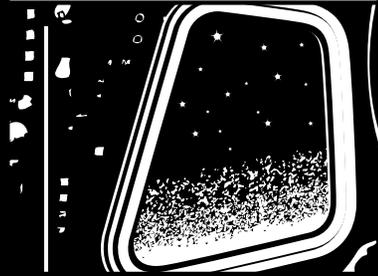
THE FORCE PRESSES YOU BACK INTO YOUR SEAT.



THROUGH A MIRROR YOU SEE THE GROUND RUSHING AWAY.



THEN YOU WATCH THE SKY TURN FROM BLUE TO BLACK.



THE RIDE GETS SMOOTHER AS YOU EXIT EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.



YOU'RE IN SPACE!



WHOO HOO!