



Highly Commended

Science Writing

Year 5-6

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The Space Disaster

Zachary Lee

My grandpa used to tell me that when he was young, scientists predicted the future as electric, driverless cars, robots taking over jobs, sensors in clothing and virtual reality at the next level. They imagined a new world entirely. Now, thanks to scientists and environmentalists like Elon Musk and Greta Thunberg, this has become a reality. Possibly nearly the whole world has a share of this technology. It is the year 2050. The Amazon forests are thriving, Oceans are full of fish. The plastics and fossil fuels which used to pollute the land and the waters have become strictly illegal. Instead carbon free energy sources such as international thermonuclear experimental reactors, wind power and solar power have been implemented for many decades.

And...all the houses now come with little vegetable patches to encourage people to grow their own vegetables. My neighbour has an adorable pet robo-dog that changes colour, my sister has a hologram projector and even my mum has gotten a shirt with sensors that monitors her blood glucose for her diabetes. My name is Physine Terality. I fix delivery drones for local supermarkets and I have been saving my money for one experience, The Space Place hotel.

Ever since the age of 6, I have wanted to go to space. My parents were really boring. We never went to fairs or festivals, "a waste of money" mum said, even though some rides were free. Now, I am about to have a ride of my life, for my life. I have just deposited 9.5 million dollars for a trip to the hotel, and tomorrow morning, the adventure of my life begins.

I got a text message this morning and it read, *To go to the hotel, you must come to Sydney city. There will be a building with a tube-like passage heading to space. Come by noon. We cannot wait to have you on board.* I caught the next hyperloop to Sydney. Thanks to the new technology, hyperloop technology is capable of propelling me at the speed of 1080km/hr through the vacuum cylinder. I was greeted by a fleet of busy robots on arrival.

The robots kindly guided me through to the 'vertical passage.' It was the hyperloop that got me to Sydney but now it was also going to take me up to the hotel, except it will be a little slower due to gravity. As soon as I stepped in, I was practically blasted up to the sky. I felt like my eyes would go out of their sockets and my breath had to be savoured as I knew I couldn't breath at this speed, when eventually. POP! That was the noise it made when I got out. I was greeted by my three roommates and two crew members.

The hotel was amazing. The walls were painted a calming blue, there was a huge window so you could see Earth in all its glory. On the walls there were pictures and paintings of famous astronauts like Buzz Aldrin and Chris Hadfield. I was about to walk into my room when....

Beep beep beep! Code red, repeat code red. Someone shouted, "the oxygen is down!"

Then another voice shouted, "nobody panic, don't waste oxygen."

I heard a scream, "someone call Earth!"

This is what I did. I dashed to the nearest phone and called the rescue crew.

After what was an eternal three minutes, the crew came in a rocket and instructed us to form a line to get inside the rocket. As everyone was hurrying into the rocket, alarming announcements came through the rocket speaker, 'Oxygen for 5 mins! 4 mins!' The pilot quietly said "we don't have enough oxygen for everyone, one person has to get outta here for rest to survive, I'll give 'em space suits and fleeta robots that will hopefully get him to Earth."

The reality hit me. There were brain chips and technological upgrades that were near impossible, and this man forgot to refill oxygen? What an Idiot! On the other hand, I've always wanted an adventure, and this man was giving it to me. I slowly put my hand up and no sooner I was thrown out.

This was the end of me, and what a foolish end it would be. Sometimes I actually wished that when I die, I die without suffering, but here I was, going to suffer from hyperthermia and lack of oxygen. I was about to say goodbye when, to my suprise, the robots from the hotel came after me! They collected me, capsuled me and pulled me toward Earth. Did someone program them to do that? After all, it was the year 2050. Robots were no longer merely programmed tin cans, but essential companions of humankind.

Word Count: 792



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