

Transcript of Episode One - Up, Up, and Away

NASA Radio Announcer

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration presents - The Space Story. NASA Space Shuttle has been winging its way into orbit since 1981, transporting astronaut crews, tons of scientific packages, satellites and other space hardware. Along with the shuttle, America's access to space also relies on multi-staged throw-away missiles, often termed expendable rockets. Except for the space shuttle, most of these rockets have a heritage reaching as far back as the 1950s. Born out of work on Intercontinental ballistic missiles to defend the United States through decades of cold war posturing. They are expensive and insufficiently reliable. But now NASA, the Defense Department, along with Aerospace Industries are looking into the future to design and build next generation boosters. These vehicles will be far more reliable, less expensive and easier to operate and will greatly lower the cost of moving people and payloads into space. That's the view of Ivan Becky, senior executive for Advanced Concepts in NASA's office of Space Access and Technology. The main issue is [...]

[*cassette click*]

Narrator

The 1960s, humanity at the brink of collapse. No one would have imagined then, what horrors would lurk in the vastness of space. Space exploration was still in its infancy, something that wouldn't change until privatized space travel began ushering in a second gold rush. This, in a way, changed everything. Now, nearly a hundred years later, nothing is, as it was before. My dad, you see, he was among the first people to cash in on the rush to the stars. He put together a fleet of cheap mining ships and began harvesting the Outer Belts. When the demand for cheap travel rose up, he transformed half his fleet and offered trips to the furthest stations. Safety wasn't his main concern, so many people ended up dead.

[*Musical interlude*]

Eventually, the government cracked down on his operations and he had to sell his business. I was too young to understand any of this, and besides, my dad and I, we never truly got along. Still, you can picture my surprise when I entered the hangar and saw his last ship, the *Sunlider*, officially registered under my name.

[*Hangar atmosphere, people speaking in Russian*]

I'm leaving Earth. I'm not running away from something. I'm running towards something: The stars. Undiscovered galaxies, indescribable horrors, and I hope you'll join me on this journey. Because believe it or not, without you this ship would not take flight.

[*Sounds of spaceship powering up*]

[*Musical exit*]