Lost in Space

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Summary: The Burton family wins a trip to space, but the experience is not what the family expects.

Characters: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, TV Announcer 1, TV Announcer 2, TV Announcer 3, TV Announcer 4, Sandra Burton, Gary Burton, Ben Burton, Tanya Burton, Trudy, Denise, Bill

Props: remote control, six chairs

(Setting for opening scene: Sandra Burton sits alone, watching TV.)

NARRATOR 1:

It is the year 2054, and Hawaii’s economy is booming. There are many reasons to go to Hawaii, but one reason stands out.

NARRATOR 2:

Sandra Burton is about to find out what it is.

NARRATOR 1:

She sits in a chair, frequently changing channels on the TV with her remote control.

TV ANNOUNCER 1: *(spoken from offstage in an aggressive voice)*

Do you like liverwurst? No? Then come on down to Jerry’s House of Foods You Never Thought You’d Like! This week, the liverwurst platter with a side of beets is just $10.99!

*(Sandra changes the channel.)*

TV ANNOUNCER 2: *(spoken from offstage in an aggressive voice)*

The Handy Scoop will pick up anything Fido leaves behind. Buy one, get one free!

*(Sandra changes the channel again.)*

TV ANNOUNCER 3: *(spoken from offstage in an aggressive voice)*

That’s right—the latest technology allows for an even smaller cell phone. So compact, it fits right in your ear. Your doctor will install it—permanently! That way, you can be on the phone all the time!
SANDRA:  
(frustrated) So many commercials! Ever since Jay Leno celebrated his 60th year on the air, TV has gone downhill. I’m looking for something new and exciting.  
(Sandra changes the channel again.)

TV ANNOUNCER 4: (spoken from offstage in a soothing voice)  
Are you looking for something new and exciting? 

SANDRA:  
Yes! 

TV ANNOUNCER 4:  
The answer’s not on your TV. It’s way out there, in space! Experience the feeling of space . . . the weightlessness and the priceless view of Earth from above. It’s all available to you, and the way to get it is to go to Hawaii. Imagine going to paradise for the thrill of a lifetime. And this month only, tickets are just $20,000 per person!

SANDRA:  
Just $20,000??!! How do they expect anyone to be able to afford that?

NARRATOR 2:  
The phone rings. Sandra picks it up.

SANDRA:  
Hello? Yes, this is Sandra Burton. I’ve won what? A trip to space for four? This is unbelievable! Thank you! We look forward to it!

NARRATOR 1:  
As Sandra gets off the phone, Sandra’s husband, Gary, and their two kids, Ben and Tanya, enter. (All three enter.)

TANYA:  
I’m bored, Mom.
BEN:
Me too. Can I get one of those cell phones implanted in my ear?

GARY:
We’ve already discussed this, Ben. The answer is no.

BEN:
You never let us get anything!

SANDRA:
I have a cure for boredom. First, we’re going to Hawaii, and then we’re going to space!

BEN:
Hawaii? I've always wanted to go to Hawaii! I’m going to go snorkeling and scuba diving and . . . wait a minute. What do you mean, “space”?

GARY:
Do you mean space, as in . . . space?

TANYA:
Stars and planets?

BEN:
Aliens?

SANDRA:
Yes, it’s all true! Well, not the part about the aliens. I won a contest! We all get to go.

NARRATOR 1:
Three days later, the Burton family arrives at the office of Rocketplane Global.

NARRATOR 2:
A woman waited for them there. Her name was Trudy.

TRUDY:
Hello, are you looking for something new and exciting?
SANDRA:
We've already seen the ads.

TRUDY:
Oh, OK. Then you're ready for your space adventure! First, it's time for your training.

TANYA:
Training?

BEN:
No one said there would be training.

TRUDY:
Yes, you'll have to take classes to learn about how the spaceship works. And you'll go on simulated spaceflights.

SANDRA:
You mean pretend spaceflights, where it's like you're in space but you're really not?

TRUDY:
Yes, that's right. So you'll know what it's like to be in space before you actually go. Now, let me just get you started. I'll be right back.

NARRATOR 2:
Trudy leaves the room. Bill and Denise enter.

DENISE:
Aha. There's our next crew. We've been looking for you.

BILL:
Are you ready to experience weightlessness?

BEN:
We're ready!
SANDRA:
Where do we go?

DENISE:
First you need to put on your spacesuits.

NARRATOR 1:
Denise hands each member of the Burton family a spacesuit.

NARRATOR 2:
Everyone puts one on.

SANDRA:
(to Bill) Wait a minute. Aren’t you the guy who played Captain Kirk in the TV show *Star Trek*?

BILL:
(Tries to look embarrassed to be recognized, but is really proud) Oh, who am I kidding? False modesty never worked for me. Yes, I was Captain Kirk.

BEN:
Aren’t you really old by now? What are you doing working for this company?

BILL:
I don’t work for this company. I’m a space tourist, just like you!

DENISE:
OK, everyone. Let’s go outside and get onto the spaceship.

NARRATOR 1:
Denise, Bill, Sandra, Gary, Ben, and Tanya step “outside” to the spaceship.

NARRATOR 2:
A crowd is waiting there. Everyone cheers. *(Students in the audience cheer.)*

GARY:
(Whispering to Sandra) I didn’t expect such a crowd.
SANDRA:
Neither did I. After all, this is only a training session.

TANYA:
(Whispering to Ben) This looks so real. I can't believe this is just for pretend.

NARRATOR 1:
Everyone boards the spaceship and sits down.

DENISE:
Don't worry, everyone. You’re in good hands with me. I used to work for NASA. Please, everyone get strapped in. Okay, ready for takeoff.

NARRATOR 1:
A few seconds after takeoff, the spaceship tilts so it is vertical.

NARRATOR 2:
Everyone gets tipped backward. (Everyone looks up to face the ceiling.)

BILL, GARY, SANDRA, BEN, AND TANYA:
Woooooaaaaaaahhhhhhh!

SANDRA:
This IS realistic!

BILL:
Yes, much more realistic than anything on Star Trek!

GARY:
(looks out the window) Wait a minute. Is that what I think it is? Is that Earth below us?

DENISE:
Of course it is! We’re in orbit now. You can take off your belts and move around the cabin.

NARRATOR 1:
Everyone gets up and starts floating around.
TANYA:

Wow, this is amazing! (Sandra begins to float toward her.) Mom? Mom, watch where you’re going. (Sandra and Tanya bump shoulders.)

SANDRA:

Oops, sorry.

GARY:

This is quite a simulation of space.

DENISE:

Simulation? What? Oh, well. Now, everyone float to a seat and get strapped in. It’s time for to go back to Earth.

NARRATOR 2:

Denise, Bill, Gary, Sandra, Ben, and Tanya sit down.

NARRATOR 1:

They grip their chairs as the spaceship begins a rapid descent.

BILL, GARY, SANDRA, BEN, AND TANYA:

Woooooaaaaahhhhhhh!

DENISE:

Time to restart the jet engines! Coming in for our landing!

NARRATOR 1:

The spaceship bumps back onto the runway and comes to a stop.

DENISE:

Well, I hope everyone enjoyed the flight.

BEN:

Fantastic!
TANYA:
Amazing!

GARY:
When is the real thing?

DENISE:
The real thing? I don’t understand what you mean.

BEN:
You know—the real flight. When is it?

DENISE:
That was the real flight. We were just in space. I told you we were orbiting Earth.

BILL:
Yes, clearly we were in space. I should know—I was Captain Kirk.

SANDRA:
But we thought it was a simulation. I didn’t even get a chance to take any pictures!

TANYA:
We want to go up again.

DENISE:
Okay, sure. That’ll be $20,000. Each.

GARY:
On second thought, maybe we’ll just rent a few episodes of Star Trek.

BILL:
Now you’re talking!