

LAUNCH DATE

by

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INT. MR. TANDUM'S STUDY - EVENING

MR. TANDUM sips his brandy. His butler, BENNETT enters.

BENNETT

You asked to see me, sir?

MR. TANDUM

Sit down, Bennett. Make yourself comfortable. Would you like some brandy?

BENNETT

Umm...

MR. TANDUM

It's alright. Feel at ease. Brandy?

BENNETT

Sure.

MR. TANDUM

Here you are...take a sip. Enjoy and feel relaxed. I need to ask you some questions and I would like you to have as clear a mind as possible for optimal thought.

BENNETT

Yes. Brandy certainly helps one get optimized for optimum thought.

MR. TANDUM

Lovely. Now, if I was to build a rocket ship, what would be the very first thing I would do?

BENNETT

A rocket ship, sir? For space?

MR. TANDUM

That's right. I want to leave Earth at once and fly into the outer reaches of space, until I hit Mars. Kur-plunk!

BENNETT

I see.

MR. TANDUM

Well?

BENNETT

Well, what, sir?

MR. TANDUM

What do you think is the very first thing I should do to build my rocket?

BENNETT

Well, I would have to say that you would need to reach out to experts in the field?

MR. TANDUM

Right.

BENNETT

But, sir...why would you want to go to Mars, if you don't mind me asking...you apparently have everything here.

MR. TANDUM

Death.

BENNETT

Death, sir?

MR. TANDUM

That is correct.

BENNETT

What do you mean by...death. sir?

MR. TANDUM

You do know the definition of the word?

BENNETT

Yes, sir.

MR. TANDUM

There you have it. I wish to shoot myself into orbit by way of a rocket, in order to die. A much more exciting adventure than what dear old father had done.

BENNETT

But why on Earth, sir?

MR. TANDUM

Is that a pun?

BENNETT

What, sir?

MR. TANDUM
A pun my dear boy, a pun. And I'm
asking you about rockets!

BENNETT
Right.

Pause.

Sir?

MR. TANDUM
Mmmm

BENNETT
Are you feeling...well.

MR. TANDUM
I feel spectacular.

BENNETT
Right. Sir, when do you
plan on having your
rocket built?

MR. TANDUM
Well, first there is a level of
research, is there not? And then,
then there will be time for
construction and finally, a launch
date. Which reminds me, I will
need you to be solely responsible
for the launch date.

BENNETT
Launch date, sir?

MR. TANDUM
Launch date. I want you to make
sure all arrangements are met
according to this paper right
here!

Mr. Tandum hands Bennett a piece of paper. Bennett
examines the paper.

As you will note, there is a
checklist box next to each number.
There are a total of seven things
I wish to be done by launch date
in order for launch date to go
off. Please read everything over
on your own time, absorb it, begin
collecting and be done with it. I
do believe, realistically, I will
be launching myself into space
within four years time.

BENNETT
Four years, sir?

MR. TANDUM
Four more miserable years of this
asinine existence and POOF, off to
space I go to meet my alien
friends. Yippy!

Bennett stares at Mr Tandum quizzically.

BENNETT
Will that be all, sir?

MR. TANDUM
All? Why yes, all for now. Get
to work! Oh, one must remain hush
hush about my rocket. by all
means.

BENNETT
By all means, sir.

MR. TANDUM
By all means.

BENNETT
Yes, by all means, sir.

MR. TANDUM
By all means.

BENNETT
Yes.

MR. TANDUM
Yes! Be gone!