

# **Sample of Cover and Selected Pages**

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# CODE READER™

## Making Difficult Words Easy

Code Reader Chapter Books provide codes with “sound keys” to help read difficult words. For example, a word that may be difficult to read is “unicorn,” so it might be followed by a code like this: unicorn (*YOO-nih-korn*). By providing codes with phonetic sound keys, Code Reader Books make reading easier and more enjoyable.

### Examples of Code Reader™ Keys

Long a sound (as in make):

**a** (*with a silent e*) or **ay**

Examples: able (*AY-bul*); break (*brake*)

Short i sound (as in sit): **i** or **ih**

Examples: myth (*mith*); mission (*MIH-shun*)

Long i sound (as in by):

**i** (*with a silent e*) or **y**

Examples: might (*mite*); bicycle (*BY-sih-kul*)

Keys for the long o sound (as in hope):

**o** (*with a silent e*) or **oh**

Examples: molten (*MOLE-ten*); ocean (*OH-shen*)

**Codes use dashes between syllables (*SIH-luh-buls*), and stressed syllables have capital letters.**

To see more Code Reader sound keys, see page 40.

# THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

By Yves Grevet

Cover illustration by Prince Gigi

TREASURE **BAY**

# **The Forbidden Planet**

**A Code Reader™ Chapter Book  
Blue Series**

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Patent Pending.

Code Reader books are designed using an innovative system of methods to create and include phonetic codes to enhance the readability of text.

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# **CHAPTER 1**

# **ALPHA AND EXO**

I woke up and looked at the time display.

We had left Planet Alpha (*AL-fuh*) thirty-four days, twelve hours, and twenty-eight minutes ago. We were on board the military spaceship IKS-537 on a monitoring mission in the Milky Way galaxy (*GAL-ex-ee*). Just before takeoff, we had been put into a deep sleep.

I unlocked my sleep pod and stretched. The sleeping room was still dark and silent (*SY-lent*).

I stood up and went over to the other crew members. They were still asleep.

This wasn't the plan at all. I didn't understand. Our wake-up calls were programmed to go off at exactly the same time, when we arrived in the galactic (*guh-LAK-tik*) zone we were supposed to monitor.

I needed to figure (*FIG-yur*) out what to do, but I could feel myself start to panic. I rushed to the pod of Hurk, our captain (*KAP-ten*) and instructor. She was still in a state of deep sleep. This was a woman I had learned to respect and even like. She could be strict during training and flight preparation (*preh-puh-RAY-shun*), but she was always fair.

I stopped for a moment in front of Swag's and Riker's (*RY-kurz*) pods. Like me, they were junior (*JOON-yur*) crewmates. They had hated me ever since our first meeting. It wasn't just me. They hated anyone who wasn't like them.

Swag and Riker were true Alpha. Their faces (*FAY-sez*) were shaped like rounded triangles (*TRY-ang-gulz*). The tops of their skulls were very large—according to them, this was due to their huge brains—and their chins were pointed. As for me, I was just an Exo (*EX-oh*). That’s what we called people from other planets. My head was almost an oval (*OH-vul*) shape.

I was adopted when I was five years old by an Alpha who named me Stix. I don’t remember my life before at all. The doctors think it’s because my previous (*PREE-vee-us*) life traumatized (*TRAW-muh-tized*) me and gave me total amnesia (*am-NEE-zhuh*). My adoptive father, Ishtar, told me was that I was one of the only survivors (*sur-VY-vurz*) of a huge disaster.

Ishtar did everything he could to help me get into the Aerospace (*AIR-oh-spase*) School for Alphas. And it hadn’t been easy.

Normally (*NOR-mul-lee*), people like me wouldn’t



get a place there. There's no rule against (*uh-GENST*) it, but the school's teachers and students try their best to make Exos drop out. Well, not all the teachers. Not Hurk.

Traveling the universe (*YOO-nih-vers*), discovering new planets, and reaching out to unknown people had been my dream for a long time. And Ishtar encouraged (*en-KUR-rijd*) me to follow that dream. I clung to it and learned to put up with the insults and unfairness.

I only reacted (*ree-AK-ted*) explosively (*ex-PLOH-siv-lee*) when my life or honor (*AH-nur*) was in danger (*DANE-jur*). But those fierce (*FEERes*) reactions always surprised my enemies (*EH-neh-meez*), who weren't used to seeing an Exo like me demanding respect.

Lots of guys in the program avoided looking me in the eye. It's a shame that my being different scares or upsets them. If they had tried to get to know me better, they would see I'm just like them.

This past year, I had really tried to stay out of trouble (*TRUH-bul*). I wanted to be ranked high enough (*ee-NUF*) in my class to get into Hurk's permanent (*PUR-muh-nent*) crew. This was my first voyage (*VOY-ij*), and I wanted to make the most of it.

## **CHAPTER 2**

# **A SECRET MESSAGE**

I looked out the viewing (*VYOO-ing*) window. We were orbiting a solid planet that had a thick cloud cover. I couldn't make out anything on its surface. I reached out to the central (*SEN-trul*) computer, which was directly linked with my brain. I formed the question in my head:

Where are we?

The response came instantly:

*Danger imminent (IM-mih-nent). Change route (rowt) and move away from the forbidden planet.*

*I repeat: Danger imminent. Change route . . .*

A forbidden planet? That was never mentioned (*MEN-shund*) during mission preparation.

I asked: What sort of danger?

*Danger imminent. Change route and move away from the forbidden planet. I repeat: Danger imminent.*

The computer's message (*MES-sej*) was getting louder every time it repeated, to the point that it made my head hurt. I cut the link. I hated following (*FAH-loh-wing*) orders without understanding the reason for them. But I also knew that I was supposed (*suh-POHST*) to obey (*oh-BAY*) without thinking, and doing so could avoid a lot of trouble. But at that moment I was the only crew member awake, and I considered the ship my responsibility (*ree-spon-sih-BIL-ih-tee*). I couldn't believe the computer could have made two mistakes: one, allowing me to be the only one woken up and two, bringing us to this forbidden planet.

Why was the planet forbidden? For some reason, I really wanted to fly over this planet and maybe even land on it.

One of my suit (*soot*) pockets vibrated (*VY-bray-ted*). I took out a small sphere (*sfeer*) about one centimeter (*SEN-tih-mee-tur*) in diameter (*dy-AM-mih-tur*). A message bubble. Someone must have slid it in there without me noticing (*NOH-tih-sing*) before we left. Who could it have been? I popped it inside my ear, and the recording played immediately (*im-MEE-dee-et-lee*).

*Stix, get in the shuttle and turn on autopilot (AW-toh-PY-lut).*

The robotic (*roh-BAH-tik*) voice shut off, and I took the bubble out of my ear. As soon as my fingers touched it, it exploded into a very fine powder.

Who could have slipped me that message? Leaving the ship without permission was not allowed. Was the message an order from

command or was I being set up? I wasn't sure, but something was pulling me to get into the shuttle and go explore.

Maybe it was a trap set by Swag and Riker. They could be waiting for me to leave the ship so they could sound the alarm. If it came to light that I had disobeyed (*dis-oh-BADE*) orders and put the rest of the crew in danger, I'd face severe (*seh-VEER*) punishment. I'd could end up in prison (*PRIZ-un*) for years, and after I got out, I probably wouldn't be able to travel to other galaxies (*GAL-ex-eez*) anymore.

I went back to my crewmates and looked at the vital (*VY-tul*) signs on their pod screens. No doubt (*dowt*) about it: they were in a deep sleep. At least I wouldn't have to deal with them right now.

I thought about Ishtar, my adoptive father. What would he think about me doing this? Would he feel betrayed? Or, the opposite (*OP-puh-sit*), would he be proud of me?

I didn't have time to dwell on it. The computer might start waking the others. I didn't know how much time I had.