

BUCK ROGERS -- Chapter 2

Buck Rogers / Wilma Deering / Dr. Huer / Barney
Willie / Joe Martin / Popsicle Pete / Announcer

ANNOUNCER

Are you ready to join Buck, Wilma, and Dr. Huer again? Here we go –
500 years into the Future!

**FX: SOUND OF APPROACHING ROCKET, A RUMBLING
ROAR**

WILMA

Look here! Out of the window!

BUCK

Look! Good heavens! Wilma! It's coming right down this way!
Wilma!

WILMA

Buck!

FX: SOUND GETS LOUDER, ENDING IN A GRINDING CRASH

WILMA

Good night!

BUCK

Hey, c'mon folks! Whoever's in that rocketship that crashed out there's
going to need help!

DR HUER

Yes, Buck.

BUCK

Come on!

WILMA

Hang on, Buck. It looks to me as though it deliberately cracked up right
outside this laboratory.

DR. HUER

Wilma's right, Buck. It didn't look like a ship out of control.

BUCK

Well, you can hardly call it an ordinary landing! We'd better give whoever's in it some...

Hey, look! It's a Martian ship!

FX: SCRAPING METAL, ENDING WITH A METALLIC SLAM

WILMA

See? The metal door on the side of it has opened!

DR HUER

Wait! Wait, it's ... it's all right.

WILMA

Wait?

BUCK

All right, Doctor? Why, the people in that ship must have crashed for...

DR HUER

Wait, Buck – and listen.

(APPROACHING VOICES)

BARNEY (off-mic)

...fifteen hours. See, it's exactly like I told you it would be. Here we are, safe and sound. And right on time.

WILMA

Why, it's Barney!

BUCK

(laughing) Well, I'll be doggone.

WILLIE (off-mic)

I still don't think we needed to land that fast, Mr. Barney.

WILMA

And Willie's with him!

WILLIE

You see? You made me skin my knee against the control board!

BARNEY

Well, what difference does that make? We had to get down here in a hurry, didn't we?

WILLIE

My knee hurts, too!

BARNEY

And the only way was to land in a hurry so's we... Hunh?

WILLIE

See?

BARNEY

Say, you did kinda get scratched up there now, didn't ya?

WILLIE

Yessir.

BARNEY

Er, here, Willie, you .. you just put your arm around my shoulder and I'll carry you right straight over to a hospital. Yeah!

WILLIE

Oh, it didn't hurt that bad, Mr. Barney.

BARNEY

Whaddaya mean, it ain't hurt that bad?

WILLIE

Well, I just thought maybe you didn't care.

BARNEY

Aw...

WILLIE

And anyhow, what about that important package you have on board here for Dr. Huer?

BARNEY

Oh, yeah, yeah, that's right. Yessir, we'd better get that Gyro-thing in Dr. Huer's laboratory right this minute.

DR HUER

We'll take care of it, Barney.

BARNEY

Hunh? Oh! Oh, hello, Dr. Huer.

(EVERYBODY SAYS HELLOS ALL AROUND)

BARNEY

Er, say, Doctor... How'd you know we'd got here?

BUCK

(laughing) Don't worry, Barney, after that landing, the whole city knows you're here.

WILMA

I should say so. It's a wonder you didn't break your neck

BARNEY

We-ell, Dr. Huer was in a hurry to get ahold of that... that er, Gyro-thing we brung down from Mars, so I figgered the quicker we landed with it, the better.

DR HUER

(amused) Well, I hope it's all right after that landing.

BARNEY

Aw, sure it is, Doctor. I got it stowed away in the Shock Insulator storage cabinet.

DR HUER

Fine. Then my suggestion is that we fly right over to the Spaceport. We'll have the Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator installed on a ship I have waiting for it over there.

BUCK

Well, good, then we can go right ahead and test it out.

WILMA

Yes. Well, Willie here needs to expose his bruised knee to a healing ray for a few minutes.

WILLIE

Oh, that's all right, Lt. Wilma.

BARNEY

No, sir! Now, Willie, you do what Lt. Wilma says to do!

WILLIE

It doesn't hurt, though. ...Much.

BUCK

I'll tell you what. Barney, my little Rocket Roadster is parked out back of the laboratory building.

BARNEY

Yeah?

BUCK

So you and Willie hop into that, and go over to the hospital where they'll take care of that bruised knee. And meanwhile, we three'll take this ship

of yours over to the Spaceport, and install the Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator on whatever sort of craft Dr. Huer has waiting for it over there.

BARNEY

O—kay, Captain Rogers, we'll do it. Eh, come on, Willie.

WILLIE

Yessir. See you later!

WILMA

All right, Willie.

BARNEY

Er, only... wait a minute! Uh, listen, Doctor...

DR HUER

Yes, Barney?

BARNEY

Are you, uh... are you three going to try out that Gyro-thing or ... are you gonna have someone else do it for ya?

DR HUER

Why, we'll do it, of course.

BARNEY

Well, are ya sure it won't be, uh... too dangerous, Doctor?

DR HUER

Dangerous? (laughing) Oh, no! No.

BARNEY

Don't you laugh, Doctor. If it'll do all the things you told me by radio it would do, why... it sounds to me like it might be dangerous or stuff.

DR HUER

Oh, no no no. Not at all. And if you hustle over to the hospital with Willie, you can probably get out to the Spaceport before we take off with it.

BARNEY

Yeah, okay, Doctor, okay. Come on, Willie.

BUCK

And come on, Wilma, Doctor. Let's get aboard here and over to the Spaceport.

DR HUER

Yes, Buck.

FX: DOOR LATCHES, MECHANICAL FIDDLING

DR HUER

Now's the time to test this Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator here. I'm almost as excited about it as you appear to be.

WILMA

All set, Buck. Close the metal door.

BUCK

Right.

FX: METAL SCRAPING, ENDING WITH A METALLIC SLAM.

BUCK

Want to take the controls, Doctor?

DR HUER

All right, Buck. Here we go!

FX: THROBBING SOUND OF ENGINES REVVING UP, THEN PULSING OFF WITH A ROAR (possibly sounding a bit rough and archaic)

BUCK

Huh. Never know this ship had been through that crash-landing, would you?

DR HUER

Well, I don't know whether you've noticed it, Buck, but all these Martian ships are made very solidly.

BUCK

Yeah, that's true. They're not very fast, but tough!

WILMA

Well, isn't that perfectly natural? They're all made under Barney's supervision.

(GENERAL LAUGHTER)

BUCK

Right. But while you're steering us over to the Spaceport, Doctor, I'm going to unpack the Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator back here. (retreating off-mic) Then we can begin installation on the other ship just as soon as we get there.

DR HUER

That's a good idea, Buck. And I'll radio ahead to Joe Martin there at the Spaceport to have men and tools ready in order to save time.

FX: CLICKING OF RADIO

DR HUER

Calling Joe Martin at Spaceport. This is Dr. Huer calling Joe Martin at Spaceport. Calling Joe...

(fades out, as...)

FX: ROCKET ROARS THROUGH SPACE, TRANSITIONS TO: HAMMERING AND OTHER MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION SOUNDS – CONTINUES UNDER FOLLOWING SCENE, MUTED

DR HUER

That's it, Joe. Have your men pay the bank of photo-electric cells into that aperture in the main bank of rocket tubes.

JOE

Yessir, Dr. Huer. (calling) All right, Al, swing it right over here.

DR HUER

That's it. And as soon as you're through with the installation, have all this machinery cleared away.

JOE

Yessir.

BUCK

Should be all set for the tryout in a couple of minutes now, shouldn't it, Doctor?

DR HUER

Yes, Buck. Just as soon as they finish bolting down that fireplate.

BUCK

Oh, good. I'm anxious to get started with this experimental flight.

WILMA

I wonder if Barney and Willie will get here before we take off. Barney apparently was quite interested in the Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator.

BUCK

Now, how about this power line, Doctor?

DR HUER

Oh, plug it into outlet number One there, Buck.

BUCK

Oh, right, sir.

**FX: HEAVY CABLE MOVING ON GROUND – OTHER
SOUNDS CEASE**

BUCK

There it is. There it is, Doctor, it's all ready... Uh oh.

WILMA

What's the matter, Buck?

BUCK

Oh, nothing, I just scratched the back of my hand a bit, that's all.

JOE

All ready for the take-off now, Doctor.

DR HUER

Fine, Joe. Tell your men to clear away, and we'll go right up.

JOE

Yessir. They're on their way back to the main hangar now.

DR HUER

Good. ... Well, Buck ... Wilma.

WILMA

Say, look here, Buck, you've taken a really big piece of skin off the back of your hand here.

BUCK

Oh, forget it. Let's get up in the air in this rocketship!

WILMA

Say, you're as bad as Willie was. ... Joe?

JOE

Yes'm, Lieutenant?

WILMA

Don't you have a healing ray in your office?

JOE

Sure, Lieutenant.

BUCK

Oh, forget it, Wilma. It'll be all right.

WILMA

No sir! Come on over to the office with me, and we'll put your hand under the healing ray for a minute.

BUCK

Well, but.... Oh, okay.

DR HUER

I'll go along with you, so I can report to the Central Radio Bureau and tell them where we are.

JOE

It's this way, right over here.

BUCK

It's silly to worry about a little scratch like this, Wilma. And I'm anxious to get aloft with that Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator on the ship.

JOE

Right in here, Lt. Wilma.

FX: DOOR OPENS

JOE

The healing ray's right there in the corner.

WILMA

Here, Buck. Now you put your hand under it while I turn it on.

BUCK

Oh, okay.

FX: LOW HUMMING OF RAY

WILMA

There now! And don't turn it off until your hand is completely healed.

DR HUER

Now, let's see, where's this radio unit of yours, Joe?

JOE

Right here, Doctor.

FX: TRILLING OF ELECTRONIC PHONE

JOE

Oh, excuse me, sir. There's a call coming in on it now.

FX: RADIO CLICK

JOE

Central Spaceport. Joe Martin speaking.

FILTERED VOICE

Central Radio Bureau. You seen anything of Dr. Huer? We've been trying to locate him all over the city.

JOE

Why, sure. He's right here. Here, Doctor, this call's for you.

DR HUER

Oh, thank you. This is Dr. Huer.

FILTERED VOICE

Urgent message for you, Dr. Huer. The captain of the Rocket Police.

DR HUER

Yes?

FILTERED VOICE

Says that one of the Air Guards has just discovered that your laboratory has been forcibly entered and completely ransacked.

DR HUER

What?! Why, I ... I just left there a few minutes ago.

FILTERED VOICE

Well, it was only discovered a couple of minutes ago. Shall I tell the captain you'll be right over?

DR HUER

No... no. As long as the Rocket Police are already there, no more damage will be done. I'm engaged in a very important experiment here that I can't leave at the moment. I'll go back to my laboratory just as soon as I'm finished with it. In the meantime, they'll know what measures need to be taken, and can proceed accordingly.

FILTERED VOICE

Yes, sir.

DR HUER

Signing off.

FILTERED VOICE

Signing off.

FX: RADIO CLICK

DR HUER

Well ... can't say that I like that.

BUCK

Say, maybe we'd better postpone this test, Doctor.

DR HUER

No! No, Buck. It's the most important thing we have at hand right now, and we'd better go through with it.

BUCK

Well, whatever you say.

WILMA

I wonder who could have done it? Surely Black Barney wouldn't have ...

DR HUER

No, our friend Barney might absent-mindedly pull a locked door off its hinges to get in, but certainly he wouldn't be involved in ransacking my laboratory.

BUCK

And anyhow, he's probably out at the test ship wondering why we don't get started.

DR HUER

Yes. Well then, come along ...

FX: ELECTRONIC PHONE RING

JOE

Better wait a second, Doctor. May be another call for you.

FX: RECEIVER CLICK

JOE

Central Spacepo-- Oh, yessir. It's for you, Captain Rogers.

BUCK

Okay, Joe, thanks. Buck Rogers speaking.

FILTERED VOICE

Central Radio, Captain. Order from the office of the President. The entire Rocket Police Fleet has been placed at your disposal.

BUCK

What?

FILTERED VOICE

All regular patrol ships are standing by awaiting your orders. You have full authority to proceed along any lines you may see fit.

BUCK

Now wait a minute, wait a minute. ... Is ... is this because of the trouble at Dr. Huer's laboratory?

FILTERED VOICE

No sir. Something happened to one of the guards at the Municipal Prison. The automatic alarm system was completely wrecked -- the guard found lying in a storage room under the effect of a paralysis ray.

BUCK

Great Scott, man! Who did it?

FILTERED VOICE

Killer Kane and Ardala. And they've escaped.

BUCK

Doctor! Wilma! Did you hear that?

DR HUER

Yes, Buck.

BUCK

The worst criminals the solar system has ever known!

WILMA

How could Kane and Ardala have escaped?

BUCK

I don't know, but one's thing's sure -- we're gonna have to call off this test flight!

DR HUER

Not at all, Buck.

BUCK

Huh?

DR HUER

Now we MUST go ahead with it.

BUCK

But Doctor....

DR HUER

It will take far more than the ordinary rocketship to track down that pair. And that's just exactly what our Gyro-Cosmic-Relativator will provide.

WILMA

Dr. Huer's right, Buck.

BUCK

Okay, then. C'mon, let's go!

DR HUER

There's the ship – just waiting for us, and we can take off in it immediately.

BUCK

Well, c'mon!

FX: ROAR OF ROCKETS – CONTINUES UNDER...

WILMA

No! Look!

BUCK

There it goes! There goes our ship!

FX: ROCKET ROAR INCREASES, AND THEN UNDER FOR ANNOUNCER

ANNOUNCER

Well, somebody beat them to it. If you ask me, there's trouble ahead for our friends.

POPSICLE PETE

Say, kids! Did you ever try a Creamsickle? Gee, it's wonderful! A great big chunk of delicious ice cream on a stick – coated with thick, chewy butterscotch!

ANNOUNCER

Or you can get Creamsickle coated with chocolate fudge or fresh fruit flavors. They're wholesome, too! Full of the kind of nourishment we all need. And only a nickel for a great big Creamsickle on a handy stick.

POPSICLE PETE

Don't forget to save the bags for those swell gifts!