

Dear Editors:

I'm attaching a great science fiction story about a new kind of space travel. I hope you will publish it in your magazine. I've published over 100 stories, including stories in the Upside Down Marmot, Faznivo, and The West Haven Maraca Anthology. I love to write, and I currently live in a 1 bedroom apartment with my computer and my dog, Sruffboy.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can use my story. It is an exclusive submission only to you. If you choose not to accept my story, any suggestions for improvement would be appreciated.

Link Linkletter

Roberta's Cure

by

Link Linkletter

Roberta opened her sky-blue eyes and took in the spacescape. She couldn't believe she was finally here. After all, the Martian Academy was tough—almost too tough. There were times she thought for sure she'd quit, but she prevailed and now—here she was! It was worth it, and it was amazing!

"Quegzib, how much father to Tebdubzox?" asked Roberta, as she brushed her fingers through her long brown hair.

"About twelve thousand parsecs," said Quegzib.

They were in a spaceship on the way to Tebdubzox, and planet many light years from earth. Before the invention of the Faza drive, the journey would have taken many generations to complete, but now it was only a matter of days. The Faza drive worked using a concept of actually bending space, so that the distance the spaceship had to travel was actually much shorter than it would otherwise be.

The real question was—would it be fast enough? If Roberta and her crew could not successfully complete their mission in time, all of human race living on earth would die. Roberta shed a soft tear, thinking about her mother, father, and sister back home. She wouldn't let them down!

Suddenly, their space ship was attacked by a huge, looming black ship.

"Oh, no!" shouted Roberta. "Clyptotons! Quick, fire the laser blasters!"

A bright band of light shattered the empty darkness of space. The Clyptotonian ship shuddered under the power of the blast, but it kept coming."

"Again!" shouted Roberta. "Full power!"

This time, the Clyptononian ship exploded into a flash of green-blue light. Then there was nothing but space dust.

Roberta heaved a sigh of relief. "Whew, that was close!" she said. "Resume course . . . we've got to get to Tebdubzox!"
 . . .

[4000 to 6000 words later . . .]

Tears streamed down Roberta's cheeks as Earth came on to the view screen. "Home," she said. It wasn't too late. The atmospheric converter loaned to her by the Tebdubzoxians would begin working right away. She would miss Quegzib, but his sacrifice would not go unnoticed. In all likelihood, a huge reward would be given to his wife and family by the World Government. As for Roberta, she would have to get used to something else as well . . . being a hero.

The End

Lesley comments:

Re. The letter:

Brevity is effective in a query letter. Let the work speak for itself.

Please do not tell us about unrelated stuff such as your dog.

Re. The story:

Please be aware of the market. Do not submit a story that has been published so many times it's a cliché. The writing should be of reasonable quality regarding grammar, spelling, etc. Do not use excessive adverbs or adjective strings. Use exclamation marks sparingly. Also please be aware of pov; who's pov are we in when the sky-blue eyes and long brown hair are mentioned? Please do not info-dump. The characters shouldn't think or say things they already know.

Betsy comments:

Letter: all I want to know is story title, word count, and publishing credits, if any

Story: (What Lesley said. ☺)

The first line is not a hook: it includes a cliché and no pertinent information besides a vague setting reference.

I don't see a crisis, and even if there was one, our protagonist didn't solve it herself (it was solved the loaning of an item)

The attacking ship didn't contribute to the plot and it was solved much too easily

We get only physical descriptions of Roberta

I see formatting issues and grammatical errors

