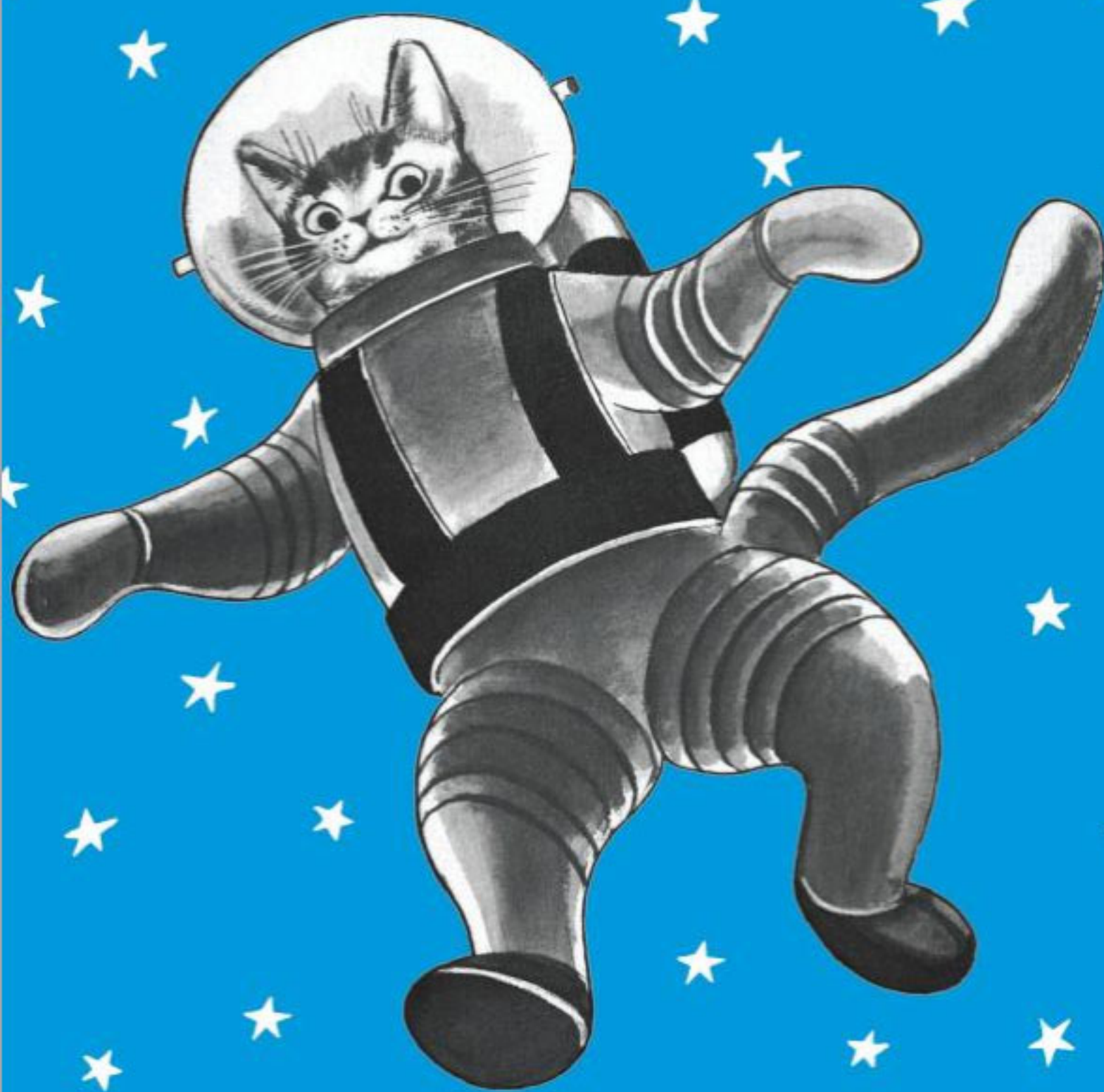


# SPACE CAT



**RUTHVEN TODD**  
ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL GALDONE

## CHAPTER ONE

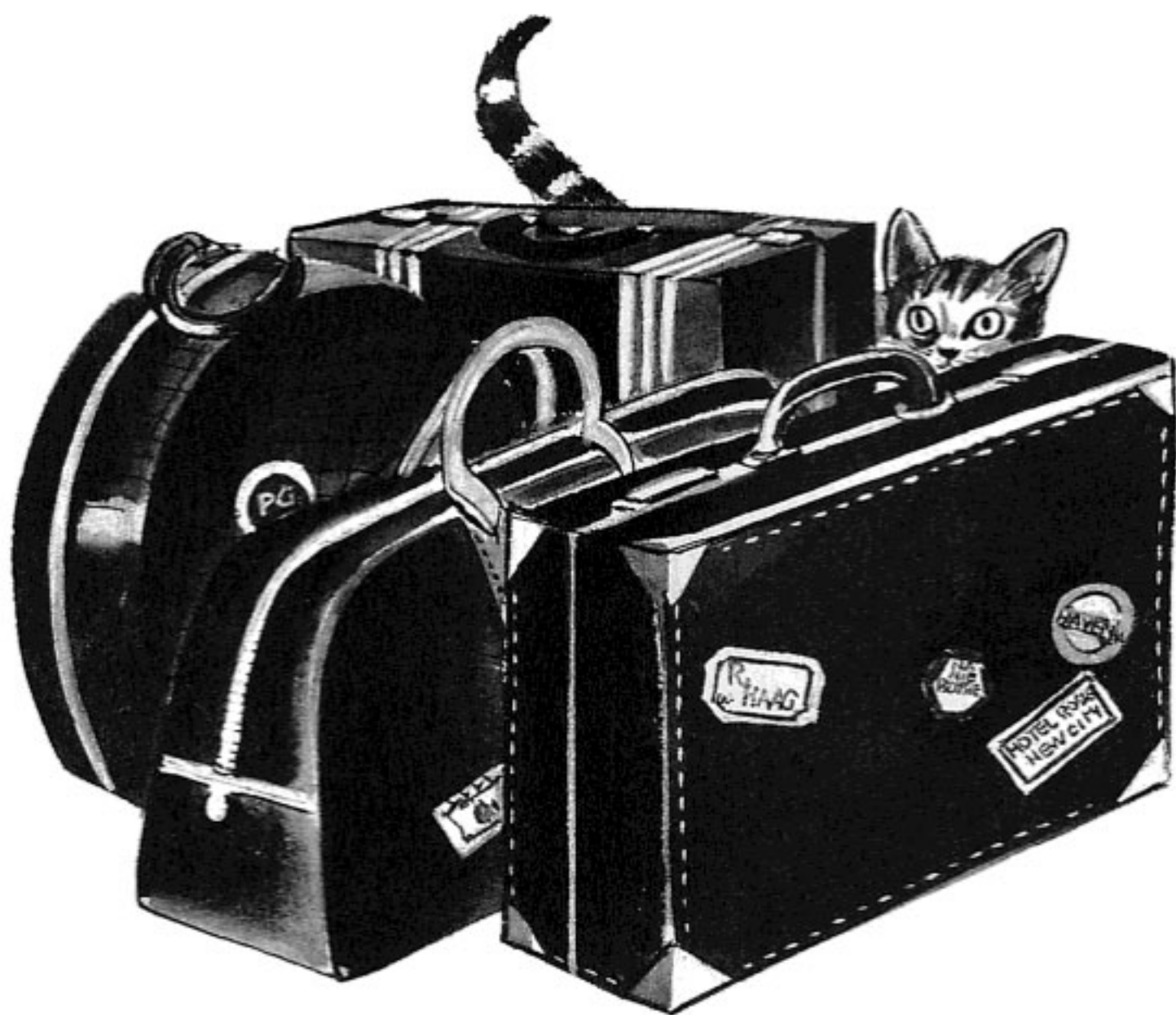
The little gray kitten had always been the most adventurous member of his family. He had been the first to explore the roof of the apartment building where he lived with his brothers and sisters. There he had sat for hours admiring the face of the Cat in the Moon until his mother had dragged him in by the scruff of his neck. The next day he had managed to maroon himself on top of the flagpole on the roof and the Fire Department had had to be called to take him down.

Now, feeling most brave, he had escaped from the house and, after finding his way into an A&P store, he had eaten his fill of the tasty tidbits he had found on the floor of the meat and fish department. Some silly man had thrown him out and he was

strolling along the sidewalk, waving his dark gray tail proudly, as he purred to himself:

Purr-rr-rr, I'm off to see the world,  
Purr-rr-rr, I'm off to see the Moon.  
Oh, I'll walk and purr all over the place  
And I won't go home too soon!

After a while the kitten sat down on the curb, to digest his meal. A car drew up beside him and the



door opened. A man started putting a number of bags in the car. The kitten hopped in among these. The door slammed shut and a lady's voice said, "Airport, please."

The car growled gently and the kitten arched his back in the little tunnel where he was hidden. Then he realized that the car would not hurt him and curled up in a ball.

After a long time the taxi stopped and the door opened. The kitten popped out. He started off on a small voyage of discovery and, in the middle of a field, saw a lot of airplanes. He crouched low and made his way through the grass and over the concrete toward one that was making a noise.

There was a stairway leading up to an open door. He went quickly up the stair and in through the door. There he found a long corridor lined with chairs and with a soft carpet on the floor.

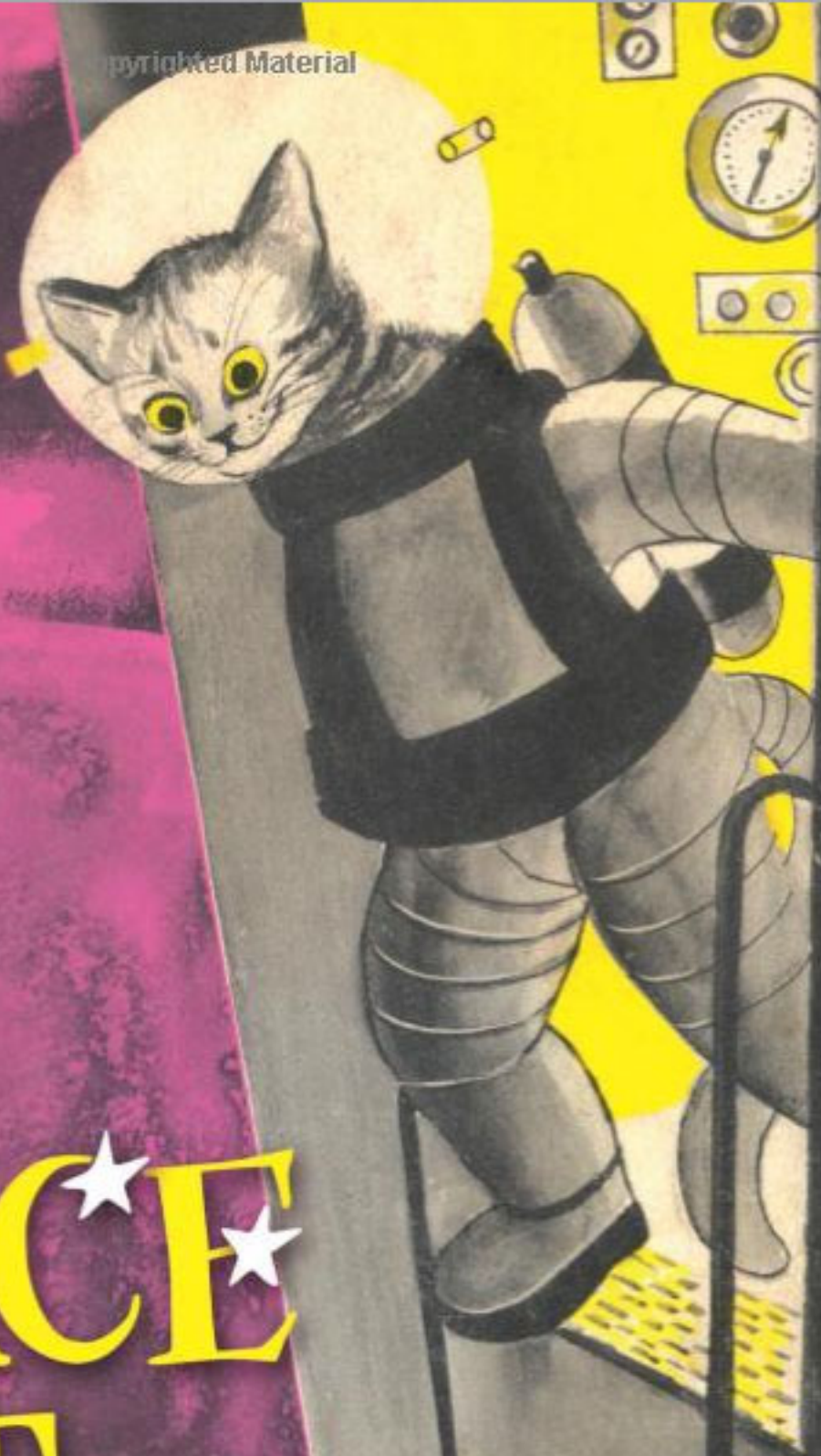
The kitten curled up under one of the chairs and went to sleep. He was awakened when his resting place started to lurch and sway. This was no way to treat an honest adventurer. The kitten went back toward the door but found it had been shut.

A lady was walking down the passage between the seats, saying, "No smoking, please! Fasten your seat-belts, please!"

**ILLUSTRATED BY  
PAUL GALDONE**

**A** little gray kitten with a taste for adventure stows away on an airplane, and the daring stunt turns out to be his first step toward becoming ... Space Cat! The plane's pilot, Captain Fred Stone, names his fuzzy new friend Flyball and welcomes him to an experimental station set up in the middle of the desert. Flyball enjoys supervising the station's workers and takes particular interest in the big rocket ship that he's not allowed to explore. Regardless of the rules, the kitty is determined to hitch another ride, and before you know it, Flyball's wearing a custom-made pressurized suit and headed for the Moon.

This new edition of a charmingly illustrated storybook from 1952 is the first of a four-book series starring the intrepid feline known as Space Cat. Young readers will delight in taking a look at space exploration from Flyball's point of view and following his escapades across the solar system.



**SPACE  
CAT  
VISITS  
VENUS**

**RUTHVEN TODD**

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his business with his sleek grey tail stuck up in the air.

Away at one end of the dome many men were at work, putting together a huge new rocket-ship. This one was many times bigger than the one Flyball and Fred Stone had used to reach the Moon the first time. All the pieces of this enormous ship were being carried up from the Earth by other rockets, and were being put together on the Moon because it was much easier to work there, where heavy things became quite light.

Flyball, of course, was most interested in this big ship. He knew that it was being built for him (and, naturally, for Fred Stone) to make a new voyage. This new journey was to be much longer than the mere hop from the Earth to the Moon. They were going to try to reach the planet Venus.

“Going to Venus, pal,” Colonel Stone had told Flyball, “will be quite some trip, but it will be interesting if we make it. Nobody knows what we’ll find behind those clouds which hide the planet from us!”

Flyball knew that everybody expected him to go along on the trip. They had tried to prevent his journey to the Moon, but he had

been too smart for them and had managed to have his own way. This time there would be no nonsense. When the rocket-ship left for Venus, Flyball would be right there, recognized as a full member of the crew.

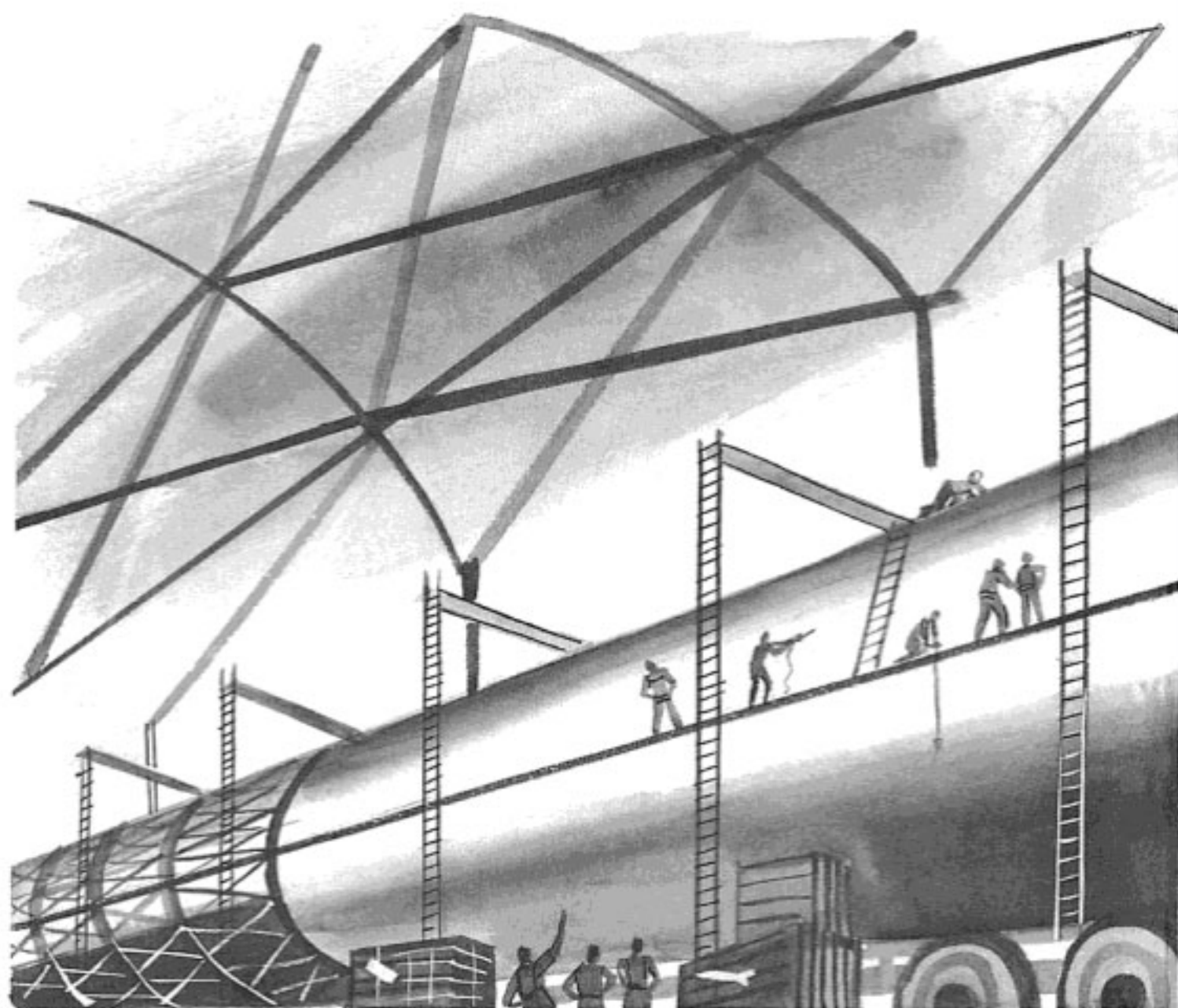
Day by day the ship grew bigger and bigger. It was being built on a track that led to the wall of the dome, in which there was set a great metal door. Flyball, who knew everything, knew that once the ship was finished the part of the dome where it was being built would be sealed off and the air let out. Then the enormous ship would be pushed and hauled to the landing-ground and set up on its tail, ready for the take-off.

More and more equipment was brought in by each rocket that arrived from Earth. At first, Flyball had inspected each crate as it was unpacked, hoping to find a stowaway mouse. But as he found no mice, he soon knew that if he was to try to examine each one properly, and there were so many of them, he would have to give up his regular tours of duty around Luna Port. He had to be content with spot-checking, and with seeing that the men fitted all the strange-shaped gadgets neatly and properly.



Apart from the ship, there was plenty to occupy Flyball's time. For instance, there was the observatory where, free from the troublesome clouds and soupy atmosphere of Earth, the men had put up a giant telescope. With the help of this they took hundreds and hundreds of photographs and they were forever getting terribly excited.

"Here," one of them would cry, waving a dripping negative in front of a light, "what *do* you think of this?"



# SPACE CAT VISITS VENUS

**RUTHVEN TODD**

**ILLUSTRATED BY  
PAUL GALDONE**

**F**lyball the Space Cat is back, and this time he's living in Luna Port, the first city on the Moon. Workers at the lunar station are building a rocket to transport him and his pilot buddy, Colonel Fred Stone, to Venus. The two friends take a long voyage to the planet, where they encounter violet skies, torrential ammonia rains, and strange plants that can communicate without speaking. It's no surprise that, after these amazing adventures, Flyball dreams of "the wonderful things that could happen to a spacecat."

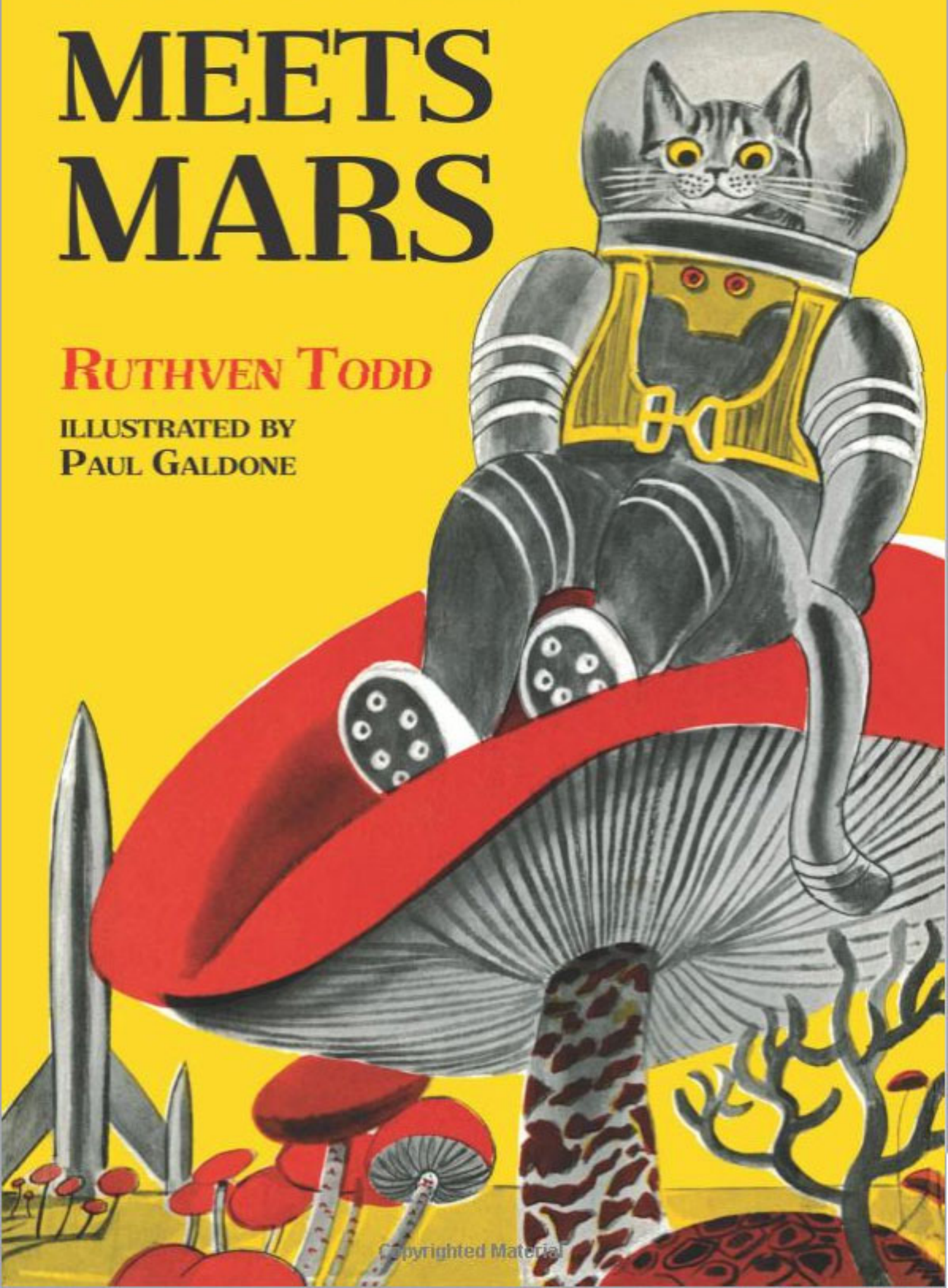
This new edition of a charmingly illustrated storybook from 1955 is the second of a four-book series starring the intrepid feline known as Space Cat. Young readers will delight in taking a look at space exploration from Flyball's point of view and following his escapades across the solar system.

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# SPACE CAT MEETS MARS

**RUTHVEN TODD**

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**PAUL GALDONE**



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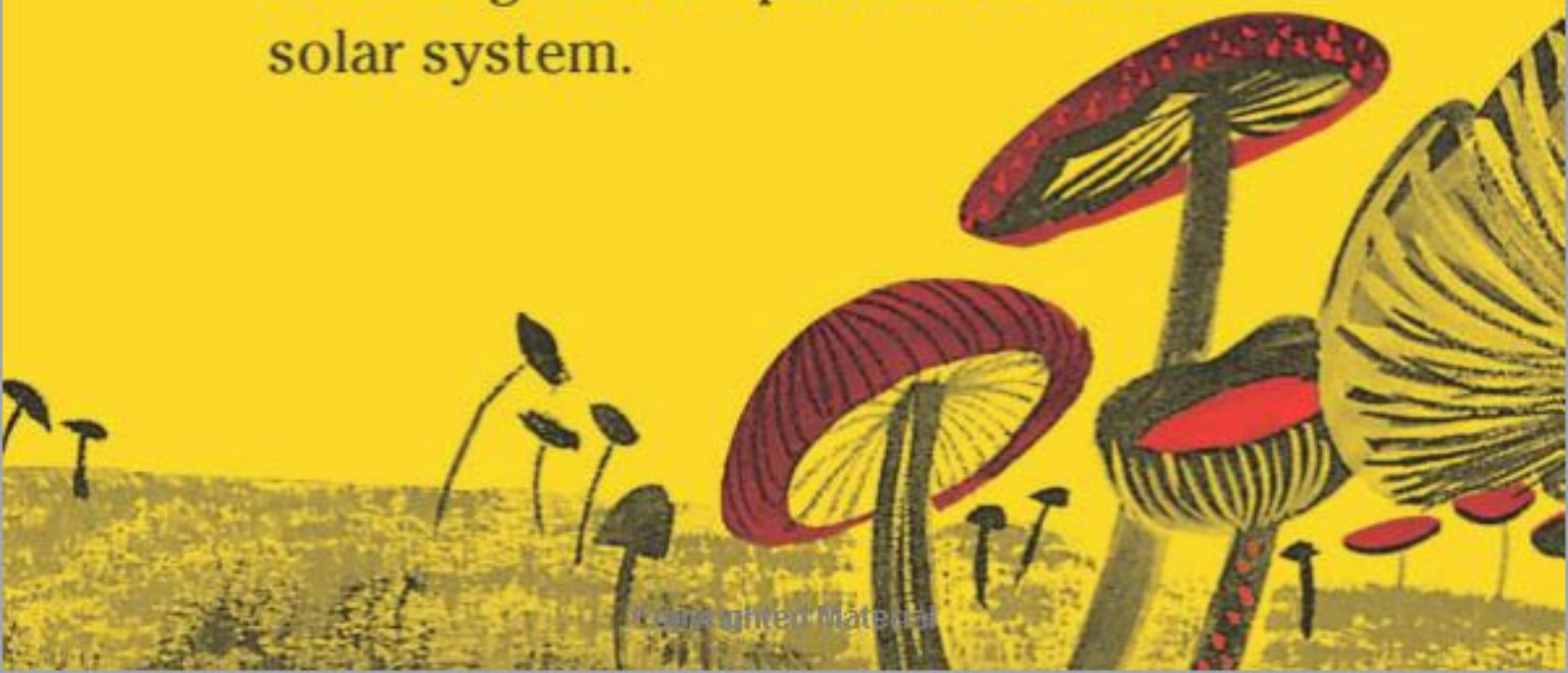
# SPACE CAT MEETS MARS

**RUTHVEN TODD**

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PAUL GALDONE**

**T**he dauntless Space Cat—aka Flyball—and his pal, Colonel Fred, blast off for their most fantastic destination yet! While they're on their way home from Venus, the astronauts are forced to make an emergency landing on Mars. Although Flyball's a bit bored by the Red Planet at first, his curiosity is piqued by its sole surviving fishing cat, a friendly female named Moofa. Will she turn out to be the cat's meow?

This new edition of a charmingly illustrated story is the third of a four-book series starring the intrepid feline known as Space Cat. Young readers will delight in taking a look at space exploration from Flyball's point of view and following his escapades across the solar system.



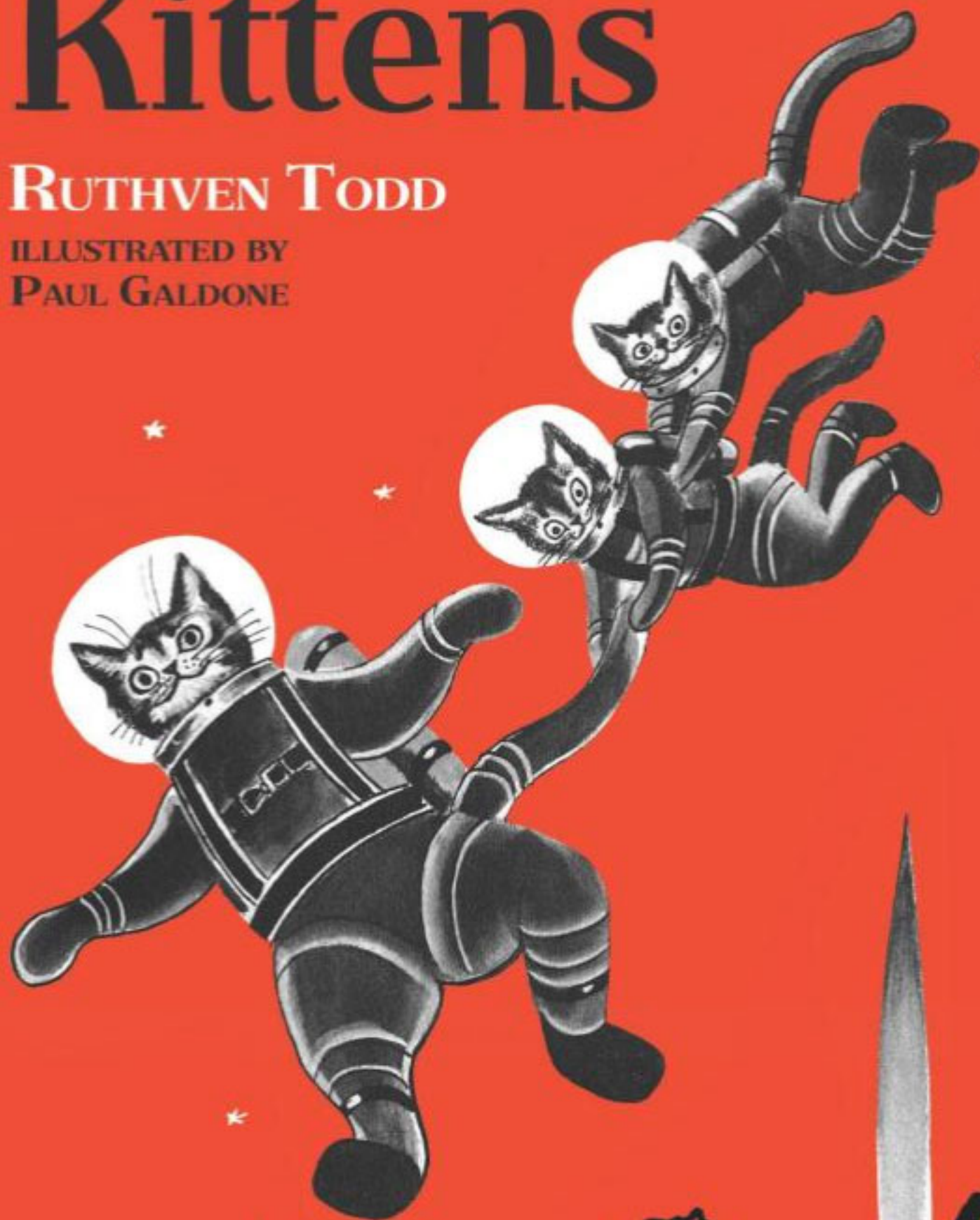
# SPACE CAT

and the

# Kittens

RUTHVEN TODD

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# SPACE CAT

## and the Kittens

**RUTHVEN TODD**

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PAUL GALDONE**

Flyball, the famous Space Cat, is a father now! He and Moofa, the last of the Martian fishing cats, are the proud parents of a pair of mischievous, fun-loving kittens, Marty and Tailspin. The whole family joins Colonel Fred Stone and a new friend, Bill, on a mission to Alpha Centauri to seek out places where humans can live. Along the way, the crew makes an amazing discovery—a planet abounding in iguanodons, pterodactyls, tyrannosauri, and a host of other prehistoric creatures.

“Paul Galdone’s pictures ... have humor and imagination to match the text,” noted the *Saturday Review* of this charmingly illustrated storybook, the last of a four-book series starring the intrepid feline known as Space Cat. Young readers will delight in taking a look at space exploration from Flyball’s point of view and following his escapades across the solar system.