

"Excitable Boy"

Written by  
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INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Its a late September afternoon in 1959. JIMMY is excitedly talking to his MOTHER who is preparing dinner. Jimmy is holding a copy of Spaceman comic. From out of it he pulls out drawings he's made of the spacemen he's explaining.

JIMMY

And this says that the spaceman is tall and thin, thin like a pipe. It has two curly antennae and that's where its eyes hang from.

MOTHER

That's good, Jimmy. Did you wash your hands for dinner? You know your father will be home soon.

JIMMY

And from its eyes are these thin arm like things. More like tentacles, if you think about it. And if those tentacles grab you you're done for.

MOTHER

That's nice, Jimmy. Now put down your funny book and get ready for dinner.

Jimmy is outraged and puts his drawing back in the comic.

JIMMY

Its not a funny book, Ma. This is telling you what's out there. What's in the sky just waiting for the right time to come to earth.

Mother stops preparing dinner and turns to face Jimmy.

MOTHER

Now why on earth would space monster  
want to come to earth?

JIMMY

I don't know. To help us, to hurt us,  
maybe to bring us back to their world  
so we can teach them everything we  
know.

MOTHER

Jimmy, what would a creature who can  
make a rocket ship that can come to  
earth learn from us?

JIMMY

Lots of things, Mother. Sure, they may  
have space travel down but what about.

. . .

Jimmy looks around trying to think of something spacemen  
could learn from humans.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

. . .they could learn how to cook.

Look at that pot roast! There's no way  
any spaceman with a squiggly line for  
a mouth could make a roast like that.

Mother laughs.

MOTHER

Flattery will get you no where, young  
man.

JIMMY

But I'm not kidding. We could teach  
spacemen all kinds of things.

Baseball!

Jimmy takes another drawing out of the comic and its a  
spaceman with a screen for a head, a squiggly line for a  
mouth, lights on the screen with a squat body and wheels for  
feet.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I bet its hard for a spaceman with a  
screen for a head to be a good short  
stop.

MOTHER

I guess you have a point there, Jimmy.  
One bad hop and he could break his  
face.

JIMMY

See? I knew you'd get it, Mom.

MOTHER

Just go get ready. Dinners almost  
ready.

JIMMY

Okay, Mom.

Jimmy turns to exit but then remembers something. He reaches  
into his back pocket and pulls out a TV Guide. He starts  
flipping through it.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I was reading the TV Guide today and  
saw this new program.

Jimmy gets to the page and holds it up to Mother.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Its about space and stuff. I was  
wondering if I could stay up to watch  
it.

MOTHER

You know the rules.

JIMMY

I know but its on Friday. I promise  
I'll do all the mowing on Saturday if  
you let me.

Mother takes the TV Guide and looks at the program Jimmy has  
circled.

MOTHER

Twilight Zone? I don't know, Jimmy,  
this looks like it's for grown people.

JIMMY

No, its for everybody. Its about space  
and monsters and stuff. It'll be real  
good. Come on, Mom.

MOTHER

And look at the time its on. No, no, I  
don't think so. Ten o'clock! That's  
way too late.

JIMMY

I'll take a nap after school.

MOTHER

I don't think that will work. Sorry.

JIMMY

Come on, Mom! I'll go to bed early the  
next night. Please.

Jimmy's pleading gets to Mother.

MOTHER

I'll discuss it with your father.

JIMMY

Good, I know he'll. . .

MOTHER

. . .you know he'll make you stick to  
your word and mow the lawn.

JIMMY

I will. I promise.

Mother looks toward the window.

MOTHER

Go wash, your father's home. We'll  
discuss it over dinner.

Jimmy takes the TV Guide from his Mother and exits the  
kitchen. After a beat Jimmy's FATHER enters.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Hi dear, how was your day?

Father kisses Mother.

FATHER

Old man Johnson is up to his great  
ideas again.

MOTHER

Let me make you a drink and then I'll  
listen.

Mother exits to make a drink while Father pulls up a seat at the table. Once he's comfortably seated Jimmy rushes in. Without a word he puts the TV Guide in front of his Father. The Father leans back.

FATHER

Whoa there, Jimmy. You could take an eye out with that.

JIMMY

I just want you to see this show I know you'll love.

Jimmy points to the TV Guide as his Father attempts to focus on it.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Its called The Twilight Zone and its all about the things we like.

Spacemen, monsters. . .

Jimmy pauses trying to come up with anything else to help seal the deal.

FATHER

. . .things that go bump in the night?

Jimmy brightens up now that his Father gets it.

JIMMY

Yeah, that's it. I know its on after my bedtime but its a Friday and I don't have to go to school the next day.

MOTHER (O.C.)

And he says he'll mow the entire lawn if we let him stay up.

Mother enters and stands between Jimmy and Father. Father looks at Jimmy wide eyed.

FATHER

The whole lawn? In one day?

Father looks at Mother.

FATHER (CONT'D)

He must really want to watch this show  
if he's willing to do that.

Father and Mother smile.

JIMMY

I am.

Father looks at Mother.

FATHER

Well, what do you think? Has he been  
good this week? Doing all his chores  
and homework?

Jimmy starts to fret. He's not sure if he did all his homework this week and he's certain he missed a chore or two. Mother and Father see his concern and play with it.

MOTHER

He did give me a little guff over his  
math homework.

JIMMY

But I. . .

MOTHER

. . .and I know I had to stay on him  
to take out the trash.

JIMMY

You'll never have to ask me to do it  
again. I'll. . .

Jimmy tries to think of anything to sweeten the deal.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

. . .I'll check it every time I come  
in the kitchen from now on and the  
moment I see its almost full. . .

Jimmy gestures like an umpire calling an out.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

. . .its right outside with it.

Jimmy pauses with concern. Mother and Father ponder their  
decision for a couple of beats longer than they normally  
would.

Mother and Father break out in big smiles as Father tousles  
Jimmy's hair.

FATHER

Okay, I don't see why not. Its a  
Friday after all. And you don't have  
to get up until, ah, eight to mow the  
lawn.

The reality of what he's just agreed to hits Jimmy and he has  
a moment of kid panic. But then he remembers what its all for  
and he battles his way through.

MOTHER

Sit down and let's eat.

Jimmy jumps onto a chair and gets ready to eat.

FATHER

So, Jimmy, do you know anything else  
about this Twilight Zone show?

JIMMY

Well, I know that its going to be real  
good and I'm hoping there are all  
kinds of monsters and. . .

Mother begins to serve dinner as Jimmy chatters on.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy is sitting on the floor in front of the TV. Father is on the couch as Mother walks in with popcorn. She hands a bowl to Father then walks over to Jimmy and holds one out for him. He absentmindedly takes it. Mother heads to the couch.

MOTHER

Back away from the TV you'll ruin your  
eyes.

FATHER

Get your big, fat head out of the way.

Jimmy slides back and a little off to the side. He wants everything he's about to see burned into his brain.

ANNOUNCER 1 (V.O.)

This is CBS.

JIMMY

Its on. Its about to come on. Shhh.

FATHER

You're the only one making noise.

JIMMY

Shhhhhhhhhh.

The Twilight Zone theme music plays for a few seconds before Rod Serling speaks.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

There is a fifth dimension beyond that  
which is known to man.

Jimmy sits in wonder.

JIMMY

Whoa.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jimmy is sitting on the floor transfixed. He has not moved in thirty minutes.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

It sits there in the stars waiting,  
waiting with the patience of eons,  
forever waiting... in The Twilight  
Zone.

ANNOUNCER 1 (V.O.)

This is CBS.

Jimmy stares at the TV for a beat before getting up and turning the TV off. After he does he turns, with the same exhilarated expression, to face Mother and Father.

JIMMY

Wasn't that the greatest thing you've  
ever seen?

Mother and Father don't really have the same enthusiasm for the show as Jimmy but they don't rain on his parade.

MOTHER

It was a very interesting program.

JIMMY

What about that announcer? I wonder  
who that was? That sort of creeped me  
out.

FATHER

It was a very startling opening.

JIMMY

And what about all those strings and  
clouds and, I don't know, was that the  
surface of the moon?

FATHER

Could be.

Jimmy is filled with imagination. He just doesn't know how to  
express it. Mother and Father exchange smiles. Its good to  
see your child enthralled with something.

MOTHER

Okay, Jimmy, your shows over, time for  
bed.

Fear crosses Jimmy's face. Its as if sleep is a foreign  
concept.

JIMMY

I. . .I can't. . .no.

FATHER

You heard your mother. You've got a  
busy day tomorrow.

Jimmy is heartbroken. All he wants to do is talk about the  
Twilight Zone but instead he has to go to bed. Couple that  
with the fact that he just remembered he has to mow the lawn  
tomorrow and Jimmy's mood has totally deflated.

Jimmy walks slowly over to his parents and kisses them each  
good night.

JIMMY

Night.

FATHER

Good night, Jimbo. Get good sleep.

Mother playfully pushes Father.

MOTHER

Good night, Jimmy.

Jimmy begins his slow march out of the room.

FATHER

Don't look so sad, Jim. Just think,  
tomorrow you can talk to all your  
friends about it.

Jimmy, standing at the door, turns around with a huge smile  
on his face.

JIMMY

That's right! And I know they all  
watched it.

MOTHER

So the sooner to get to sleep the  
earlier you can wake up.

Jimmy thinks and really likes that idea.

JIMMY

Good night.

Jimmy exits. After a beat Mother gets up and turns on the TV.  
Father picks up the TV Guide and flips through it.

MOTHER

Why did you tell him that? You know  
none of the other parents are letting  
their kids stay up this late.

FATHER

If I didn't say something it would  
have taken him an hour to walk to bed.

Father keeps looking through the TV Guide.

FATHER (CONT'D)

What's on next?

Mother comes back and sits on the couch.

EXT. YARD - MORNING

Jimmy is blissfully mowing the lawn. Mother and Father watch him from the kitchen window.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Jimmy and five other boys, BOB, JOHN, BILL, RICHIE and DAVE are all sitting on bikes on the street and sidewalk.

JIMMY

I can't believe you guys didn't see it.

BOB

My mother said it would give me nightmares.

JIMMY

Didn't give me nightmares.

JOHN

My father said he doesn't stay up until ten so what chance do I have.

JIMMY

You should have snuck down after he went to bed.

BILL

I tried to stay up but fell asleep on the couch. My father carried me to bed.

JIMMY

You're such a Mickey Mouse they  
wouldn't have let you stay up anyway.

RICHIE

I didn't even ask. I know they  
wouldn't let me.

JIMMY

What am I going to do with you guys?  
Jimmy looks at them all disapprovingly.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What's your excuse, Dave?  
Dave just shrugs. Jimmy shakes his head sadly.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You missed the greatest show ever on  
television.  
Jimmy starts rolling back and forth on his bike.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Right from the start this was this  
crazy music. I'd never heard anything  
like it. Then these images came on and  
you really felt like you were being  
transported to a new galaxy.

The more Jimmy talks the more excited he becomes. The more  
excited he becomes the more distance he moves on his bike.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

There was this guy and he was the only  
man on earth. He's walking down a dirt  
road and comes up to this cafe.

Jimmy starts to ride his bike in a tight circle.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

He's expecting to see all kinds of people there but when he walks in there's no one but the jukebox is playing.

Jimmy stops moving the bike for a moment.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It was really weird. So he goes in the kitchen and starts calling for people but no one is there. He can't even remember who he is.

Jimmy begins riding his bike in a circle on the street.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Then he starts looking in all the stores and still finds no one. Then he sees someone in a car so goes over.

Jimmy rides past his friends.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

And its a mannequins.

BILL

That's creepy.

JIMMY

That's what I thought.

Jimmy starts riding further up the street and back down.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Then he sees a telephone booth that starts ringing. So he runs over to answer it and no one is on the line. Then this spooky operator starts talking to him just saying the same thing over and over. The guys about to crack and then he gets stuck in the phone booth.

BOB

I'd break the glass.

JIMMY

He didn't have to. Just as mysteriously as it wouldn't open it did.

Jimmy once again stops in front of his friends.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Then he goes into a police station where he sees a burning cigar.

RICHIE

I'd get a gun.

JIMMY

That would have been a good idea because he was starting to get the feeling someone was watching him.

JOHN

He should get out of that town.

JIMMY

But he can't. He starts to talk to himself more and more and he's making less sense until he flips out. It starts to get darker and darker until he sees a book stand with only one book.

Jimmy starts riding away again.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

The title is The Last Man On Earth.

JOHN

Whoa.

Whoa.

BOB

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Then he goes into a movie theater and that's when he remembers he's in the Air Force but that just makes him freak out even more until the movie starts running and he goes nuts.

Jimmy circles in front of his friends.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

He runs into the street when we see that he's not there at all. He's been in isolation for four hundred and eighty-four hours and thirty-six minutes to see if he could make a trip to the moon alone.

BILL

So it was all just a dream.

JIMMY

A nightmare is more like it.

Jimmy rides his bike faster past his friends. When he passes them he turns around to look at them.

JIMMY (O.C.) (CONT'D)

If this is the first episode I can't  
wait to see what happens when they  
really gets going.

Jimmy's friends get horrified expressions and start to point.

RICHIE

Jimmy! Look out.

SND FX: tires squealing then the sound of a crash.

Jimmy's friends start running toward the scene of the accident.

DRIVER (O.C.)

I didn't see him until it was too  
late. He came out of the street so  
fast.

The shot stays on the street as PEOPLE begin to come out of their houses. Mother and Father walk into the street. The moment they see what's happened they begin running toward the scene.

MOTHER

Jimmy!

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Bumper: 50 Years Later

The hospital room is filled with the cutting edge of medical technology. The TV is on but it is indistinct. In the middle of it all is a frail figure in a bed. This figure is an older Jimmy. He looks well past the early 60's as he'd be now. The years of inactivity have taken its toll.

After a short time Jimmy gasps and tries to sit up. But he can barely move. He starts to breath with much labor. His eyes flicker open.

He tries to lift his head to look around but its very difficult. The Voice Over is in the voice of the 12 year old Jimmy.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Where am I? What happened to me?

That's right. A car hit me.

Jimmy struggles to gain a better idea of what is going on. He tries to speak but only raspy noises are made.

JIMMY

What day is it? Where are my parents?

Jimmy continues to try to make sense of his world when a familiar song comes from the TV. The Twilight Zone theme plays. Jimmy's eyes open wide.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

"There is a fifth dimension beyond  
that which is known to man.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I can't have been out for too long  
Twilight Zone is on. I must have been  
knocked out for a week. I wonder where  
the nurses are?

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

Portrait of a man at work, the only  
work he's ever done, the only work he  
knows. His name is Henry Francis  
Valentine, but he calls himself Rocky.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I hope none of them come in and try to  
make me go to sleep before this is  
over.

Jimmy positions himself in the most comfortable position he  
can be in while maintaining a clear view of the TV.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Jimmy is in the same position.

PIP (V.O.)

This is the other place.

Pip begins to laugh menacingly.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

A scared, angry little man who never  
got a break. Now he has everything  
he's ever wanted - and he's going to  
have to live with it for eternity - in  
The Twilight Zone.

Jimmy moves while trying to see the items in his room. There  
are no cards from friends, no flowers, not even any items on  
his bed stand. That all seems a little weird to Jimmy.

JIMMY (V.O.)

That's strange. When I was in the  
hospital to get my tonsils out I got a  
bunch of card from friends.

ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

And if you act now you can get six  
months of vita-mega-dose for free!

Jimmy furrows his brow. Something's not right about this.

ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

Vita-mega-dose will give you more  
energy then you've ever had. More  
stamina then you've ever dreamt of.

Suddenly Jimmy becomes frightened.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Color. How are those commercials in  
color?

ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

So call right now to reserve your free  
vita-mega-dose reward today. Don't you  
deserve it?

JIMMY (V.O.)

What is that guy talking about? How  
come that TV is so small? Where are  
the rabbit ears? Where are the dials?

ANNOUNCER 3 (V.O.)

And now back to our Twilight Zone  
marathon.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Twilight Zone marathon? What is that?  
They must be wrong.

The Twilight Zone theme plays and Jimmy freaks out.

JIMMY (V.O.)

How are they playing another episode?  
How is this possible?

Jimmy looks toward his door but sees no one. He tries to call  
for anyone but he cannot make a sound.

ROD SERLING (V.O.)

Month of November, hot chocolate, and  
a small cameo of a child's face,  
imperfect only in its solemnity.

Jimmy looks at the TV and sees that it is indeed another episode of the Twilight Zone. He can't fathom how something like this is possible.

JIMMY (V.O.)

None of this makes sense. I have to  
call my mother.

Jimmy starts looking around the room for a phone. He sees something he can't quite make out and tries to reach for it but he fails. The attempt exhausted him so he slumps back in bed.

He lies back and, although he doesn't want to, his eyes are drawn to the TV. Its a place that explains everything and nothing.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Maybe she'll visit me soon. Maybe a  
nurse will come in. Maybe someone will  
be able to explain all of this too me.

Jimmy is agitated. Although he tries his eyes are drawn to the TV. Another ad come on and fills the room with flashes of light.

ANNOUNCER 4 (V.O.)

Have you ever wanted to be the focus  
of a red carpet event?

Jimmy shuts his eyes and grimaces from the flashing lights.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Why is there so much color? How is  
that possible?

Jimmy composes himself and starts to pay attention to the commercials.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I don't know what any of these products are.

ANNOUNCER 4 (V.O.)

Then call 800-Star-4-A-Day. Yes, star for a day will create a custom event where you will be swarmed by adoring fans and film and TV crews.

JIMMY (V.O.)

How do you call eight hundred? I've got to get out of here and get someone.

With great effort Jimmy gets himself to his side. He has to rest for a moment after his struggle. As he lies there bright lights flash again.

ANNOUNCER 4 (V.O.)

Call 800-Star-4-A-Day and be grab the fame you've always wanted.

Jimmy's expression is one of total panic.

JIMMY (V.O.)

No, it can't be. I have to be dreaming.

Jimmy closes his eyes tightly. After a beat he opens them. The room is still bright from the colorful commercials as Jimmy slowly opens his eyes and looks at what he thinks he saw.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Spacemen! I've been abducted!

In the flashes of light we see an IV pole with two bags hanging from it. Then it changes back and forth into the drawing he showed his Mother earlier.

In another flash we see that the EKG machine. Then it changes back and forth into the drawing he showed his Mother earlier.

JIMMY (V.O.)

That's why the color TV. That's why  
they all the Twilight Zone's. They  
already know what's going to happen.

Jimmy tries to scream but nothing comes out. He tries and tries with all of his might and then, suddenly, his face becomes all contorted and he starts twitching.

And then Jimmy dies.

ANNOUNCER 3 (V.O.)

Back to the Twilight Zone marathon.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Everything in the room is in the exact same place.

NURSE (O.C.)

Good morning, Mr. Jimmy, I hope  
everything's going well for you today.

Nurse enters the room and turns on the light. She walks up to Jimmy's bed and is visibly upset.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Aww, poor thing. He suffered enough.

Nurse starts to make Jimmy more presentable. When he's on his back she tries to close his eyes but no matter what she does that last horrific expression of Jimmy's remains.

If she only knew he only suffered a few moments in the Twilight Zone.

FADE TO BLACK.