

ROCKET MICE

WEIST -- Aarseth

Air Force medical scientists, probing the unexplained secrets of outer space, ready two white mice and "Albert the Monkey" for an amazing rocket ride -- higher and faster than any living creature ever has traveled. The rocket head is specially constructed with compartments for its passengers -- the mice and monkey -- and also a camera.

Fire rocket!

The camera shows the mice have survived the launching. The control room graph records the Albert's heartbeat as the rocket zooms into upper space with its living cargo at almost two thousand miles an hour.

Inside the missile, thirty-eight miles over the earth, the mice and a ball float free -- in the zero gravity state. Then a parachute bursts open and the rocket's head spins free. Dropping earthward, mice and ball are pushed to the bottom of their containers by gravity.

~~A helicopter follows the fall to recover the creatures alive. Someday.~~

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A helicopter follows the falling shell over the New Mexico desert, near the launching scene, to recover the monkey and mice -- alive and unhurt. Someday, humans may man rockets on journeys into space. Meanwhile, the mice are fine and their space companion, "Albert the Monkey" is not afraid to return to his rocket ship and seems ready for the next ride.