

# Ben Brown's Flying Machine

## Log line

When the first manned mission to Mars mysteriously disappears and its crew explorer vehicle crashes onto the Brown's wheat farm, what Ben discovers will change the world forever.

## Synopsis Summary

When the first manned mission to Mars disappears and its crew explorer vehicle crashes onto the Brown's wheat farm, what Ben discovers leads him to build a flying machine that will change his final high school year and the world forever. It leads him on voyage to a world beyond our universe, where he is forced to confront the tyranny of their rulers and to make a stand to free its enslaved people and eventually our own planet.

## Genre

An inspiring coming of age, fantasy, adventure story about a final year high school student.

## Target audience

10-15 year olds. The story's universal themes will appeal to a broader market.

## Synopsis

When the first manned mission to Mars disappears and its crew explorer vehicle crashes onto the Brown's wheat farm, Ben finds inside it an old man in white robes, bloodied and charred. He takes Ben's hand and cries out to him, but then an explosion throws Ben from the spacecraft and lightning rains down upon it.

At the crash site, the FBI interrogates Ben and dismisses his story as incredulous, but the world press gets wind of it and he is ridiculed at school. At home things are desperate with the family farm bankrupt and Ben still haunted by his father's death three months earlier.

He sits his SAT exams and three week later, the school principal calls him and his mother to his office, where a psychologist and a professor are also present. He tells Ben that he got perfect scores in his physics and math exams; the only one to do in the entire country, and the only one to have done his workings in ancient cuneiform script.

Ben agrees to meet the psychologist, and after two sessions, he takes Ben to an astrophysicist at the University of Kansas to test his knowledge, which Ben says the old man has somehow imparted to him. However, after Ben completes a star map and a astrophysics question using cuneiform script, the astrophysicist concludes that while his use of cuneiform script is impressive, his knowledge is not especially extraordinary.

However, in his parent's barn, Ben experiments and develops a device that can fly. He bolts it to a platform and flies it high into the night sky and comes down and skims across top of the wheat fields but hits a wheel barrow and is catapulted into the wheat field. Maryann, his classmate and neighbour, sees him from her bedroom window. She comes running over, but he drives her away; jealous and angry about her boyfriend, who had insulted him a few weeks earlier.

That night, he fixes the platform and flies out above the wheat fields to the place where his father had died in a tractor accident, and it suddenly lights up before him. He sees his father and himself standing beside the tractor moments before his death, and he sees his father telling “himself” to leave. Ben cries out to “himself” to stay, but then they fade away into the night. Tears in his eyes, he flies off and descends in front of his father’s grave, and then he races across the countryside at breakneck speed and disappears above the Gulf of Mexico.

The next day, he tells the psychologist about his platform and his father’s death, saying it wasn’t an accident but suicide, and he blames himself for not stopping it.

That night, he flies to Maryann’s window only to see her taking off her bra. She sees him and rushes indignantly to the window. He apologizes, and she softens. Then, they shoot off across the countryside and along a sea of translucent clouds.

The next day, to his mother’s delight, Maryann visits him with a picnic hamper. And on a rug under a Giant Oak, she shows him a flyer for the 75<sup>th</sup> National High Schools’ Science Competition taking place in a few days. They arrive but are told it’s too late register and after a heated argument, the Competition Director steps in and allows them to do so, somewhat taken with Maryann. However, when the lead judge sees Ben’s dented platform and rusty wheelbarrow, he is highly sceptical, but when it flies, Ben stuns everybody and wins.

At the press conference afterwards, Ben faces a barrage of questions and wins over the reporters with his humility and denunciation of “the greedy banks,” he thinks contributed to his father’s death, and says that he intends to build something larger that can fly into space.

The next day in a church confessional, Ben quizzes a priest about the hand of god and whether he could use someone with little or no faith in god.

Five months later, Ben completes the spacecraft, a silvery looking tadpole. And amidst a huge fanfare of celebrities and world leaders, he flies off to the edge of our universe and crosses the Great Divide into a parallel universe. But as he approaches Ubaidia, the decimated planet from where the old man, Mekalek, had come from, he is intercepted by a group of Nephilim spacecraft.

He is brought in front of their leader, King Marduk, a Nephilim giant, who questions him and becomes enraged when he discovers that Mekalek was what brought him there. He accuses Ben of being a spy and charges him with treason. He is put on trial and found guilty and sentenced to death without any opportunity to defend himself. However, Ben speaks out, stating the words of Mekalek, and denounces the king, the charges, and the impartiality of the court.

Ben is taken to a holding cell, where he sees Genevieve, a beautiful innocent 16 year old girl, in the cell opposite. She tells him she is to be sacrificed on the day of his execution and is happy to do so since it’s god’s will. He questions the validity of her beliefs, but her reply unsettles him.

The next day, Ben and Genevieve are in the center of a huge arena, tied to stakes, surrounded by the entire city’s inhabitants, Nephilim giants and the enslaved human population. A witchdoctor approaches Genevieve in a frenzy, wielding a knife. And as he is about to kill her, Ben cries out, challenging the king to his throne, invoking an ancient Ubadian law. The king becomes furious and calls forth Mentoriasis, an eighteen foot Nephilim gladiator, to fight for him. Ben goes weak at the knees, but then swinging a steel ball on a wire, he brings him down but refuses to kill him. However, the king’s son does so and cries out, claiming the throne, at

which the king comes down and stabs a knife into his heart and orders Ben's execution be carried out.

Seconds before it is, Ben cries out the words Mekalek had spoken to him, and says he was appointed by him to bring the Book of Life to his people. The king curses and condemns him, but then thunder and lightning comes crashing down around them, and the earth shakes, terrifying everyone. It subsides, and a beam of light shines down from the heavens encircling Ben, and then everyone, including some Nephilim, bow down before him and start chanting "Messiah." Ben says he is no messiah, that he is only there to ensure Mekalek's final wish, that the Book of Life no longer be hidden away, be realized.

A priest next to Ben and Genevieve unties them and picks up a steel poker and climbs the steps up the 150 foot ziggurat, where the Book of Life is on top, encased in a glass case in front of the Holy Temple. As he approached the glass case, about to smash off the lock, a Nephilim guard stabs a spear into his chest and drives him back and hurls him down the steps.

Genevieve rushes up to him, confused and shocked. She takes the poker from his grasp and starts climbing the steps. Halfway up, she sees a Nephilim guard holding a spear, looking down at her. Then, he hurls it at her, and it flies through her stomach, and then she tumbles down and lands on the ground. Ben approaches her, stunned, tears in his eyes. He lifts up her body and places it on the tabernacle. Then he picks up the poker and climbs up the steps. The guards step back, and Ben smashes off the lock and holds out the Book of Life to the enslaved humans below, who cry out euphorically. But then two Nephilim guards fly up and escort him down to the king, who says the matter will be referred to the High Priest Court.

After the king departs, a priest tells Ben there is something he should see. He flies Ben to the Yellow Mountain, where in the valley below, he sees the Nephilim Second Fleet being readied for a mission to Earth.

At the High Priest Court hearing, the king demands and wins a vote from the assembly of High Priest decreeing that the Book of Life be banished. Ben challenges the freedom and integrity of the vote in an impassioned speech that prompts one and then a handful of high priests to support his demand for the vote to be retaken by way of secret ballot. The king agrees but rigs the vote and wins.

That night, all the high priests who voted for the Book of Life to be freed are killed. Ben flees Ubaidia, but he is pursued by several Nephilim spacecraft. He tries losing them and thinks he has, but as he flies down to Earth, he sees the Nephilim flotilla approaching in the distance.

They station themselves above Earth, and the mother and six sister ships dispatch hundreds of pods to different parts of Earth to take mineral samples and destroy anything and entire cities that dare to stand in their way.

Summoned to the White House, Ben presents a plan for a Trojan horse style attack, which is met with cynicism but is accepted as the only viable plan. He leads the attack and destroys the mother ship, but the ensuing blast sends him hurtling down bloodied and unconscious. Earth racing up, the coastline rapidly approaching, he hears his father calling out to him, and with only seconds spare, he pulls up meters above the shoreline. Then, he flies home to the jubilation of Maryann, his mother, and the others involved in the mission, which is capped off as a total success when the one missing pilot finally reappears.