Carter was sitting on his couch watching TV, the day the smoke came. That smoke was something Carter would never forget. Now, here he was in his rocket pod. 114 million miles away from his home planet mars. He had crash landed on Earth.

---------- 12 Hours Ago ----------

Back on Mars, Carter was standing in a line at the store. Waiting to check out his iPad 16. Once he got back home, he saw his Mom cooking something special. He went to his room, flopped onto his couch and flipped on the TV. For some reason, it was on the news channel. He was about to switch the channel when the “Breaking News” headline caught his eye. It said: “Aliens from Neptune want to nuke Mars and take over Mars.” Carter kept watching intently until the smoke came. First, he heard a loud boom, then hissing noises, and smoke suddenly flooded his room. His TV and all of his lights flickered off. It had now hit Carter, that the aliens were bombing them now. Carter instantly went into a panic. So he jumped into the family rocket pod and flew away. The pod instantly jumped into hyperspace and it took him 12 hours to reach Earth.

Carter had never been to Earth before, but he knew 1 thing. Oxygen would poison any Martian who stepped foot into Earth’s atmosphere without a space suit. There were suits in the pod, but none of them were charged. He couldn’t fly back to Mars, because his targeting computer was out of batteries. He could wait for them to recharge using the pods solar panels, but he decided it was way too risky to go back to Mars during the war. He thought he would end up dying of starvation inside the ship, but he was determined to survive. The next morning, his suit was recharged so he decided to go outside and explore a bit, to see if he could find anything edible. Currently the only food he had was some freeze-dried food inside the pod. As soon as he stepped foot outside he saw crumbling buildings and skyscrapers. He also saw fire almost everywhere with craters all around him. According to his iPad 16, he had landed in what used to be New York, and 28 years ago in the year 2567, there had been a war. The war was Mars against Earth. Mars won, and the human race was wiped out.

Carter had heard of myths before, about how this one human survived. His name was supposedly Henry. The story said that he was buried somewhere beneath the rubble in New York, and that he was living off of smashed vending machines. Either way, even if he was real, Carter realized he would never find him. It was his second day on planet Earth and he was already getting hungry. So he went to the mini-fridge and got himself a freeze-dried mashed fern, with some canned thermite soup. It was mid-day, and Carter was determined to find some Martian-edible foods. He left the pod and noticed just like the day before, that he found it twice as hard to walk under Earth’s gravity.

Back on Mars, Carter’s family was still alive. His family was hiding in their basement. On Earth, Carter thought his family died of the bombing. On Mars, Carter’s family thought the same. The Neptune Aliens (also called Neptunians) were attacking Mars in 3 Stages. The first stage was the bombing. The Neptunians bombed the major communities and cities. The second stage was invasion. The Neptunians would blow up the doors of a building with C4, and then take every Martian in the building hostage. The second stage was flamethrowers. The Neptunians sprayed entire houses and communities with these. These flamethrowers were special ones that could run without oxygen.

One Earth, Carter was searching for food. He found a vending machine that had some green soylent chips in it. He felt proud for getting himself food. The rest of the machine was full of the same soylent chips. For some odd reason though, the bag felt light and empty. He turned the bag over and saw a rip in the bag and it was empty. At first, he thought the chip bag may have been ripped open when the vending machine was smashed, and the chips fell out, but there were no chips on the floor. He checked a few more bags. They all had a rips in them and were all empty. He tested some of the bags by sending them through his suit scanner. According to the scanner, it said that they were all opened 2 months ago and they had finger prints on them. The finger prints matched someone, named Henry Vaskula.

Now Carter knew, that Henry was real and was probably still alive. Carter wanted to find Henry because he knew, that the humans had invented a super powerful weapon centuries ago, that they tried to avoid using because it was so destructive. No other being in the Solar System could figure out how to acquire or build one. The Earth’s supply was locked in the vault, and was protected at the maximum security level. Some beings managed to get through the first 2 layers, but couldn’t get past the last. This was a layer only humans could pass. It consisted of a laser, that humans could walk through without being harmed but no other being could. The computer that controlled it was not hackable, thus no being could get ahold of one. What was this weapon? And why did it deserve so much protection? It was called, the “Nuclear Bomb”.

Carter also knew that Henry could help him by getting into the vault and getting a Nuke so they could defeat the Neptunians. Carter suddenly snapped out of his trance realizing 2 things. First of all, his suit was running out of methane. So Carter ran back into the pod and took off the suit. Then he realized that he was dreaming way too far. Henry might not be willing to help him, and his first step was to be able to get food to survive. Carter then came to the consensus that his first chance of saving his own planet was to save himself. Later in the day, Carter found a few more vending machines that had bags of different snacks that weren’t ripped open, so he used the pod crane and dragged them next to the pod. At that point, he was really tired of working and wanted to finish up tomorrow. Either way, his devices were all out of power anyways so he would have to wait for the next day before they would recharge.

The next day, Carter went around exploring the area. He walked around the area, until he nearly fell off a cliff. Carter took another peek at the cliff and saw a crater. The crater was huge. It was round, but the crater was so huge that it was hard to see the curvature of the crater. His suit also started beeping because it was detecting radioactive particles around the area. Carter left the area, realizing that was the destruction of a Nuclear Bomb. He was going to need a lot more firepower, so finding Henry may not be the best option he thought. His idea, was to figure out how to build a nuclear bomb himself. He would use the current technology he has to make a bomb that was invented centuries ago so much better.

On Mars, the war raged on. The Martians fought back fiercely and never gave up. It continued like this for the next few months. During those months on Earth, Carter went through a daily routine that seemed like this: Eat, get enough food for 1 day, research, eat, research, eat, and sleep. After 2 months, he knew so much. Humans call July 4th Independence Day. Carter calls it bomb day. July 4th was when Carter started planning out his bomb.