

COSMONAUT

Written by

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VLADIMIR PUTIN, in a suit, not on a horse, is flanked by veteran cosmonauts ALEXEI LEONOV (70s, balding, decorated) and VALENTINA TERESHKOVA (late 60s, eyeshadow, decorated).

Teams of photographers and journalists huddle round, ready.

Putin has in his hands an old, white spacesuit helmet emblazoned in the red C.C.C.P. lettering of old.

Alexei leans in to Putin.

ALEXEI

This is what we used, Sir. It was cutting edge at the time.

Alexei chuckles.

Putin stares at the helmet.

PUTIN

Cosmonaut.

Alexei frowns, looks over to Valentina.

Valentina shrugs, leans in to Putin.

VALENTINA

Times have changed, Captain. You should see the equipment they have now- like science fiction!

Valentina smiles at Putin.

Putin holds the helmet up to chest-height, arms out.

PUTIN

Cosmonaut!

Valentina and Alexei share a look: *THE FUCK?*

The assembled journalists and photographers wait.

A pause.

Putin lifts the helmet above his head, eyes on the white-and-red shine, smiles a big, proud, C.C.C.P. smile.

PUTIN (CONT'D)

COSMONAUT!!!

Cameras flash. Applause. *COSMONAUT!*