

Tales from the ARVinn—Tommy, the Painters' Model



Tommy at work in MS, 2071 ¹

openings, no special requirements, and even offered him a job working in their garage, which suited him just fine.

When he moved in and settled into the job, he found himself working on some of the small vehicles used on campus. Some were mini-cars, others were work equipment, including golf carts and lawn tractors, even motor bikes. Pretty much the same work in a different location and size, he thought. He also began looking for things to do when he wasn't working. There were lots of choices there, too. A lot

of it was completely new to him and he began to explore the possibilities.

Tommy worked hard every day and didn't

feel like going out every night, but he soon got into the swing of things and got on something of a schedule to balance his fun with his work. A lot of that was playing video games with some of the other residents. It took him a while to get his coordination up to the level of being competitive again and the controllers were now a little big for his small hands, but he managed.

When he responded to a flyer looking for a model for a residents' Continuing Ed painting class, he wasn't sure he understood what they wanted, but he could certainly always use the money. He needed to work to stay at ARVinn, so a few dollars meant a bit of extra snack money. It also meant having something else to do outside of work, cooking and gaming that didn't require a whole lot of effort to understand.



Tommy in the ARVinn garage, 2082 ²



Tommy ready to play ³

After Tommy saw his props for the session and then saw some of the results, he wasn't sure some of the class understood what was wanted, either. Some of the results didn't look too bad, while others might have come from a different universe.

Completing the project took two sessions, standing on a platform in the middle of a stuffy room full of students in a wide range of sizes. He didn't know which was worse, the uncomfortable room or the inevitable chorus of "Oh, how cute!" Of course, he was so new here that he did make some new acquaintances, which was a nice extra. A couple of them liked to cook, also. They even started taking turns cooking for each other, another new experience. He was enjoying a new way of living and finding more of a purpose to his life.

His biggest takeaway, though, was that he knew he never wanted to stand still for that long again!



Tommy and his cooking club buddies, Brad (10/2045) and Paul (7/2054) ⁴



Instructor's Reference Photo ⁵





1 image by senivpetro from freepik.com (edited)

2 Montage: Basic by fxquadro from freepik.com + Photo 17910703 by Peto Zvonar from Dreamstime.com

3 Montage: Insert Photo by Peto Zvonar from Dreamstime.com + background by fxquadro from freepik.com

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5 Original image by Petoo67 from StockFreelImages.com (Others manipulated in Photoshop Elements)