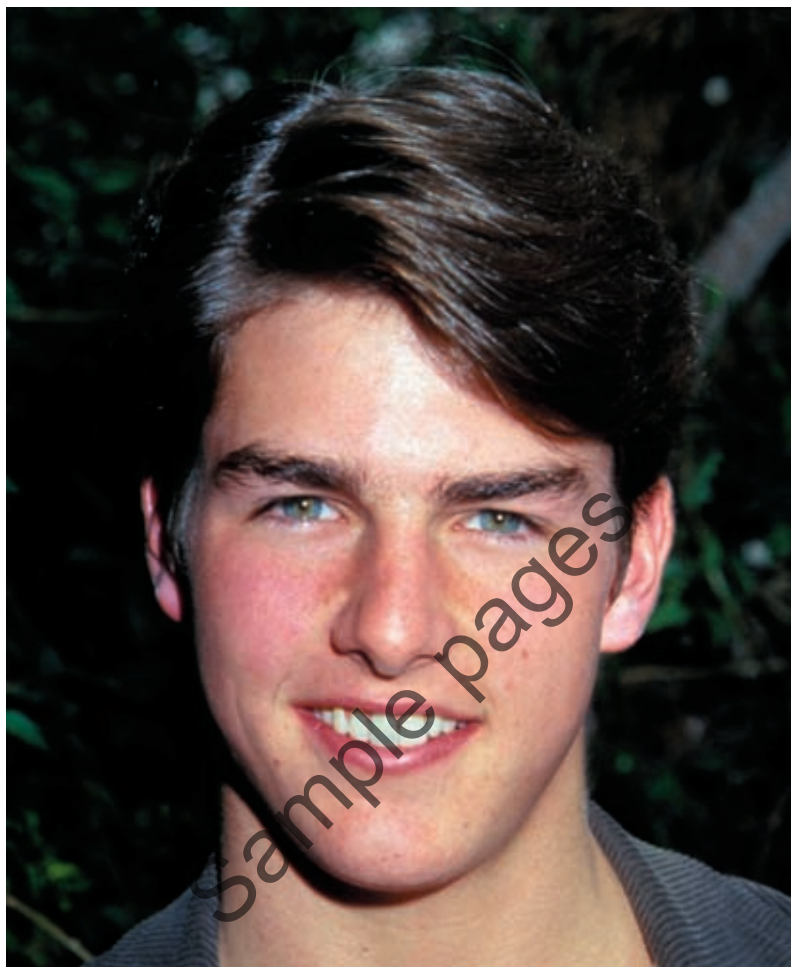




Hollywood loves Tom Cruise. His movies aren't all very good, but they always make money. Tom the actor is a success. But his life is difficult, too. At work, he sometimes has problems with directors. In love, he isn't always happy. He is often angry at newspaper stories about him. Why is this? Some of the answers are in Tom's early years. His story is interesting. It is the story of a star.



On July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York, the Mapothers have their first son. His name is Thomas Cruise Mapother and they call him Tom. Tom's early years are difficult. The family moves often, and Tom has problems at school. He is unhappy about his father, too. In 1973, his mother and father divorce. But Tom is a good actor. "New York is the place for young actors," he thinks.



Tom moves to New York in July 1980, but there aren't many jobs for new actors. An agent finds small roles for him. Then, in 1981, Tom gets his first big movie role. He is an angry young soldier in *Taps*. The movie is a big success, and after that Tom always has work. In 1986, he is a pilot in the action movie *Top Gun*. It is the "movie of the year" and it makes Tom a big star.



Tom's girlfriend at this time is the actress Mimi Rogers. She talks to him about Scientology*. To Tom, this is very interesting. In May, 1987, Tom and Mimi marry. After *The Color of Money*, Tom stars in *Rain Man* with Dustin Hoffman. "Tom's fans want action movies," the newspapers say. But *Rain Man* is the movie of the year.

*Scientology: It answers some people's questions about life.



For *Born on the Fourth of July*, Tom gets a Golden Globe★ award. He is famous, but there are problems at work. “Write that scene again,” he says. Mimi has problems, too. “To many people, I am only Mrs. Tom Cruise,” she says. They divorce and Tom finds new love with the Australian actress Nicole Kidman. In 1990, they marry.

★Golden Globe: Newspaper people give this award to actors.