

[PDF] Rocket Men: The Epic Story Of The First Men On The Moon

Craig Nelson - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Rocket Men: The Epic Story of

Author: Craig Nelson

Released: 2010-04-27

Language:

Pages: 416

ISBN: 0143117165

ISBN13: 978-0143117162

ASIN: 0143117165



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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon. In this extensively researched account of that epic achievement, former publishing executive and prize-winning author Nelson (*The First Heroes*) moves seamlessly between *Apollo 11* astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins, their nervous families and the equally nervous NASA ground crew. Nelson follows Armstrong in nail-biting detail as he tries to find a place to land with less than a minute's worth of fuel remaining. A large central section of the book digresses to provide some backstory on the feverish American-Soviet game of one-upmanship in the year leading up to the *Apollo 11* launch. For instance, Nelson describes *Apollo 8* as an almost reckless gamble by NASA to beat the Russians in sending men to orbit the moon. The book also describes the sad personal toll the

mission took. Collins was best able to deal with the cost of fame yet expressed the anticlimax of life after *Apollo 11*: I seem gripped by earthly ennui. Space fans and readers who remember that momentous time will find this an exciting read. (*June 29*)

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From *Starred Review* Using interviews, NASA oral histories, and declassified CIA material, Nelson has produced a magnificent, very readable account of the steps that led to the success of Apollo 11. In the 40 years since the first moon landing and the 52 years since Sputnik was launched, it isn't always remembered now what an experiment the Apollo program was, nor that the space race was as much a military as a scientific campaign. The space program was launched using the knowledge of rockets available at the end of World War II and former Third Reich scientists working in both American and Soviet programs. When it came to sending men into orbit and beyond, routines and equipment had to be invented and tested in minute increments. Nelson's descriptions take us back, showing the assorted teams and how they worked together. We meet the astronauts and find out why they were eager to take on this mission, and we also meet the hypercareful technicians, without whom neither men nor craft would have left the ground. Nelson shows, too, how the technology and the politics of the times interrelated. Leslie Fish, songwriter, summed it up perfectly, "To all the unknown heroes, sing out to every shore / What makes one step a giant leap is all the steps before." Nelson brightly illuminates those steps. --Frieda Murray --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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