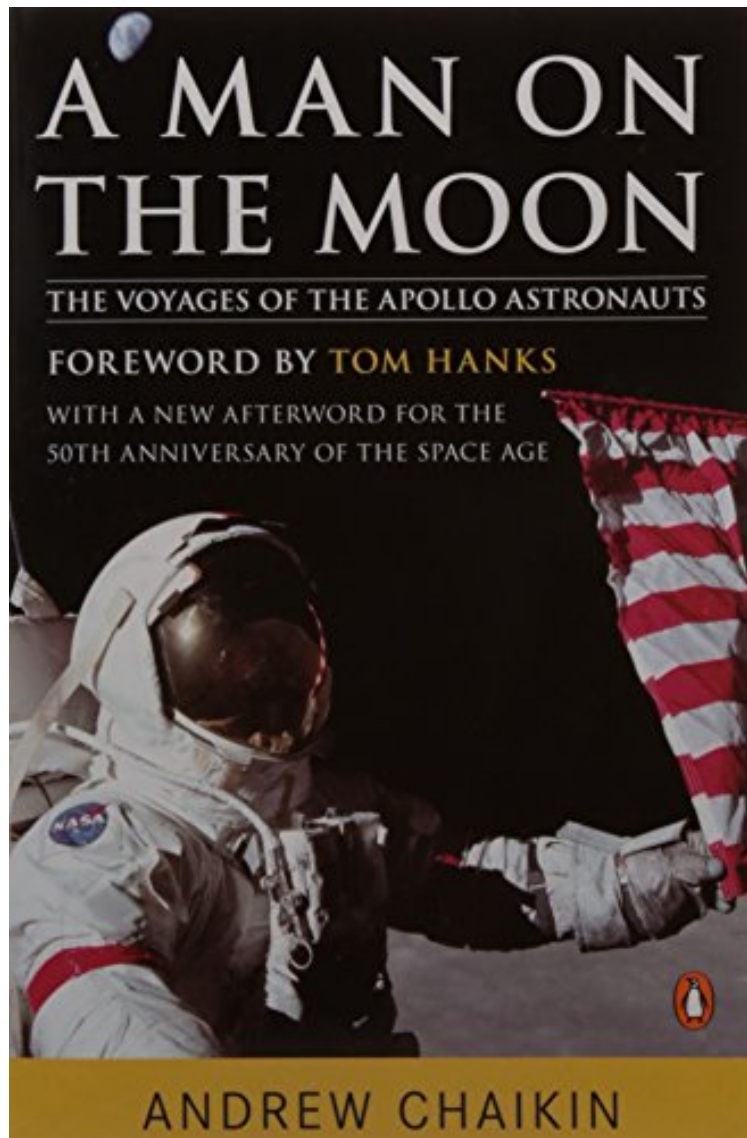


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## A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts

Andrew Chaikin

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#43486 in Books Andrew L Chaikin 2007-08-28 2007-08-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.50 x 5.40l, 1.29 #File Name: 014311235X720 pages A Man on the Moon The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts | File size: 62.Mb

**Andrew Chaikin : A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ride along on EVERY voyage By T.M. Reader Most of the other famous lunar voyage accounts were written by astronauts and other insiders. Some of them are very good, but

inherently limits the reader's experience to that of the author (and his writing ability). What Chaikin has done is monumental, in several regards. Chaikin conducted in-depth interviews with all of the moon voyagers, many of their family members, and plenty of NASA insiders. He reviewed hundreds of hours of audio and video captured from the Apollo program. He reviewed the bulk of the already penned memoirs and documentary material. Filtered through Chaikin's sense of propriety and writing talent, the result is just fascinating. After a little historical stage-setting, the reader gets to prep up and then ride along on each voyage of Apollo. It's not just a diary. Blocks of time and action are necessarily skipped (this is a big book). But what's included is just magic. Chaikin is kind to the astronauts, yet frank. The reader gets them "warts and all". Great suspense (if I hadn't already known the ending, some of the suspense would have been near unbearable). The author did a wonderful job of interpreting the quite complex technical science of Apollo into information which most readers will easily grasp and appreciate. The tale is pretty much politically neutral. Chaikin does just a bit of Apollo/space exploration cheerleading right at the end, but for the most part, he just tells the story. Although I'm a child of the 50's-70's, and generally witnessed Apollo firsthand (via the media), I never really appreciated the role of geological exploration in the moon voyages. The feat seemed to be just getting there and back (obviously). The book exposes that geological aspect. It exposes that much of the lunar surface exploration was just plain hard work, performed by tired, sore men. A minor criticism -- As much as I esteem this author and book, I found the lunar geological detail towards the end to be tedious and sometimes a little over my head. Also quite curious was that although Chaikin seems to be an advocate for the value of the geological science endeavors (maybe he was a wee bit political), he never really seemed to clearly state and solidify what was an "elephant in the room" issue for me regarding the geology . . . the lunar exploration results really gave relatively few answers. As astronaut Commander Frank Borman quoted from the moon, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth . . ." Maybe that is what we scientifically learned, but no one will say it. Moving on . . . Finally, I was amazed (but not really) to find one thing clearly missing from the Apollo story: debilitating fear. That seems to be a common currency among much of our current national populace. I never saw it in the book. There was caution, and a few white-knuckle heart-pounding moments which consistently produced proper response action. There was some even calculated and limited reasonable expectation of death. But not a hint of cowardice or unwillingness to perform. Do read this book. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Simply The Best... By Kyle Ten years ago, I was reading this book. While sitting in my truck one day, I struck up a conversation with an engineer that was on the site with me. I began telling her that I was reading one of the best books I had ever encountered. She said she was also reading the best book she had ever read. It turns out, we were both reading this book! This is one of the most fascinating books I've ever read. Andrew's writing is crisp, and clear, and draws you in to the lives of the astronauts following their triumphs, and failures. Until this book, I had always assumed that the astronauts were a bunch of adrenaline junkies, with more courage than brains. How wrong I was! They were, in fact, the very best we had to offer. Brilliant and resourceful, and never afraid to die, just afraid to screw up! You will come to appreciate the ingenuity of the Contractors who put the hardware together, as well as the countless thousands that sacrificed so much for us to make the goal, by the end of the decade, of landing a man on the moon, and returning him safely to the earth. This book will keep you enthralled all the way through! Pick it up and I guarantee, you will re-read it again someday, it's that good.... 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive Review of a Storied Time in U.S. History By zorba To those of us who watched the space program progress from its beginning following a challenge from President Kennedy, this book is an impressive refresher course. We remember suspense-filled hours being glued to the TV set as mission after mission soared from Florida into the unknown. We all know where we were when Neil Armstrong became the first human to step onto the moon. Now, thanks to Chaikin's book, we know "the rest of the story" and it's a good one. But the book also is a must-read for people who were too young or not born during those years, because the space program is one of America's signal peace-time achievements. Chaikin does a masterful job here exploring all facets of the program -- the human, the technical, the sociological, and the cultural. You get to know the astronauts and the mission control teams as if you spent time training with them. You get a better understanding of the spacecraft and related hardware and systems. You learn pointedly that the program was far greater than just the astronauts who slipped the bounds of earth; it was a massive team effort between the private and public sector, peopled by incredible professionals at every step. It seems that every flight had a surprise and a challenge that was met by the astronauts and their backups on earth, which make this book much more than just a technical manual. Chaikin knows how to weave suspense among the nuts and bolts. This is really a comprehensive, definitive history of the Apollo Program and will probably never be surpassed in its completeness. One criticism: I wish they had a few more technical diagrams and illustrations of such things as the Landing Module and the Rovers. The few illustrations contained in the paperback version were pretty poor and didn't do much to help the reader. That one complaint aside, I found this book to be an impressive history of the Apollo Space Program and one of the most worthwhile books I've read recently. Bravo.

This acclaimed portrait of heroism and ingenuity captures a watershed moment in human history. The astronauts themselves have called it the definitive account of their missions. On the night of July 20, 1969, our world changed forever when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. Based on in-depth interviews with twenty-three

of the twenty-four moon voyagers, as well as those who struggled to get the program moving, *A Man on the Moon* conveys every aspect of the Apollo missions with breathtaking immediacy and stunning detail.

.com A decade in the making, this book is based on hundreds of hours of in-depth interviews with each of the twenty-four moon voyagers, as well as those who contributed their brain power, training and teamwork on Earth. In his preface Chaikin writes, "We touched the face of another world and became a people without limits." What follows are thrilling accounts of such remarkable experiences as the rush of a liftoff, the heart-stopping touchdown on the moon, the final hurdle of re-entry, competition for a seat on a moon flight, the tragic spacecraft fire, and the search for clues to the origin of the solar system on the slopes of lunar mountains. --Therese Littleton  
From Publishers

Weekly Scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first lunar landing on July 20, 1969, this chronicle offers a comprehensive, often penetrating look at NASA's Apollo program. Originating in 1961, when President John Kennedy told Congress that the U.S. should attempt to land a man on the moon "before this decade is out," the program's last mission ended in December, 1972, with the splashdown of Apollo 17. Diary-like reports mix with first- and third-person accounts as Chaikin, an editor at Sky Telescope magazine, delivers a chronological view of the missions and those who planned and flew them. Focusing closely on the Apollo astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, Pete Conrad and Neil Armstrong, Chaikin gives his topic a sense of immediacy. But his treatment, lengthy as it is, reads more like an extended magazine article. Missing is a view of Apollo in a wider context, one that captures the mythos of our efforts to land on the moon. 40,000 first printing. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
Science writer Chaikin spent eight years interviewing dozens of NASA flight controllers, engineers, technicians, and especially all 23 surviving astronauts who flew missions to the moon during the Apollo program. Fleshed out with never-before-published conversations taken from declassified on-board voice recorders, his book provides a vivid account of the first era of manned lunar exploration. Published to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first landing, Chaikin's insightful telling refreshes the oft-repeated stories of these pioneering flights with new details, anecdotes, and reflections that convey what the experience was like for the astronauts. He also shows that, paradoxically for one of the most intensively reported stories of its time, how little we really understood what happened on that July night in 1969. Reminiscent of Charles Murray and Catherine Bly Cox's superb *Apollo: The Race to the Moon* (LJ 6/15/89), this is a highly recommended purchase for both public and academic libraries.--  
Thomas J. Frieling, Bainbridge Coll., Ga. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.