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Full Moon



Synopsis

The most thrilling of all journeys--the missions of the Apollo astronauts to the surface of the Moon and back--yielded 32,000 extraordinarily beautiful photographs, the record of a unique human achievement. Until recently, only a handful of these photographs had been released for publication; but now, for the first time, NASA has allowed a selection of the master negatives and transparencies to be scanned electronically, rendering the sharpest images of space that we have ever seen.

Michael Light has woven 129 of these stunningly clear images into a single composite voyage, a narrative of breathtaking immediacy and authenticity that begins with the launch and is followed by a walk in space, an orbit of the Moon, a lunar landing and exploration, and a return to Earth with an orbit and splashdown. Graced by five 45-inch-wide gatefolds that display the lunar landscape, from above the surface and at eye level, in unprecedented detail and clarity, *Full Moon* conveys on each page the excitement, disorientation, and awe that the astronauts themselves felt as they were shot into space and then as they explored an alien landscape and looked back at their home planet from hundreds of thousands of miles away. Published on the thirtieth anniversary of Apollo 11--the first landing on the Moon--this remarkable and mesmerizing volume is, like the voyages it commemorates and re-creates, an experience both intimate and monumental.

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Customer Reviews

In *Full Moon*, one of the best science photography books ever published, Michael Light presents a

voyage in images to the Moon and back. Light took NASA's master negatives of photos taken by Apollo astronauts and scanned them electronically. The resulting pictures are so vivid they seem more clear than real life. Light orders the photos sequentially, selecting the most arresting images from each mission, to create a truly cinematic experience. In the first section, depicting blastoff, you can almost feel the violent shaking of the rocket as it strains to escape Earth's gravity. Then you see the quiet stillness of weightlessness, the astronauts' view down at a perfectly silent Earth, boundless oceans contrasting with bright white clouds. A spacewalk adds vertigo--the astronaut looks fragile and very alone as he floats outside his capsule far above his home planet. Then comes the waiting, as the long voyage toward the Moon continues. As you watch the cratered surface get closer and closer, you have no sense of scale until you see the minuscule silver and gold lander dropping gently to land on the Moon. Leaving the cluttered interior of the capsule in bulky, awkward suits, the astronauts bring delicate tracings of color--gold on the lander; red, white, and blue on the spacesuits' flag patches--to this black-and-white world. Five huge gatefolds in this section give you indescribable views of the intricately scarred surface of the Moon. You return to space for the reuniting of the lander and capsule, and a repetition of the tedious journey back home. Finally, you watch a chaotic splashdown in the riot of colors that is Earth. A nice section in the back of the book explains each photo with a detailed caption, and an essay by author Andrew Chaikin (A Man on the Moon) adds more written context to this stunning visual experience. The book is printed on very high-quality paper, with matte black frames for the photos and a gorgeous, wordless cover. Every space fan should have a copy. --Therese Littleton

YA-A San Francisco artist and photographer has pulled together 129 stunning, black-and-white and color photographs from 32,000 previously unavailable pictures of the Apollo missions. He has lovingly put them together to form one continuous moon voyage. The photos, mostly taken by astronauts, show fiery, explosive liftoffs; gorgeous, striking earthscapes; astronauts floating by their single umbilical cords in space; hauntingly beautiful moon shots; and many alternate shots recognizably from the first moon landing. An essay and a section explaining when, where, and by whom all the photos were shot are included. A terrific addition for libraries that need tie-ins with science, photography, history, or creative curricula. John Lawson, Fairfax County Public Library, VA
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I really wondered whether I could justify a book of photos of the Moon's surface, which, after all, had been done to death by NASA during the Moon landing years (we all really became a bit blasé) ©

about the whole business, forgetting what an astounding technical achievement it was for the time, with the "primitive" computers they had then). I'm glad I bought it - these are really spectacular views of that thing in the sky, of an extraordinary alien landscape. Once again, one realises what an adventure it all was. The science was there to confer a fig-leaf of respectability for what was essentially a capitalist v. communist weight-lifting contest, but it was still the giant leap of which Neil Armstrong spoke. We can dream (and perhaps that's all we ever can do) about other giant leaps in the future. In the meantime, we have this marvellous record of the very first.

This is a beautiful book. It is a series of photos from various Apollo missions, put together in a way to illustrate a voyage from Earth to the moon & back. The photos take up whole pages, or are panorama fold-outs. The photos are crystal clear. I have seen close-ups made from these photos before, but never the originals as are in Full Moon. That's when I realized the resolution of the cameras the Apollo astronauts were using was incredible. My only disappointment was that my copy arrived with the dustjacket all scraped up and dented, and the edges of many of the pages were mangled, so I had to return it. The book still gets 5 stars because that is no fault of the publisher, or Michael Light. I'll buy it again when I can find a good copy at a "bricks & mortar" bookstore; it's worth the extra \$\$.

"Full Moon" is a selection of about one hundred pictures of different lunar American missions. The selection and the digital improvement has been made by Michael Light, and all has been done from an artistic perspective. If you're looking for a very comprehensive lunar mission day-to-day, interviews with astronauts or a nice reproduction of "that" picture, this is not definitely your book. But if you want, for a moment, walk on the moon, travel outside the Earth and dance with the stars, then buy it.

This is an outstanding coffee-table book. The photographs and double-truck fold-out pages of the lunar surface are stunning. The effect that the compositor--that's really what Michael Light is here--is after is a little on the arty side, though. For instance, he strips out most, if not all, color on the Moon (which is notoriously difficult to reproduce--there's a good discussion of the problem on the Lunar Surface Journal online), leaving only black and white tonal ranges. That's not a complaint but rather a simple observation about the compositor's intent. Also, the sequence of images is really taking you to and from the Moon, with little regard for the proper order of the various Apollo missions -- six in all (Apollos 11 thru 17, minus Apollo 13, which orbited but never landed) -- and their unique sets of

photographs. But that works well here, I must admit. In this regard, it's LIKE a book version of the fantastic film, and now a Criterion Collection DVD, called For All Mankind (directed by Al Reinert). Note that there are two editions of this book on . One is 11.7 square and the other is 8.5 square--or about 25 percent smaller. In a book like this, that's a significant difference. But is the larger trim worth twice the price? Well, that all depends on you. I think the larger book is better, but I've also bought the smaller book to give away as gifts, since I got an amazing deal on them--just under \$10 in a bin somewhere. I did buy the original when it came out, and it remains one of my favorite books of photography and space.

I'm over the moon with the book :) thanks. It's a special collection of photos by the man that wrote the Bible when it comes to Apollo.

The smaller sized book is very small, so just make sure you get the larger size for this incredible book.

I have been so curious about that big white thing in the sky at night and now, in my mid forties, with the help of this very nice book, I have finally figured it out. Truly stellar photos and reproduction.

beautiful images

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