

Apollo 8: The Mission That Changed Everything

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Reviewed by: Rishi Chillara, 14 years old

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It was 1968. The world was watching a Space Race, a product of the Cold War, a battle between two different ideologies and countries on all fronts, including space. For years, the US and Soviets were trying to prove to each other that they can control space and explore it. Many times, though, the US fell short and kept on losing. With only months away to launch Apollo 8, the directors at NASA make a historic change of plans to a mission that will revolutionize and rekindle the imaginations and sciences of the world, by going straight to the moon right ahead of the USSR. This very detailed, captivating book details the journeys of 3 astronauts who take part in this historic voyage, and the lives and events of the Earthlings down below and their fates aboard the ship. Read through an inspiring adventure of these three men, and how they revolutionized space exploration forever in Apollo 8, the mission that changed everything.

Now, I will be honest, I thought I was reading an ever-expansive novel when I was reading this, not a general non-fiction book. It was so engaging knowing what happened during the Apollo 8 mission, and the author makes it even more enthralling with his clever use of diction throughout the book. This is requested for review, and for good reason. Just when you think you already know about Apollo 8, a new topic is introduced to give more info, thus making the already notable Apollo 8 mission greater than it was. This book details the lives of the three astronauts that went on this historic mission, Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders. Like the main characters in a good story, these men were brought into light by clever descriptions in the book and their main reasons each for coming onto the mission. These men were written into the book beautifully, with their quotes and reasons for coming to this grand expedition, and the lives of them and their superiors were written well with good, accurate evidence.

As incredible this nonfiction book is, nothing is without flaws. This book sometimes randomly cuts through plot points with facts that could have been better put at the beginning or end of certain chapters. Sometimes, I am reading suspenseful events during the mission, but immediately it cuts to some random facts about rocket science or beliefs in NASA and its scientists. I have not lost track of my position whilst reading the book, however, due to this being a nuisance for me. Yet some people might lose track and/or get distracted. Other than that, the book is nonfiction, so there is (albeit mild) language and barely any violence, so I recommend this book for 9 years and up. This is a book I would recommend for you to read if you gain an interest in space missions and/or are doing a project-based on this. This is a book that kindled my interest in space, and people should read this. Apollo 8 will forever be the most important space event after Apollo 11, and this book immortalizes it extremely well.

Recommended Titles:

Apollo's Legacy, by Roger D. Launius

The Smithsonian History of Space Exploration, by Roger D. Launius

Spaceport Earth, by Joe Pappalardo