



Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon

Andrew Chaikin , Alan Bean (Illustrator)

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July 20, 1969, marked one of the climactic moments in our history? The day Apollo 11 landed on the moon. But it is only one piece of a magnificent story. *Mission Control, This Is Apollo*, by the acclaimed Andrew Chaikin (author of *A Man on the Moon*, basis of the HBO miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon*), recounts space history from the Mercury missions through Apollo 17 and beyond. It is illustrated with stunning full-color paintings by astronaut Alan Bean, who walked on the moon with Pete Conrad on Apollo 12 and has devoted his post-NASA life to creating art. Handsome, informative, and dramatic, this is no textbook?it is the tale of humankind's greatest adventure in the last frontier: space.

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Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon Details

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Matt says

If you like this, adults and some kids may want to check out , and

Ed says

Chaikin, Andrew. (2009). Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon. New York: Viking. 128 pp. ISBN 0-670-01156-8 (Hardcover); \$23.99

Many of us recognize Alan Bean as one of the Apollo astronauts. Bean served as the Lunar Module Pilot on the Apollo Twelve mission, which landed on the moon in a prechosen location, an amazing scientific accomplishment and a first. Very few of us will think of Bean as an artist. However, after achieving the distinction of being the fourth person to walk on the moon, Bean's post NASA career is that of an artist. In this book, Bean has created full color paintings to provide an emotional core to a fact-filled book detailing all seventeen Apollo missions. Written by Andrew Chaikin, this book places Apollo 11 in the proper context of a scientific AND political mission dependent upon six Mercury missions, another twelve Gemini missions, ten prior Apollo missions (although missions 2-6 are given scant mention), and six more Apollo missions that followed. We are reminded of the fact that the USSR was once the world leader in space exploration and the reason we placed such a high priority on space travel. What would our allies think if we allowed a communist country to beat us to the moon? Apollo 11 came with an exceptionally high cost, which includes the lives of Virgil I. Grissom, Edward H. White II, and Roger Chaffee from the first mission. Chaikin writes flowing prose that captures the drama and human interest of what it means to blast off into outer space. Sidebars explain everything from the forty-five minutes it takes to defecate to changes in space suit technology. Bean's explanations of his paintings provide a poetic and authoritative glimpse into the human side of these Apollo astronauts and are almost more interesting than the paintings themselves. This book will be at home in any school library. It may well follow in the footsteps of Team Moon this January.

BillyAnn Stempel says

This book is all about the space race and our Apollo program. It takes us through the various trials of spacecraft and training that goes into manning the spacecraft. It features various things that must be considered before sending people into space as well.

The illustrations are majorly comprised of photos.

I enjoyed this book. At times it felt as if it was an overwhelming amount of information on each page but I think it did a great job of covering a lot. This book would be a great resource for students to use for research or ideas on what to do a project on.

Donna says

I think this is a good basic introduction to the Apollo space program and its mission to land on and explore the moon. It's full of colorful paintings created by former astronaut Alan Bean, who took part in Apollo 12. I was intrigued by the interesting textures of the paintings (which can clearly be seen in the reproductions throughout the book) and then learned in a note at the end that Bean used plaster to create a rough surface to paint on, and then stamped replica space boots and space equipment into the plaster to create the textures. He also infused the paintings with space dust and bits of debris that had been recovered from Apollo 12. I think Bean's commentary on the paintings and the many sidebars (they actually take up full pages, so I don't know if "side bar" is actually the right term) on subjects like space food, peeing in space, and things that astronauts left behind on the moon are the best parts of the book. The descriptions of the actual space missions seemed too condensed, and they all kind of blended together in my head, so that I can't recall many of the specific details that made each one unique. Chaikin wrote an earlier account of the Apollo missions for adults, so maybe I would get more out of that one.

Eli B says

In July of 1969, one of the greatest moments in the history of mankind occurred. It was the day Apollo 11 landed on the moon. That is only a tiny bit of the incredible story. Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon, by Andrew Chaikin talks about the history of man traveling into space and beyond. The book is illustrated with very cool pictures by Alan Bean, who has spent his life creating art to help people learn a little bit more about NASA. Something that makes this book so awesome was that Captain Alan Bean, the illustrator, is an actual astronaut who has been to the moon. According to Captain Alan Bean "My decision to resign from NASA in 1981 was based on the fact that I am fortunate enough to have seen sights no other artist ever has, and I hope to communicate these experiences through art." The paintings make the reader feel like they were there with him.

The author incorporated not only important information from many numerous space missions from Gemini to Apollo, but also added fun facts such as what the astronauts eat, and how they go to the bathroom in space. One of the most interesting missions described in the book is Apollo 11, which was the first time that man has walked on another planet. The reader really feels as if he or she was there in the spacecraft with the historic astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldren. This book is recommended for not only space enthusiasts, but everyone who loves history and adventure.

Chaikin, Andrew, Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon, Viking Juvenile, New York, 2009.

Edward Fenner says

A nice book meant for children to introduce them to the fantastic Apollo missions. I was a youngster when they were happening and when I saw that this book included many paintings by one of the Apollo astronauts (Alan Bean), I had to give it a look. I've seen some of Bean's work before and quite enjoy his unique perspectives and reflections on Apollo through his paintings. His captions tell a lot, too. Don't forget to check out the page in the back where Bean discusses the materials and methods he uses to create his paintings. It's truly unique because only a moonwalker like him would, cleverly, have access to a special ingredient or two that he adds to his works that nobody else can do.

Ian Overway says

YA Nonfiction Title

This is an excellent book that covers the history of the Apollo Mission from 1968 to 1972. This is an exciting book for those who like history, science, exploration, adventure oh and space travel. It is filled with not only the history of America's voyage to the moon but also give wonderful photographs as well as painting by Alan Bean (Apollo Astronaut & painter.) This book gives intricate knowledge of all the working of space travel from rockets, lunar modules, space suits to space food to how an astronaut uses the restroom.

Amy says

Fantastic book, absolutely fascinating information and details about all of the Apollo missions. And Alan Bean's paintings are spectacular!

Jill says

A fantastic nonfiction book on the Apollo missions with a brief overview of the Gemini missions before it. Each Apollo mission includes a few-page detail of the mission, the astronauts' reactions, and beautiful paintings created by Apollo 12 astronaut Alan Bean. The book not only gives excellent facts (mission details including the astronauts, dates, and mission objective; illustration of the landing sites on the moon; details on the spacecrafts) but the writing helps express how awe-inspiring our journey to space has been. Partnered with the beautiful and realistic illustrations from someone with the experience to understand, this is an excellent, well-rounded book.

Karina Dulin says

The space program remains one of my favorite subjects, and this volume is absolutely fabulous. The paintings by Apollo 12 astronaut Alan Bean push this one to must-read level.

Emily O says

The book that I read is Mission control This Is Apollo by Alan Bean and Andrew Chaiken. This book falls into historical fiction because apollo happened in the past and was a big deal for America. In my book it explains what happens in each apology. In apollo one the astronauts Edward white, Roger Chaffee, and Gus Grimsson the flight never happened due to a fire during the test launch. The majority of this book took place in space but sometime in the Kennedy space center where mission control was. This book is man vs self because in space you had to take care of yourself and there was a conflict when something they have to fight against themselves or figure it out their selfie or example in apollo thirteen when they had the oxygen leak he had to figure out how to get more oxygen for himself to live. It is man vs nature because it explains how they have to fight against space to get their mission completed. I think that this is a great book. It is very good at

explains each Apollo mission in very good detail. It also makes learning about the Apollo mission interesting. I think any gender and any age people would enjoy this book because they have topics that kids and adults can understand and enjoy.

Lizziebeth10 says

I wish there was a 4.5 star rating... Mostly, yes, it was amazing, so much so that I even read the dedications, the sources, the fine print, and all those things people normally skip over.

I could have done with a few more real pictures and a wee bit less of Astronaut Bean's "I" this "I" that. But hey, he walked on the moon, and he looks like a really nice guy, so it's ok.

Becky says

4 1/2 stars.

Having come of age during the Apollo era, I am always interested in a good moon book and I really liked this one.

I loved the clear organization of this beautifully designed, oversized book. After a brief overall introduction, each chapter is devoted to one of the Apollo space missions. Each mission begins with a prominent heading that includes the mission dates, the astronauts that flew the mission and the goal of the flight. The reader is struck immediately by how quickly one Apollo mission followed another and how each mission increased the knowledge of the one preceding it. The entire Apollo program began in January of 1967 and ended in December of 1972—so much accomplished in 6 years.

The book includes many paintings created by former astronaut Alan Bean. He is an excellent artist and his moon and space paintings are done from the very unique perspective of being the 4th man to walk on the moon and only one of 12 humans to have ever had the experience. His statement at the back of the book about how he creates his paintings is fascinating. Within some of his paintings he has begun including physical bits of the spaceship that flew him to the moon and back--and small amounts of the moon dust that covered his space suit as he walked on the moon.

In addition to the paintings are well chosen photos and informative diagrams that do much to enhance the well-written text.

Ages 10+ (younger if shared)

Natalie Waddell-Rutter says

I always know I've found a good nonfiction book if I'm tempted to share tidbits I'm reading with whoever's near me. This was one such book. It was full of all kinds of information, but never felt like a dry recitation of facts. Each of the mission description contained a story that humanized the astronauts and put me in their place (at least a little) as they were flying in space. The paintings and captions by Alan Bean added a

delightful element to the book as well. Overall, a highly enjoyable book perfect for many ages. The pictures will keep the younger kids flipping through the book, and older kids or adults will be pulled into reading about all the missions.

Mooboy says

Do you know where the saying “Houston we’ve had a problem” is from? If you answered the Apollo 13 mission, then you are correct. Do you also know where the saying “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind” is from? If you answered the lunar module Eagle landing, then you are correct again. I learned both of these sayings from the book Mission Control, this is Apollo.

This book is illustrated by the Apollo 12 astronaut Alan Bean. This book is nonfiction and is illustrated with paintings, and photos from the cameras on the mission. The cameras on the missions were mounted on the ascent stage of the lunar module and the lunar rover.

The main parts of the Saturn V rocket are the command module, (CM) service module, (SM) Lunar module, (LM pronounced lem) and launch vehicle. Together the CM and the SM form the command-service module (CSM).

During all of the Apollo missions if there were any mistakes the scientists at Mission control relised the problem and changed what they needed to, in order to prevent the same problem on other Apollo missions. Two good examples I learned in this book are the fire on Apollo 1, and the explosion on Apollo 13.

I would recommend this book to somebody who likes space travel, and/or the Apollo missions.

Reviewed by Mooboy - Age 9
