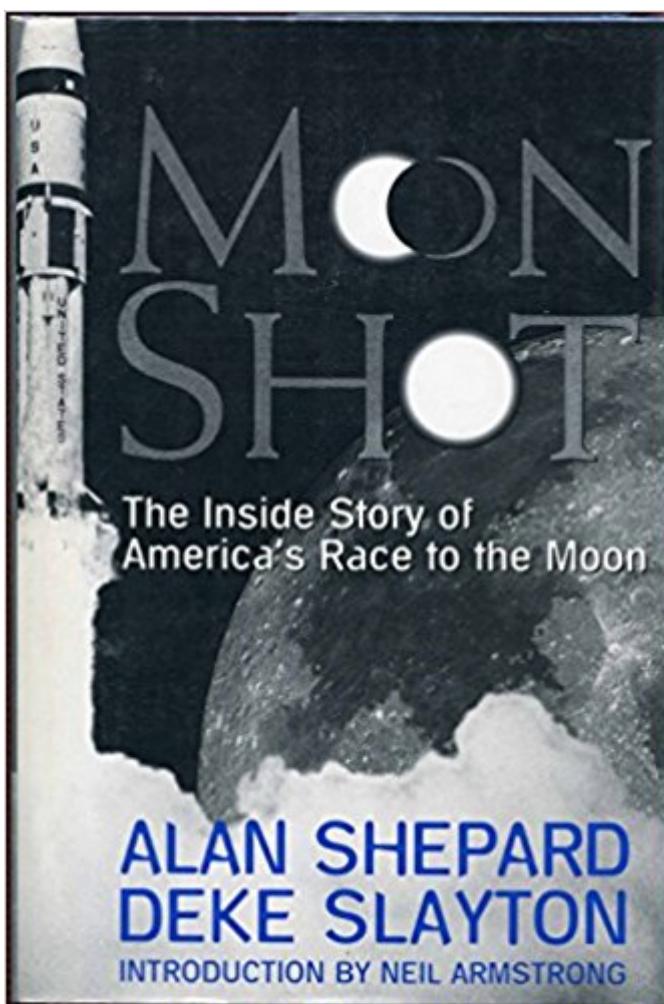


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Moon Shot: The Inside Story Of America's Race To The Moon



Synopsis

Marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first moon landing, two former astronauts tell of the intense human drama behind the lunar race between two superpowers, and of the sacrifices and risks asked of the American crew.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Shepard and the late Slayton, two of the original Mercury astronauts, here team up with two veteran space reporters to produce a firsthand account of the space program's early days. The narrative is at its best when it focuses on the astronauts' flight experiences-Shepard's brief Mercury flight, his lunar landing mission ten years later, and Slayton's long-delayed trip into space aboard the last Apollo mission in 1975. On the down side, its use of re-created conversations that pass as exposition weaken the narrative, making it sound more like a screenplay prospectus than a space history. For example, it is doubtful that John Glenn had to explain to his fellow astronauts what the Saturn launch vehicle was. One comes away wishing for more insight into what it was like to walk on the moon and less about the astronauts' pranks and peccadillos. Still, with the book's publication timed to coincide with this July's 25th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing, this title may see some demand.--Thomas Frieling, Bainbridge Coll., Ga. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

It's hard to believe, but most teens and people in their early twenties don't remember Americans

walking on the moon. This book, written lovingly by two of the most respected astronauts in U.S. history, will remedy that. Journalists Jay Barbree and Howard Benedict organized the material, and they portray Shepard and Slayton as two close friends who shared the dream of many children of the 1960s: to fly in outer space. Sadly, Shepard, after becoming the first American in space in a mere hour's trip, developed inner ear problems that prevented him from going back, and Slayton's irregular heartbeat kept him from going at all. Meanwhile, President Kennedy escalated the space race to get a leg up on the Russians. Despite covering some of the same ground as Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff*, Shepard and Slayton vividly portray the great bond uniting the original Mercury Seven. The most terrifying chapter describes the fire on the launchpad that killed three Apollo 1 astronauts, but problems on many flights (unbeknownst to TV viewers) were only solved by the skill of the astronauts as pilots. Shepard and Slayton are emphatic about environmental issues (having seen the Earth from a unique viewpoint), and Shepard's eventual moon shot is only topped by Slayton's emotional reaction to being cleared to fly the Apollo-Soyuz mission to dock with Russian cosmonauts, with whom he became fast friends. Expect much demand. Joe Collins

Well written. Story of two astronauts, Shepard and Slaton, and how they overcame adversity and got back into space after being medically disqualified. It recounts through Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo the success and tribulation of American space flight. Over the last few pages the authors eviscerates the Obama Administration for gutting NASA and stopping manned space exploration.

I'd read a little about the space race over the years but didn't really know the story. I read this along with *Hidden Figures* and the two books together were very interesting. The story in this book is well told. I find it nostalgic, however, because I think we have maybe lost some of our inherent competencies as a nation in the decades since. It's a very interesting ride through the growth of aeronautics, space flight and engineering and gives some of the iconic characters involved a more three dimensional feel. Reading of how some of these pilots handled the early flights is sobering and fascinating. You don't have to be a space buff to enjoy this book.

Shepard and Slayton were two of the original 7 mercury astronauts. Slayton was in charge or the astronauts and flew on skylab. Shepard was the first American in space and the only Mercury astronaut to walk on the moon. These two were there from the beginning and fully involved in all aspects of getting us to the moon. The book is well written and is full of details about the space program. I highly recommend this for anyone interested in manned space flight, the US space

program or space flight in general.

If you're interested in NASA's history, especially if you're a baby boomer, you will love this book. I was totally captivated. It reveals things that happened behind the scenes that I had not known about or had forgotten. The affects of the Russian's launching of Sputnik started a journey that clearly showed the determination, ingenuity, perseverance, and above all, the courage of the American people. It also showed the tragedy that can happen when deadlines are put before safety. On a personal note, it brought back a memory that I hadn't thought of in many years. On a chilly night in October, 1957 when I was eleven years old, my father let my two brothers and I get on our garage roof in Lincoln Nebraska to watch Sputnik go over. I can still see that bright object going across the sky.

I am an avid reader of the entire Mercury to Apollo Program and enjoy reading multiple books to gain even more perspectives. This is an excellent book by two of the best, and allowing others to provide input even helped the book. They of course talked about their personal stories not being able to fly, but it did not hinder the book at all.

This is a well written and fascinating book about one of America's greatest achievements. If you lived through those years, it brings back memories of the exciting time in our history that these amazing men and the unimaginable machines that they built and flew brought us. If you did not live through the space race years, this is a great way to bring you back in time to experience these dreams, failures and triumphs as if you were there.

This book is so interesting it kept me up past midnight--there are so many things I didn't know about our getting to the moon, and by the end I felt like I not only knew the whole community of NASA people but understood them. I was inspired to laugh, cry, admire, appreciate and feel proud to know them.

I really enjoyed the stories of a number of the astronauts involved with the space program as it used to be. Beautiful words spoken by Alan Shepard of Apollo 14 in the latter part of the book touched my soul as he looked at Earth from space: "It all condensed into this one single, long look at fragile, beautiful earth, as though he were sent here, he and the others, so they might look back at that lovely, sensitive sphere and then carry home the message that everyone there must learn to live on

this planet together. "

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