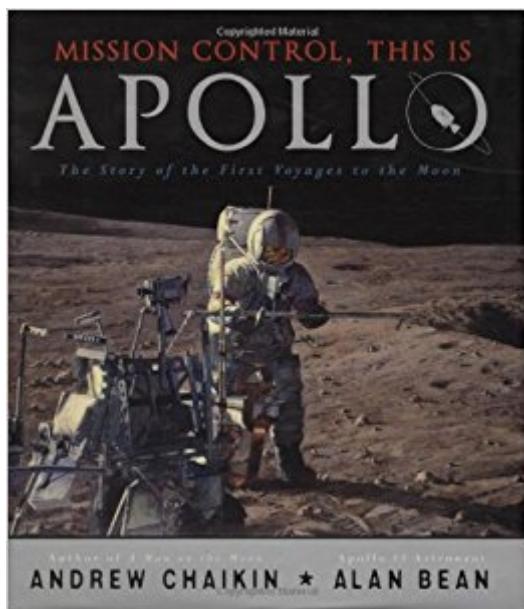


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# Mission Control, This Is Apollo: The Story Of The First Voyages To The Moon



## **Synopsis**

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.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review. Grade 5â "8â "Along with being based at least as much on personal interviews as on documentary and other sources, this album-sized history of the Apollo missions is also set apart by its unique illustrations. A former astronaut who walked on the Moon as part of the Apollo 12 crew, Bean has been for many years a full-time fine artist. He incorporates into moonscapes, spacecraft, and suited-up astronauts done over the course of his artistic career not only an unusually personal perspective, but also actual bits of moon dust, used mission patches, and other well-traveled

memorabilia. He also provides illuminating, sometimes eloquent commentary in captions and a closing statement. Though the authors present an uncomplicated version of events with almost no discussion of the exclusion of women from the astronaut corps, for instance, and quoting Neil Armstrong's famous line as "one small step for a man" rather than what he actually said, they do tuck in memorable anecdotes (to the question "What's the most beautiful thing you saw in space?" an astronaut replies, "Urine dump at sunset"). They effectively highlight the Apollo program's magnificent achievements, as well as its moments of tension and tragedy. Supplemented with an admixture of photos and labeled diagrams, the large-scale art adds a dazzling visual element to this grand commemoration.â "John Peters, New York Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** As we move away from the twentieth century, the shining moment of the first moon landing seems to grow brighter. Placing that event within the context of the whole Apollo program, this handsome, large-format book spotlightsÂ 12 significant missions, from Apollo 1, with its fatal cockpit fire, to Apollo 17, with its sweet success and bittersweet awareness that the program was ending. Chaikin, author of *A Man on the Moon* (1994), has extensively researched the Apollo program and conducted hundreds of related interviews, including 28 with former Apollo astronauts. Beyond a wealth of pertinent anecdotes, this background knowledge brings a subtle understanding of complex decisions and human emotions at pivotal moments as well as a broad perspective as the Apollo missions moved gradually toward their goals. Informative, full-page sidebars focus on topics such as the work of the Mission Control teams and the early fear of â œmoon germs.â • NASA photos provide excellent color illustrations of the Apollo missions. More unexpected and personal are the many stunning paintings and insightful captions by Alan Bean, who walked on the moon during the Apollo 12 mission. Lists of recommended books, films, and Internet sites are appended. A beautiful, insightful, and highly readable presentation of the Apollo missions. Grades 5-8. --Carolyn Phelan

This book summaries all the manned space missions from the early 60s till the end of 1972, with a particular emphasis on Apollo. All Apollo missions are covered including the ill fated Apollo 1 resulting in a devastating fire that tragically took the lives of three of America's best astronauts including the first to walk in space. The authors of this book are well versed in the Apollo missions. Andrew Chaikin in particular, whose other book on the same subject was the impetus to the truly outstanding HBO miniseries, "From the Earth to the Moon", produced by Tom Hanks in 1998. What

makes THIS book truly special - much more than just a good read - are the many artistic renderings of Apollo, painted and contributed by Alan Bean, Apollo 12 Lunar Module Pilot and the 4th man to walk on the Moon! I have read and own several similar books, one autographed by the author and LAST man to walk on the Moon, Gene Cernan. This book is about ALL Apollo astronauts, including those that did not get to the Moon, and others whose perilous but essential missions in low Earth orbit set the stage for the 12 men who actually landed and walked on the Moon. More importantly it is about all these brave men whose incredible and pioneering achievements helped accomplish President Kennedy's goal. Many of these men are gone now, including perhaps the most well known, Apollo 11 Commander, Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the Moon. His memory and those of his peers, will long be remembered. These men are all true American heroes. This book collectively covers every Apollo mission, all the Apollo astronauts and qualifies as one of the very best on this historically significant subject!

Used for my daughter's homeschool. Was a little easy to read for 6th grade, but still was the information she needed. She really liked this book.

Great overview of the Apollo Missions. My 6 year old loves having it read over and over to him!

One of the best.

I love this book. It is extremely well done, a bit different from the usual - it covers all Apollo flights from One to Seventeen. It is set out beautifully and the illustrations are superb. My grandson is going to be thrilled with this for Christmas.

Excellent!!!!

No issues at all. I really enjoy this book.

Informative book about the Apollo Program with great insight and great pictures. A most enjoyable read and viewing.

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