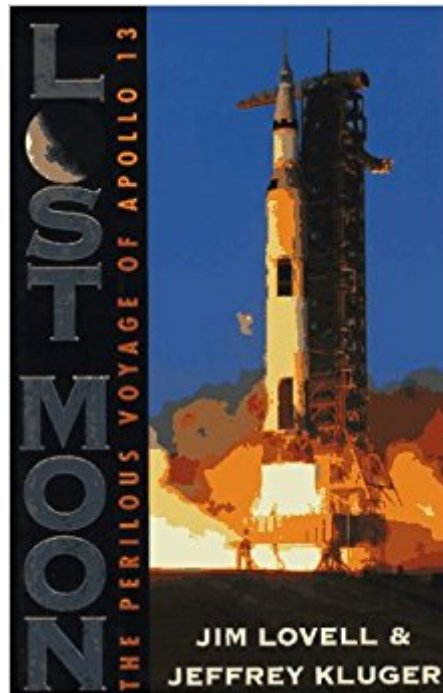




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Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage Of Apollo 13



Synopsis

In April 1970, during the glory days of the Apollo space program, NASA sent Navy Captain Jim Lovell and two other astronauts on America's fifth mission to the moon. Only fifty-five hours into the flight of Apollo 13, disaster struck: a mysterious explosion rocked the ship, and soon its oxygen and power began draining away. Commander Lovell and his crew watched in alarm as the cockpit grew darker, the air grew thinner, and the instruments winked out one by one. The full story of the moon shot that almost ended in catastrophe has never been told, but now Lovell and coauthor Jeffrey Kluger bring it to vivid life. What begins as a smooth flight is transformed into a hair-raising voyage from the moment Lovell calls out, "Houston, we've got a problem." Minutes after the explosion, the astronauts are forced to abandon the main ship for the lunar module, a tiny craft designed to keep two men alive for just two days. But there are three men aboard, and they are four days from home. As the hours tick away, the narrative shifts from the crippled spacecraft to Mission Control, from engineers searching desperately for solutions to Lovell's wife and children praying for his safe return. The entire nation watches as one crisis after another is met and overcome. By the time the ship splashes down in the Pacific, we understand why the heroic effort to rescue Lovell and his crew is considered by many to be NASA's finest hour. This riveting book puts the reader right in the spacecraft during one of the worst disasters in the history of space exploration. Written with all the color and drama of the best fiction, *Lost Moon* is the true story of a thrilling adventure and an astonishing triumph over nearly impossible odds. It was a major Oscar(R)-nominated motion picture directed by Ron Howard and starred Tom Hanks and Kevin Bacon.

Book Information

Hardcover: 378 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 1st edition (September 6, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395670292

ISBN-13: 978-0395670293

Package Dimensions: 9 x 5.7 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 104 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #209,634 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Aerospace > Astronautics & Space Flight #310 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Aeronautics & Astronautics #1262 in Books >

Customer Reviews

Astronaut Lovell and Kluger, a contributing editor at Discover magazine, take us on the terrifying voyage of unlucky Apollo 13. Launched in April 1970 and manned by Lovell, Jack Swigert and Jack Haise, Apollo 13 was scheduled to orbit the moon while Lovell and Haise descended to its surface. En route, though, a cyogenic tank exploded, causing a loss of oxygen and power in the command module. Luckily, the LEM, the lunar module that was to land on the moon, was uninjured and the astronauts could survive briefly on its oxygen. What unfolds is a story of courage as the astronauts and the personnel at Mission Control in Houston labored to return the spacecraft to Earth. First, there was the crucial alignment to ascertain the position of the spacecraft. Then came the all-important "burn" to swing the spacecraft around the moon on a "free return" trajectory back to earth. And finally there was the important PC+2 burn to guide the ship to the South Pacific, making sure it would enter Earth's atmosphere precisely-if done wrong the craft would either incinerate or skip into orbit around the sun. Everything went perfectly and Apollo 13 splashed down in the Pacific. This is a gripping and frightening book that commands rapt attention. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

JEFFREY KLUGER has written for various publications, including Discover, the New York Times Magazine, GQ, and the Wall Street Journal. He is also the author of Journey Beyond Selene. Jim Lovell joined NASA in 1962 and flew a total of four missions before retiring in 1973. After Apollo 8, America's first mission to the moon, he and his two crew members were named TIME's Men of the Year. He continues to lecture across the country, speaking about space exploration.

I enjoyed this book. I've seen the movie a number of times, and finally decided that I wanted to know more about all the things that went wrong and the people who worked so hard to get the astronauts back to Earth safely. It did not bother me (as it did some reviewers) that the entire book was written in third person; it was a reasonably editorial choice, given the number of points of view that were included. Jim Lovell is a real hero, though he comes across as fairly humble in the book. If anyone had written a fiction book where so many things went wrong on one flight, it would hardly be believable. But in this case every one of them really happened. There was a good amount of science, but not too much for this English major. Apollo 13 was a significant event in our history of space exploration, and I heartily recommend the book.

I've read just about everything I can find on the Apollo program, including after flight mission reports by astronauts and some of the actual flight manuals. This is not a technical review. It is a story that brings to light many of the human elements of the event. That Lovell writes in the third person only makes it more pleasant to read. I rank this with Micheal Collins autobiography. You will not be disappointed in this book unless you are looking for some obscure technical details regarding the root cause of the accident chain. For that, go to NASA and read the actual findings of the accident review board. This is a great story of human endurance in the face of immense odds.

This work will forever carry the blessing and the curse of being joined at the hip to the memorable film rendition, "Apollo 13." I gather that in recent years the powers that be have thrown in the towel and now market book and movie under the same name. If memory serves correctly, the book appeared in 1994, the movie in 1995. I have often wondered about the synergy between the two; was "Lost Moon" written in the knowledge that it would immediately undergo the standard Hollywood facelift, or did Tom Hanks exert "go fever" upon the authors to meet production deadline? Such questions will no doubt swirl about this fine book into the foreseeable future. As to the content and literary merits of the work itself, a previous reviewer noted a certain jumpiness in the narrative, forward leaps and backward glances. I agree with that observation. It may be that the Apollo 13 incident took place so long ago--can it really be 33 years already?--that the authors at times came to the realization that most readers under 40 didn't really know Jim Lovell, and that biographical information had to be inserted to explain why this particular astronaut's position as commander of the flight made all the difference in the world to its bloodless outcome. With all due respects to Alan Shepard, John Glenn, and Neil Armstrong--space pioneers in their own right--historians of future generations may look upon Jim Lovell as the most accomplished of the space pioneers of the twentieth century. In April 1970 when he boarded the Odyssey for the flight to the Fra Mauro highlands of the moon, Lovell possessed an impressive resume of space experience, in terms of both seat time and technical experience. In 1965 he had accepted the most undesirable of the Gemini assignments, the fourteen-day marathon of physiological and psychological stress designed to push the envelope of human endurance--with a manned two-craft rendezvous thrown in for good measure. In 1966 he and Buzz Aldrin, in another Gemini craft, finessed the skill of docking and physical adroitness in extravehicular tasking. In 1968, with Frank Borman and Bill Anders, he inaugurated manned flights aboard the new Saturn V rocket and stunned the world with the Christmas circumlunar Apollo VIII. Lovell's history of competence under fire is perhaps the major

human element of this work. Who on NASA's active roster of 1971 was better prepared to handle a crisis the magnitude of Apollo XIII? Lovell's history with the space program is much better documented in the book, if awkwardly at times, than in the film. For those unfamiliar with the plot line, Apollo XIII was the third lunar mission, albeit a star-crossed one even before lift-off. Its original crew of Shepard, Mitchell, and Roosa was scrubbed for both health and political reasons involving Shepard's ten year hiatus from active space duty, a piece of history omitted in the book. Later, less than a week before the mission, command module pilot Ken Mattingly was unwittingly exposed to measles and replaced by back-up Jack Swigert. There is some fudging about Mattingly's dismissal from the Apollo XIII crew. In the book Lovell reports that NASA management made the call; in the film Lovell/Hanks replies straightforwardly to Mattingly/Sinise that "this was my call." To add to the mystery, a close examination of sources indicates Mattingly was either never interviewed for this work or declined to participate, a curious omission on a matter so germane to the plot. But Apollo XIII was star-crossed in more ways than anyone could have imagined. A design error in the critical fuel cell unit had transformed that equipment into a ticking bomb that exploded 200,000 miles from earth, rendering the mother ship useless and forcing the astronauts to relocate all operations and life support to the tiny Aquarius lunar lander. The technical complications alone for such an untested procedure were staggering; Lovell and collaborator Jeffrey Kluger communicate these problems with a manageable balance of technology and human drama. Like many other astronaut-authors, Lovell does not overly dwell on the human emotion or physical discomfort of his flight, which involved five days without heat, sleep, or edible food and immense technical improvising under god-awful conditions. The film version depicts considerable tension between Haise and Swigert after the explosion, with Lovell virtually having to separate them from coming to blows. Lovell reports nothing of this sort in the book, though he hints at mild irritation with Haise's sophomoric antics prior to the explosion. "Lost Moon" brings to the knowledgeable reader visceral experiences that a film cannot really convey, given the limitations of screen time. Several dimensions of the flight-barely mentioned if at all on film-are treated at some length, such as NASA's concern about the radioactive fuel for the lunar station and its fiery reentry through earth's atmosphere, and the failure of the LEM to hold course after swinging around the moon. The "urine problem"-a major, complex situation for man and machine-is treated tastefully, though in his book Lovell does not report Haise's film complaint that "I think I caught the clap from Swigert." To term this work a pure autobiographical memoir of the flight is a bit misleading, since hundreds of professionals were involved at least indirectly with Lovell, and Glynn Lunney and Gene Krantz, to name two, get appropriate attention from the authors. The authors struck a good balance here. The only literary

task still undone is a definitive treatment of Lovell's entire career. There ought to be at least one or two more good movies in there somewhere.

What a magnificent tribute to our astronauts and the hundreds of brilliant minds that tackled this monstrous problem and brought our ship and men back to earth. I was spellbound and awed by their courage and cool heads. True heroes, each and everyone of them and their families. God blessed America.

First person account of one of the most incredible rescues in the history of mankind. well done.

My dad and i loved the moive Apollo 13, once i found out that the moive was based on a called Lost Moon, and that is was written by Jim Lovell and Jeffery Kluger. The story it self is with out equeal in that it actually happend, i was bound and determined to find and hopfully buy a copy of this the amzing book, and i did find it on !!! yea!!! as i found it i bought for dad as a gift of his brithday. And i am quite certain that my dad is going to love it reading as i said this story is with out equeal so to are its authors.

This is a well researched and documented book about the Apollo 13 Mission which never landed on the moon. The photos enclosed within the book show the panel that was blown off the ship which caused the astronauts to be forced into using the Lunar Module as a life boat in order to return home. The actual efforts required of not only the crew, but Mission Control and Contractors to make possible the Astronauts' return to earth was an amazing feat. Several quotes came from the mission, most of which were used in the film, "Apollo 13", which starred Tam Hanks. "Houston, we have a problem." "Failure is not an option." are two of the most memorable. It is a survival story with many heroes who made it possible. Anyone who enjoys books about America's time in space during the Apollo era will find this book very rewarding.

A very exciting book which is much more than just the Apollo 13 story. The archives researched to write this book were substantial and the detail presented brings all the emotions of the technical details to life. The book I purchased was autographed by Jim Lovell which makes it very special indeed.

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