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# Full Moon



## Synopsis

The most thrilling of all journeys--the missions of the Apollo astronauts to the surface of the Moon and back--yielded 32,000 extraordinarily beautiful photographs, the record of a unique human achievement. Until recently, only a handful of these photographs had been released for publication; but now, for the first time, NASA has allowed a selection of the master negatives and transparencies to be scanned electronically, rendering the sharpest images of space that we have ever seen.

Michael Light has woven 129 of these stunningly clear images into a single composite voyage, a narrative of breathtaking immediacy and authenticity that begins with the launch and is followed by a walk in space, an orbit of the Moon, a lunar landing and exploration, and a return to Earth with an orbit and splashdown. Graced by five 45-inch-wide gatefolds that display the lunar landscape, from above the surface and at eye level, in unprecedented detail and clarity, *Full Moon* conveys on each page the excitement, disorientation, and awe that the astronauts themselves felt as they were shot into space and then as they explored an alien landscape and looked back at their home planet from hundreds of thousands of miles away. Published on the thirtieth anniversary of Apollo 11--the first landing on the Moon--this remarkable and mesmerizing volume is, like the voyages it commemorates and re-creates, an experience both intimate and monumental.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yes, Michael Light could have chosen better known photographs. Yes, Michael Light could have supplied NASA Index numbers for each photo. Yes, Michael Light could have done many things

differently. What Michael Light has produced is one of the most stunning collections of photographs I have ever seen in a single volume. I have sat looking at these images and found it hard to drag myself away. The stark monochromatic beauty of the moon together with the fragile humanity embodied in the astronauts has been exposed in a way I have never seen before. I cannot understand why NASA has never made better use of its image library in bringing to the attention of the public its space program. If a picture paints a thousand words then this volume would take a lifetime to read.

I have read most of the books about manned space flight published to date. Although several of these books are outstanding, and provide an in-depth perspective that can only be expressed through the written word, none of them gives me the virtual moon-trip experience that this beautifully constructed book does. It's not just a book of beautiful photographs (and they are beautiful). There is appropriate text that accompanies the photos in a separate section. The very large photos are printed with NO text on the page to detract from the scenes displayed. Descriptive text is provided at the end of the book along with accompanying thumb-nail prints of the photos. Whatever NASA invested in educating the astronauts in photography paid-off. I'd love to see more!

This is an outstanding coffee-table book. The photographs and double-truck fold-out pages of the lunar surface are stunning. The effect that the compositor--that's really what Michael Light is here--is after is a little on the arty side, though. For instance, he strips out most, if not all, color on the Moon (which is notoriously difficult to reproduce--there's a good discussion of the problem on the Lunar Surface Journal online), leaving only black and white tonal ranges. That's not a complaint but rather a simple observation about the compositor's intent. Also, the sequence of images is really taking you to and from the Moon, with little regard for the proper order of the various Apollo missions -- six in all (Apollos 11 thru 17, minus Apollo 13, which orbited but never landed) -- and their unique sets of photographs. But that works well here, I must admit. In this regard, it's LIKE a book version of the fantastic film, and now a Criterion Collection DVD, called *For All Mankind* (directed by Al Reinert). Note that there are two editions of this book on . One is 11.7 square and the other is 8.5 square--or about 25 percent smaller. In a book like this, that's a significant difference. But is the larger trim worth twice the price? Well, that all depends on you. I think the larger book is better, but I've also bought the smaller book to give away as gifts, since I got an amazing deal on them--just under \$10 in a bin somewhere. I did buy the original when it came out, and it remains one of my favorite books of photography and space.

This book is absolutely incredible! The quality of the photos is simply outstanding, making the moon shot feel like it just happened yesterday not 30 years ago. It brought back all the goosebumps I felt as a highschooler when the astronauts first stepped on the moon. Presenting the pictures separate from the text makes you focus entirely on the visual before you. The foldouts are so impressive and encompassing. In addition, the essay answered basic questions about the space program brought up by the photos but kept it short enough to not read like a history book. This is a book I'll return to again and again. Already I have run after friends, book in hand, shouting, "Look at this one! Look at THIS!" A fabulous addition to anyone's library but most especially for anyone with even the slightest interest in the space program. It offers an artist's interpretation and presentation of a truly amazing and life-altering event.

I can use "picture book" to describe Full Moon, as images contributed as the major part of this book. Don't think that this book is not worth reading, indeed, it is on the contrary, this is an extraordinary book, because of the photos. There are a lot of astronomy books contain lots of photos, but when you read them, you would find the images are not so good at all, but not because of the photo itself, because of the low resolution. And if you are familiarize with those photos, you would immediately notice that the original photo is not so small in resolution. It is really a very bad idea for the publisher and editor to ignore the importance of image resolution. However, when you first look into Full Moon, you will find you're getting into a different world as you are already delighted by the spectacular images of the Moon taken from Apollo Mission. Normally, owing to the technological limitation in 1960s and 1970s, all images are only mostly available as hard copy and not so high resolution. However, Project Full Moon can turn those hard copies into very high resolution images. I can even tell you that, NASA even don't have such high resolution images before. Since these reasons, I would rank this book as my list of Top 10 Astronomy Book. If you really love astronomy, you must not miss this book, miss the extraordinary journey to the Moon

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