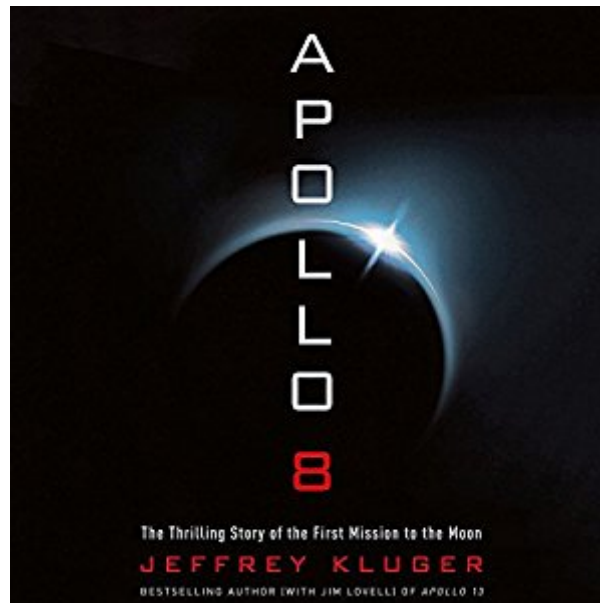


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# Apollo 8: The Thrilling Story Of The First Mission To The Moon



## Synopsis

This program includes a bonus conversation with Commander Frank Borman plus archival audio from Apollo 8's lunar orbit and from the cockpit during the mission. The untold story of the historic voyage to the moon that closed out one of our blackest, bloodiest years with a nearly unimaginable triumph. In August 1968 NASA made a bold decision: In just 16 weeks, the United States would launch humankind's first flight to the moon. Only the year before, three astronauts had burned to death in their spacecraft, and since then the Apollo program had suffered one setback after another. Meanwhile, the Russians were winning the space race, the Cold War was getting hotter by the month, and President Kennedy's promise to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade seemed sure to be broken. But when Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders were summoned to a secret meeting and told of the dangerous mission, they instantly signed on. Written with all the color and verve of the best narrative nonfiction, Apollo 8 takes us from Mission Control to the astronauts' homes, from the test labs to the launchpad. The race to prepare an untested rocket for an unprecedented journey paves the way for the hair-raising trip to the moon. Then, on Christmas Day, a nation that has suffered a horrendous year of assassinations and war is heartened by an inspiring message from the trio of astronauts in lunar orbit. And when the mission is over - after the first view of the far side of the moon, the first Earth-rise, and the first reentry through the Earth's atmosphere following a flight to deep space - the impossible dream of walking on the moon suddenly seems within reach. The full story of Apollo 8 has never been told, and only Jeffrey Kluger - Jim Lovell's coauthor on their best-selling book about Apollo 13 - can do it justice. Here is the tale of a mission that was both a calculated risk and a wild crapshoot, a stirring account of how three American heroes forever changed our view of the home planet.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent book! I loved Kluger's book, *Lost Moon*, written with Jim Lovell and this one is every bit as good. I was in first grade when John Glenn circled our globe three times and have a vivid memory of my teacher, Miss Blair, explaining to our class that he was "...up there right now..." From that point onward, I could not get enough of the space program. I had just turned 14-years-old when Apollo 8 left Earth for the Moon and this book not only puts you right in the Command Module, the reader is privy to meeting rooms, the Flight Control Center and factory floors around the nation. Yes, the public thought the missions were perilous, but no one really knew how much of a roll of the dice they really were. When Apollo 8 left the launch pad, the odds around NASA were 50/50 that the astronauts would return safely. That boils down to, "they might make it, they might not." This book is excellent. Thank you, Mr. Kluger!

I've read a large amount of space history, having grown up with it. This book is certainly accurate but it just doesn't make the subject come alive and live again. I would like to say how much I enjoyed Apollo 13, Mr. Kluger's book on the subject. Given that that book was written with the involvement of the people involved I would like to suggest that Mr. Kluger, or somebody, write a come alive recounting of the Gemini program, which I consider the true Wild West era of this period of space exploration! The pressure was on, the flights challenging and truly pushing the envelope, and all of it was truly unknown. This is the era that could be made into an exciting mini-series as well as an extremely riveting 1 or 2 book story!

I agree with many of the reviews posted here, but I've also found the book to be not as good as I hoped. It is not as technical as it might have been, certainly not in the league with the author's previous book *Lost Moon*. It is, as some reviews say, character driven, with less emphasis on what is happening and more on what people are saying and feeling. Again, not in a bad way, but it makes the book seem less comprehensive than it might have been. The book is really more about Frank Borman than about Apollo 8. Also I have found a number of small, perhaps trivial errors in the book. Most people would more than likely not even notice them, but as someone who worked at Launch Complex 39 for almost 35 years it seems to indicate to me a bit less research on the author's part

than ought to be done. However, for the general reader, I can very much recommend this book.

This well written account of the epic moment of mankind's first journey to another planet resonated with me on many levels. The quality of the well researched and engagingly presented story, the backdrop of the turbulent 1960s , the inspiration of what can be achieved when a common vision exists, and the lack of that vision we seem to have 50 years later all combine to be an entertaining and thoughtful reading experience. Enjoy!

This is one of the best Apollo Astronaut accounts I have read. It is told from the personal perspective of the astronauts using detailed and focused interviewed material from the astronauts and others who had personal participation in this flight. Kluger weaves this material into not only a record of the Apollo 8 flight but into personal historical narrative. We experience this Apollo mission as if told by the astronauts as they lived it with personal feelings and opinions openly stated. It makes the so-called autobiographies from many astronauts appear wooden and totally white-washed of personal feelings and opinions. Obviously I highly recommend this book.

Jeffrey Kruger's Apollo 8 is a must read for any one interested in America's space program and the daring flight to and around the moon. Kruger's story is thorough and enlightening. He uses a modicum of space jargon and capture the individual and collective perform and of Borman, Lovell, and Anders. Fast paced and difficult to put down. It truly is an inspirational tale of the first men to venture into orbit around the moon.

Fantastic book! Very well written by Kluger. Gives more insight into a mission that often is overlooked. Apollo 8 was groundbreaking and inspiring, especially at a time when America was hurting. '68 was a rough year, and Apollo 8 was the Christmas gift we all needed. Kluger captured that wonder perfectly. His writing is a great mixture of details for those more associated with the space program, and the human factor that was involved.

A very detailed description of the amazing first trip to the moon. Even though Apollo 8 didn't land on the moon it was a very bold and historically important mission by NASA. It put the United States first manned space craft to the moon ahead of the Russians to win that important race. Great reading!

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