BUZZ ALDRIN

BIBLIOGRAPHY & BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS


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BOOK REVIEWS

REACHING FOR THE MOON
By Buzz Aldrin, Illustrations by Wendell Minor
Children’s Book, Ages 6-9
Harper Collins Publishers, 2005

Synopsis
From School Library Journal
Starred Review. Grade 1-4. A readable autobiography by the Apollo 11 astronaut who was the second man to walk on the Moon. Aldrin recounts episodes in his life that influenced his choice to become part of the space program. He briefly describes how he got his nickname and incidents from his childhood; his first airplane ride; his time at West Point and as an Air Force pilot; joining NASA; and his missions in the Gemini and Apollo programs, including the lunar landing. Although he strains at times to make a connection between his experiences and his character (e.g., riding his bike alone across the George Washington Bridge as evidence of his ability to do things himself), overall, the telling is entertaining and informative. A chronology of milestones in the history of flight is appended. Excellent, realistic paintings help describe the events mentioned in the text. Those depicting the space flights are particularly dramatic. Similar in style to Ann Turner’s Abe Lincoln Remembers (HarperCollins, 2001), also illustrated by Minor, this book should be considered a first purchase. – Jeffrey A. French, Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library, Willowick, OH.

Awards
Debuted at #2 on the New York Times Bestseller List for Children’s Picture Books

Book Sense Children’s Picks List

Parent’s Choice Recommended Award

Publisher’s Weekly Best Children’s Book of 2005

Norman A. Sugarman Children’s Biography Award, 2006 (Cleveland Public Library)

NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 for 2006

SMBSLT [So Many Books, So Little Time!] Top Ten 2005 Book List

Reviews & Commentary
"A Buzz-worthy book!“ – Time for Kids

"Beautiful and realistic illustrations . . . in first-person voice . . . a child’s-eye view on space exploration." – Kirkus Reviews
"Calling all dreamers and wannabe space travellers!" – Child Magazine

"Entertaining and informative. Excellent, realistic paintings." – School Library Journal (starred review)

"Precisely rendered illustrations help this effort really take off . . . . A brief chronology, which blends events in the history of flight and space exploration with a few events of Aldrin’s life, rounds out this solid title." – American Library Association Booklist

Buzz on Reaching for the Moon
“Today’s children don’t have a realistic impression of space or space travel….. The goal of this book is to re-ignite interest and excitement in the space program.” – Buzz Aldrin (Reaching for the Moon book tour, AP interview, May 30, 2005)

“Not everyone can explore space. But we all have our own moons to reach for. If you set your sights high, you may accomplish more than you ever dreamed was possible. Just as I did.” – Buzz Aldrin (Reaching for the Moon, Epilogue, May, 2005)

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THE RETURN
By Buzz Aldrin and John Barnes
Forge Books (Tom Doherty Associates), 2000

Synopsis
In this techno-thriller about a PR disaster behind a shuttle mission that could undercut the entire American space effort, Buzz Aldrin teams up once again with award winning novelist John Barnes, to write THE RETURN. Aldrin offers a compelling novel about the opportunities and dangers that confront us today – and shows why we must, and will, seize the challenges before us.

When a tragic Shuttle accident kills a world-famous basketball player on his trip into space, a trip that had been planned as a PR coup for the space program, former astronaut Scott Blackstone is out of a job. Worse, he and his "Citizen Observer" program are vilified in the media, and he's being sued for a billion dollars. His older brother, Nick, research chief for a major aerospace firm, persuades Scott's estranged ex-wife, Thalia – a top-ranked attorney – to take on Scott's defense. Gradually, it begins to appear that the "accident" might not have been an accident at all.

Meanwhile, as long feared, India and Pakistan go to war – and, worse, Pakistan deploys a nuclear device high in the upper atmosphere, putting the crew of the orbiting International Space Station in imminent danger of destruction by radiation exposure. While the world's space vehicles are grounded by the radiation storm set off by the detonation, only a few weeks remain to rescue the
crew, and there's no known way to do it. Save, perhaps, for a secret project of Nick's...

THE RETURN is a story of larger than life characters, global crises, and big, daring ideas that spark our unending fascination with space exploration... and – as told by Buzz Aldrin – it carries a ring of truth. He's been there. He's done that. And he's already helped change the world.

Dr. Buzz Aldrin was watched by the largest television audience in history as he and Neil Armstrong became the first humans to walk on the moon. He is a graduate of MIT, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and one of the world's best-known advocates for the exploration of outer space. He lives in Los Angeles.

John Barnes is the acclaimed author of Mother of Storms, A Million Open Doors, Finity, and many other novels. He lives in Gunnison, Colorado. Aldrin and Barnes have written one other novel together, Encounter with Tiber.

Awards

#1 on the Fiction Best Sellers List, Cincinnati Enquirer, 23 May 2000

Reviews & Commentary

“This is a tale with a clear moral: When space beckons, only rascals and cowards will fail to respond. And the way to the stars will be opened not by daredevils with the right stuff but by clear-minded engineers with a sound business plan.” – Gerald Jonas, The New York Times

“An avid proponent of getting the average Joe into the stratosphere with the use of a national lottery, Aldrin writes with authority. This is science fiction that’s as real as it gets.” – Bill Hoffmann, The New York Post

“It is a heartfelt book, a tale with a message.... The stars await us, Aldrin and Barnes make clear. It is not too late to return.” – John Clute, Boston Herald

“A forward-looking novel that also depicts modern America with flesh-and-blood accuracy, The Return is both instructive and fun. Aldrin provides a unique perspective on the future of space travel while commenting with sly good humor on the media, courts, social mores, and corporate climate of the one nation best suited to influence the future. For those who prefer the more direct approach of nonfiction, Aldrin's 1973 memoir Return to Earth (with Wayne Warga) also distills the worldview--in space and on Earth--of this American icon.” – Bookmarks Review

“Moonwalker Buzz Aldrin lands in the spotlight once again thanks to his explosive near-future thriller, The Return. Teamed with the award-winning John Barnes (Mother of Storms), Aldrin delivers a plausible, crackling yarn about tragedy in space, political turmoil on earth, and a perilous rescue attempt by a group of reunited childhood friends.” – Barnes & Noble
“Aldrin’s concept for sending citizens into space is a believable one. First, send them one at a time. Select a journalist, an average joe and an über-celebrity for your first three flights, and the world will watch. Then, parlay the wave of interest (and funding) into new rocket technology and start sending more folks up.” – Josh Chamot, SPACE.COM

“The Return is a tale about the kind of space adventure that could happen today--and that will happen tomorrow. As told by Buzz Aldrin, who’s been there...and who’s already helped change the world. Old-school moonwalker Buzz Aldrin teams up again with former Hugo and Nebula Awards nominee John Barnes to pen another near-future SF tale focused on the fate of the U.S. space program.” – Paul Hughes, Amazon.com Review

Buzz on The Return
“We need to look at space as a form of adventure travel. It’s an adventure that needs to be shared.” – Buzz Aldrin (The Return book tour, The Gazette, July 10, 2000)

"It all fits into a pattern so that I can show people exactly how the building of this leads to the building of this and the building of this and those capabilities lead to people on Mars by 2020 in a way that gets lots of people in space starting in 2012. But, you've got to make a decision. You've got to take that first step. If you don't, everything else slides down the road." – Buzz Aldrin The Return book tour, January Magazine, July 2000)

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ENCOUNTER WITH TIBER
By Buzz Aldrin and John Barnes
Warner Books, 1996

Synopsis
In the foreword to Encounter With Tiber, Arthur C. Clarke (2001: A Space Odyssey) laments Aldrin taking on the world of science fiction: "It doesn't seem fair," Clarke writes. "There was a time when we science fiction writers had Space all to ourselves and could do just what we liked with it. Not anymore... people like Buzz have been there, and can tell us exactly where we went wrong. And now, to add insult to injury, they're writing science fiction themselves. Even worse – it's damned good science fiction."

Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, a man who has actually explored another world, teams up with best-selling author John Barnes, "a major SF writer of the 1990s" (Washington Post), to create a saga as vast as Carl Sagan's Contact, as gripping as James Michener's Space, and as tense and human as Apollo 13.... It is a chronicle of two grand quests, two dynasties of heroes.
Encounter with Tiber begins in the early 21st century with a mysterious radio beacon from the Alpha Centauri system. The signal may be all that remains of the Tiberian race and their ancient colonies on the moon and Mars. But, with the promise of uncovering the vast “encyclopedias” of knowledge the Tiberians left behind, one on the Moon and one on Mars, a new space race is born. Sparked by a bitter feud between scientist-astronaut Chris Terence and visionary entrepreneur Sig Jarlsbourg, the race is on to claim the frontier blazed by the Apollo pioneers. But the beacon will bring both men together and lead one to his doom. Solving the Tiberian mystery becomes a legacy, driving Jason Terence (Chris’s son and Jarlsbourg’s heir) to found the first city on Mars, and leading their descendants beyond the confines of the solar system. Encounter with Tiber also chronicles the dramatic saga of the Tiberians themselves, “ancient astronauts” whose technology, developed when forced to escape their own fragile world, would ironically provide the human astronauts with the means to carry on the exploration of space long after their own race had disappeared.

The heart of the book is the emotional saga of the Terence family – three generations of space travelers who venture out in search of the Tiberians. Undaunted by time or tragedy, they remain steadfastly committed to their dreams of space exploration.

This book touches on the very missions America is now considering … returning to the Moon, then on to Mars and beyond. It brings together the amazing knowledge of someone who has “been there” with the stunning imagination of a prolific science fiction writer to create a frightening warning about the potential cost of abandoning space exploration. In a time of budget battles and lowered expectations, authors Aldrin and Barnes present all the realistic strategies needed to keep the dreams of space alive.

BUZZ ALDRIN holds a place in history as pilot for the first manned lunar lander, The Eagle. A renowned futurist, he has a doctorate in astronautics from MIT and is the author of Men from Earth. He lives in California.

JOHN BARNES is a multiple Hugo and Nebula Award nominee whose novels include the science fiction bestsellers Mother of Storms, A Million Open Doors, and Orbital Resonance. He lives in Colorado.

Reviews & Commentary
“Delivers the goods, and then some ... in a prose dense with technical details and augmented with textbook-style diagrams.” – The New York Times Book Review

“The authors' lively storytelling will engage readers as it conveys the wonder and promise of space.” – Publishers Weekly

“Although the book is a good read, and, according to Arthur C. Clarke, ‘damn good science fiction,' one can't escape the feeling that Buzz Aldrin wrote the
book to put into accessible form his ideas for how humans will return to space.” – Liane Hansen, NPR, Weekend Edition

“The complex story is rich in technical and scientific detail that can come only from one so intimately acquainted with real space flight. Highly recommended.” – Library Journal

“Aldrin brings an unmistakable hands-on realism to the details of space exploration, and Barnes lends his expertise to the overall structure and packaging.” – Kirkus Reviews

“Buzz Aldrin is himself a strong supporter of space travel for the general public, and is currently promoting the real 'ShareSpace', a lottery to finance a number of reusable launch vehicle projects collectively. So he's obviously trying to follow the maxim of predicting the future by making it happen!” – Space Tourism in Science Fiction

“Encounter with Tiber is excellent and one of the best SF books of its year.” – Mark Olsen, New England Science Fiction Association

Buzz on Encounter with Tiber
“I've been developing the concept and story of Encounter with Tiber over the last 20 years to share with people the vast scope of space travel between star systems. Many things are coming out to verify the things I've been writing about. We didn't just invent fantasy, and go to warp seven in developing this book.” – Buzz Aldrin (Encounter with Tiber Book Tour, August, 1996)

“If it's maybe going to happen then it's fiction. But I never did like the term 'science fiction.' I like 'technology projection.' That's what I tried to do in [Encounter With Tiber] is take technology I know about and project it to going close to the speed of light. Taking a society. Creating a place where they came from. A real place. A place that could exist. The solar system that we created at Alpha Centauri could really exist. It could support life. It probably doesn't exist, but it hasn't been disproven yet.” – Buzz Aldrin (The Return Book Tour, Interview, January Magazine, July, 2000)

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MEN FROM EARTH
By Buzz Aldrin and Malcolm McConnell
Bantam Books, 1989

Synopsis
On July 20, 1969 Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed their lunar module on the unknown surface of the moon and took mankind’s most historic first steps.

Now, in Men from Earth, Buzz Aldrin tells the astonishing story of America’s race with the Soviets to the moon—a story rich in adventure, insight, and human
drama, told in firsthand detail by a man who was at the heart of the action. Buzz Aldrin played a major role in Project Apollo and knew the key players who shaped the American space program. In this book he reveals how thousands of scientists, engineers, politicians, and astronauts struggled to meet President John F. Kennedy’s nearly impossible 1961 Alan Shepard’s fifteen-minute suborbital lob was like something out of Buck Rogers—fantastic and unbelievable—but less than ten years later Aldrin and Armstrong planted the American flag on the moon and man became a space explorer. In between, there was tragedy and triumph, but as Aldrin reminds us, America was responding to a challenge—something we’ve always been good at.

On the Gemini XII mission, Aldrin established a world record “space walk,” and here he describes floating in space with Earth lurking ominously above him. It is a view of our planet that only an astronaut can give. It is this intimate perspective that sets Men from Earth apart from all other accounts of the space program: Aldrin actually lived the space adventures of Gemini and Apollo.

Aldrin has also uncovered recently declassified documents that show that the U.S.-Soviet moon race was much closer than we’ve ever before realized. He reveals the untold drama of missions such as Apollo 8, when the astronauts read from the Book of Genesis while circling the moon on Christmas Eve 1968. He takes us behind the headlines to meetings inside NASA, to the cabinet rooms of the Kennedy and Johnson White Houses, and to Alabama’s Marshall Space Flight Center, where Werner von Braun and his German rocket team designed the crucial Saturn boosters. And he looks ahead to America’s next exciting century on the space frontier.

Finally, Aldrin gives us the most vivid account yet of Apollo 11’s dramatic descent to the Sea of Tranquility, where some scientists feared the lunar module would sink into primeval dust. He relives the overpowering emotion of being one of the first men from Earth to walk on the eerie lunar surface. Through his eyes, we see Earth from another planet, standing on a rocky terrain untouched for a billion years, swept by the awe and majesty of infinity.

In Men from Earth, Buzz Aldrin vividly re-creates America’s greatest adventure. It is a gripping journey trough our most incredible achievement, told by one of the men who lived it.

Buzz Aldrin holds a doctorate in astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since the Apollo 11 moon landing, he has become an internationally known space exploration futurist.

Malcolm McConnell is an author and journalist based in Washington. A roving editor for Reader’s Digest, he has covered the space program since the 1960s. His most recent book is Challenger: A Major Malfunction.

Awards
#3 on Top Ten Hard Cover Nonfiction, National Book List
Book-of-the-Month Club Alternate

History Book Club Selection

Astronomy Book Club Selection

Reviews & Commentary
“With library shelves already bulging with books on space flight, do we really need another book…? In the case of "Men From Earth," the answer is yes…. There is a greater sense of immediacy in the retelling…. Aldrin’s account is as close as we shall get to knowing what it felt like to set foot, for the first time, on that mysterious satellite of the planet Earth. – Fred Howard, New York Times

“To coincide with the 20th anniversary this July of the first manned lunar landing, [this] books provide[s] intimate accounts of how NASA accomplished the national goal of putting a man on the moon before the end of the decade…. Aldrin, the second man on the moon, interweaves the story of U.S. and Soviet efforts to reach the moon with his first-hand experience flying both the Gemini and Apollo missions during the height of the space race. His recounting of his two space flights is compelling, especially the account of the nearly aborted Apollo 11 lunar landing." – Library Journal, Thomas J. Frieling, Bainbridge College

Celebrity Quotes
“BA tells it all in this look back at an adventure like none other in man’s history. In gripping detail, he takes us along, minute by minute, from blast off to splash down.” – Walter Cronkite

“It is a rare privilege to read history from the man who made it.” – Tom Clancy

“An articulate tale of the moon venture. Reading the book is the next best thing to having been there” – Isaac Asimov

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RETURN TO EARTH
By Colonel Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr. with Wayne Warga
Random House, 1973

Synopsis
RETURN TO EARTH is the first candid “inside” look at the human side of the space program. It is the story of Buzz Aldrin, who returned to earth from the historic first landing on the moon to begin a long and troubled odyssey—an ordeal that involved a secret mental depression and the near dissolution of his marriage.

It is the revelation, in Aldrin’s own words, of one of the most daring exploits in history and of what happened afterward: The intense training. The celebrated
first touchdown on the moon. The instant — and unexpected — fame and notoriety, and the difficult adjustment of becoming a public personality. The demanding world-wide public relations tour for NASA for which his rigid training, from West Point through the astronaut corps, had never prepared him. The near impossibility of reconciling his public image as a hero to the realities of being a husband, father and pilot-academician. The adulation from women everywhere. The serious love affair that nearly tore his home apart. The continuing emotional and mental pressure which led him to seek psychiatric help and enter a hospital for treatment. And, finally, the long and deep look inside himself and the road back to health.

Besides being a moving personal confession, RETURN TO EARTH is the most fascinating view we have had of the space program: an unusually candid—and often humorous and occasionally controversial — view of the politicking behind the scenes; the rivalry among the astronauts, both within the space program and for the public’s attention; the de-processing after the flights.

RETURN TO EARTH is the unique and honest story of a man who journeyed to another planet to begin the most highly personal journey a man can undertake: the attempt to find himself.

Review
“A forward-looking novel that also depicts modern America with flesh-and-blood accuracy, The Return is both instructive and fun. Aldrin provides a unique perspective on the future of space travel while commenting with sly good humor on the media, courts, social mores, and corporate climate of the one nation best suited to influence the future. For those who prefer the more direct approach of nonfiction, Aldrin's 1973 memoir Return to Earth (with Wayne Warga) also distills the worldview – in space and on Earth – of this American icon.” – Bookmarks

Book Adaptation to Film
RETURN TO EARTH was made into an acclaimed ABC/TV Sunday Night Movie in 1976, produced by Alan King and Rupert Hitzig, and starring Cliff Robertson as Buzz Aldrin.
Buzz Aldrin is an astronaut. He is one of the most famous persons in the modern history of earth. He is credited as the second man to walk on the moon. He was a member of the Apollo 11, along with Neil Armstrong. Buzz Aldrin was born January 20, 1930. He was born as Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr. His parents were Edwin Eugene Aldrin Sr and Marion Gaddys. His dad was a military man. He went to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.