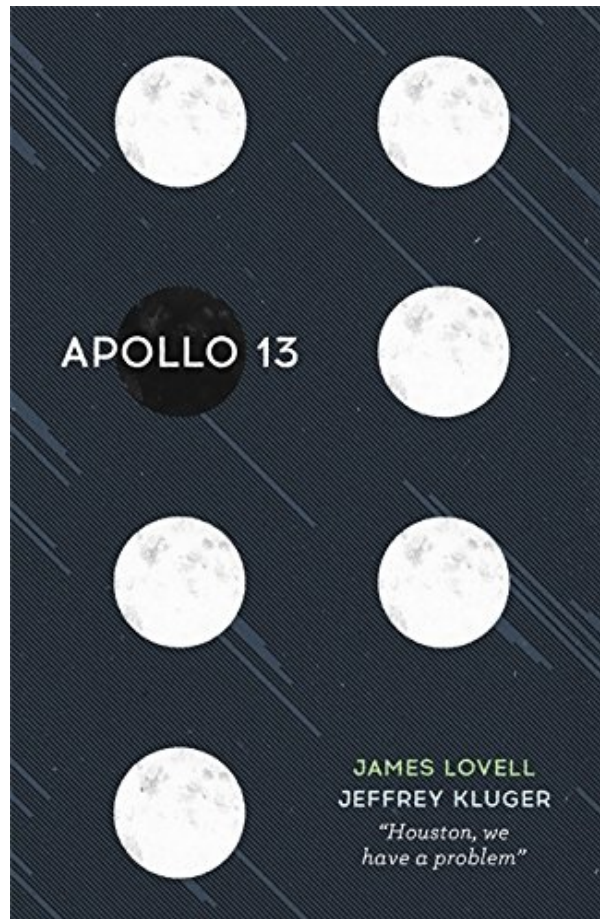
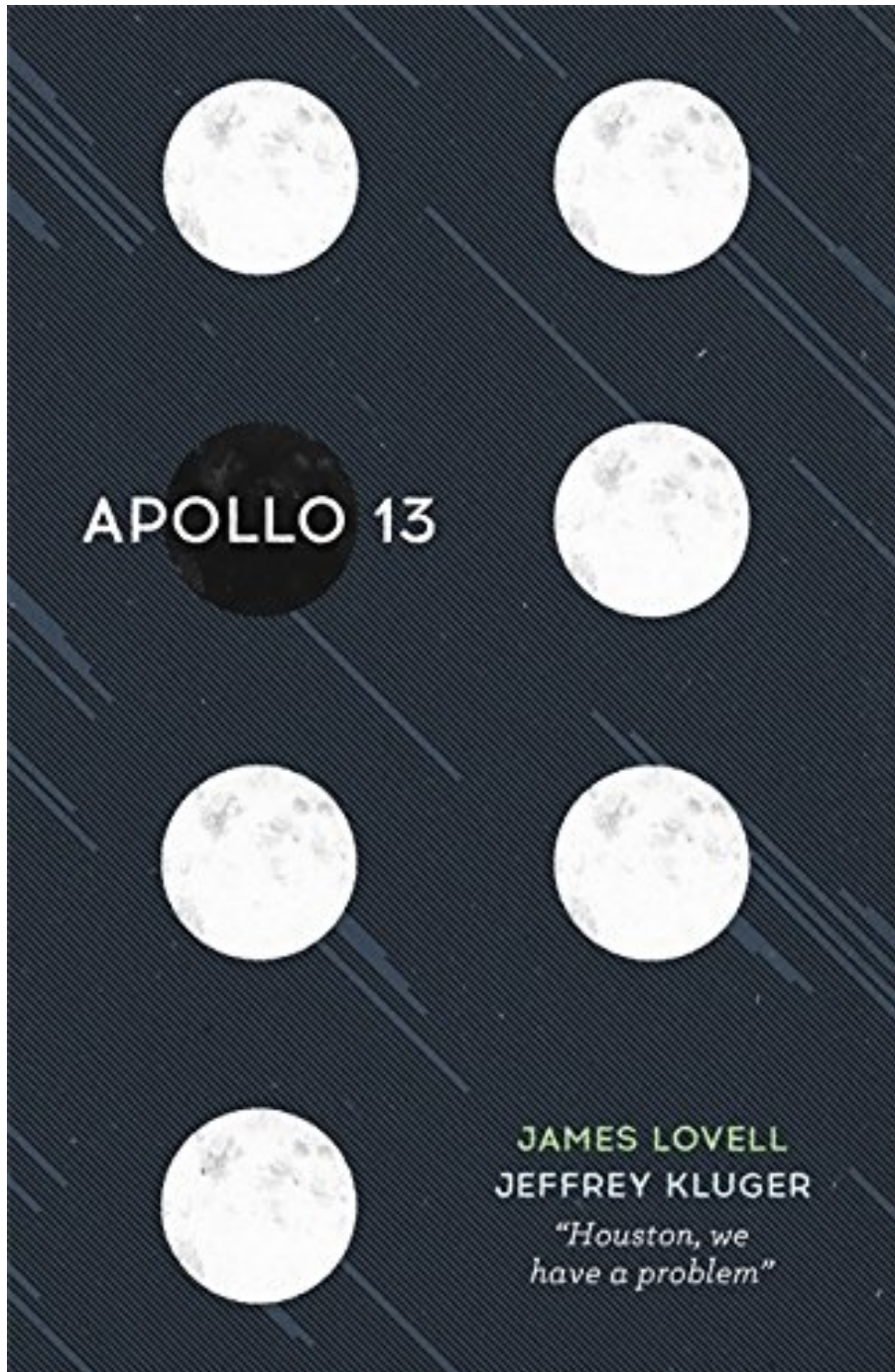


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## Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Jim Lovell's Last Flight

By ddsreader

I purchased this book to get Jim Lovell's perspective on the events that took place throughout the mission. Previously published as "Lost Moon", the new preface and epilogue are new. The viewpoint from the ground

and space are intertwined so that you get to feel the emotion and tension that was building not only in NASA and the Lovell, Haise, and Swigert households, but also across the country. How were the astronauts going to get back alive with little oxygen and no power within the Command Module? Why did the Command Module continue to drift off course during its return back to Earth? All of these questions are answered within this story. Mr. Lovell and Mr. Kluger provide in-depth descriptions of what went on inside the Command Module and also the Lunar Module as it was being used as a "lifeboat" for the crew to stay alive. There is also great background information on Mr. Lovell and how he entered the astronaut program, as well as brief background info on Haise and Swigert. If you didn't know the story was part of American space history, you would think it was a great piece of fiction. Obviously it's not. Although most people know the ending of this story, the book is very well written and moves along at a pretty good rate.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A great story and one of the better Apollo books

By Colin Brown

By now most everybody has heard of Apollo 13 from the movie starring Tom Hanks. Well this is the actual book that the screenplay was based on, written by James Lovell himself (with help from Jeffrey Kluger).

Unlike most Astronaut books out there which are full biographies of the person followed by their flights in space and maybe a chapter or two at the end detailing what they have done since leaving NASA, this book focuses entirely on just one flight, the Apollo 13 flight. There are mentions and brief passages in the book detailing Lovell's other flights, most notably Apollo 8 but the main focus is just on the one flight.

The story telling is wonderful and the book is extremely easy to read and follow. The book does differ from the movie as the movie has a more dramatic overtone whereas this book is really what happened but one slightly surprising thing for me was that some of the dialog in the book wasn't actually correct. I have listened to some of the actual Apollo tapes (Flight directors loop and EECOM loops) from this flight (some can be found on the excellent Apollo 13 DVD set from spacecraft films) and was surprised that some of this book was incorrect. Extremely minor things and nothing that takes away from the story or the wonderful achievement of the astronauts or from NASA.

I have read virtually all of the Apollo astronauts biographies and this one, although not a full biography, ranks up there with Mike Collins' *Carrying the Fire* as one of the best.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Failed mission. NASA's finest hour. Important history

By Thomas Erickson

Apollo Thirteen Commemorative The 30th Anniversary by Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger is great. A fast paced exciting read. Nice pictures too. I also saw Apollo Thirteen the movie. The movie was great but this book was even better.

We see Jim Lovell in his early Navy times and later as a test pilot. Lovell has an exciting and almost deadly carrier landing as he temporarily gets lost at night, his instruments get shorted out and he almost flies low into the fantail of the carrier. He gets frantically sent around for another try. Too close. Almost bought the farm.

Later we see Jim Lovell as a test pilot at Pax River. He applies to NASA to be an astronaut but is initially rejected because of a possible past medical problem. NASA wants more astronauts and Jim applies again and this time Deke Slayton the head astronaut says welcome aboard. Jim meets friends Wally Shirra, Pete Conrad and others that also become astronauts.

Also his wife Marilyn and family are shown. Very nice family. We see his Gemini flights, the around the Moon flight and later the failed Apollo 13 flight. Jim has an expensive Mink jacket on Christmas delivered to Marilyn from the Man in the Moon. He also named a mountain on the moon after her. She learns her husband

and the other 2 astronauts are in serious trouble on the Apollo 13 flight and only have a 10% chance on getting back.

Apollo 13s Fred Haise the LM pilot and the CM pilot Jack Schweigert have major roles in this book. All 3 played major roles in getting back. An oxygen tank explodes from shorted electrodes while getting the required mixing signal and takes out almost the entire side of the service module. The 3 astronauts see their atmosphere being vented into space and all electrical systems failing. We see the flight control teams working to save the crew, feverishly planning procedures to get them back. All the hundreds in mission control and the makers of the LM worked frantically non stop. The astronauts must use the LM as a lifeboat to keep alive and later have to power up the CM which has the heat shield for reentry. CO2 build up will kill the crew and mission control gets the crew a procedure for making a CO2 scrubber for the LM. The LM was only made for 2 people for 2 days and they got to stretch and modify what they can for 3 people for 4 days. They must power down many electric circuits and conserve power. The astronauts are very cold and later Fred Haise comes down with an infection that requires hospitalization.

This book was so exciting and well written. Not a boring part. Thank goodness for the experts at mission control. Even though the mission was a failure this shows the politicians and the world what NASA can do. This besides Apollo 11 was NASA,s greatest finest hour.

They just barley are able to get the CM back on line and jettison their temporary lifeboat LM. All are so thankful for the LM .Using the LM was their only chance for survival. If the explosion would of happened when they didn't have the LEM all three would die of asphyxiation.

I still think many of the FLIGHT controllers had huge egos but after reading Apollo 13 I see that all of mission control and FLIGHT were so important and necessary for input and procedures in manned flight. Mission control saved the Apollo 13s crew's bacon. All deserved medals and a ticker tape parade like Lovell and Schweigert got ( Haise missed his parade as he was still sick battling his infection).

I asked my kids age 16 and 19 if in any of their school classes was Apollo 13 mentioned and taught. No...nothing all the way through their school years. Also almost nothing about Apollo 11. What a shame. So important history explaining some of mankind's greatest achievements and NASAs finest hour. So much technology learned and inventions from manned space exploration. Apollo 13s crew and all members of mission control were true heroes. Its a shame that the space program spiraled down into just the shuttle and ISS. We lost the drive for a permanent lunar base and Mars manned exploration. I hope we get back on track and my kids can see it in their lifetimes.

A fantastic book. Highest rating and I will be proud to read passages to my grandchildren. 5 stars.

See all 110 customer reviews...



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