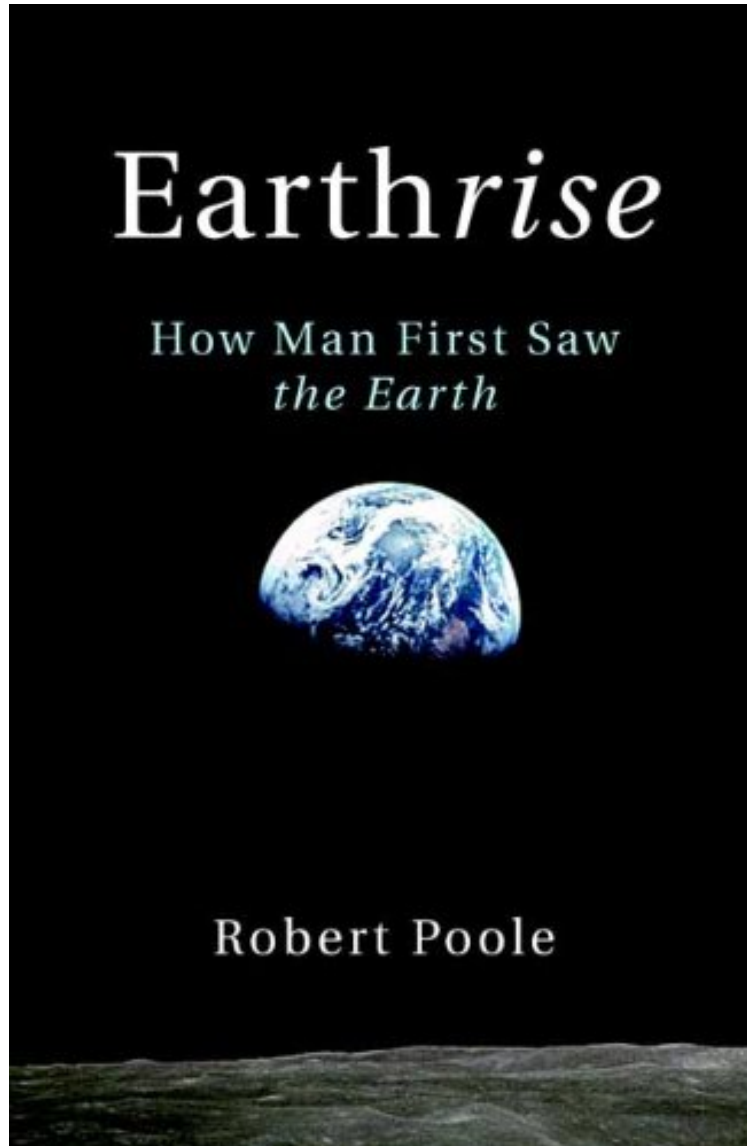


(Download ebook) Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth

Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth

Robert Poole

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Robert Poole : Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Truly fascinatingBy Carlos WiltonA truly fascinating book, good on the human element as well as the science. This is a book that trades in the power of symbols. It's an innovative approach, writing a history of an iconic symbol like the Earthrise photo. An important piece of documentary history for the space age.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Captivating Look at OurselvesBy Colin

Burgess Apollo 8 represented one of the most audacious decisions ever made in the history of space exploration. With the production of the spindly Lunar Module lagging and overdue, NASA took the bold step of sending a crew of three astronauts on a momentous journey from the Earth to the moon and back again. Undoubtedly it took the wind out of the sails of the Soviet effort in the titanic race to the moon, and we will always recall the deep poignancy as one by one the crew read from the book of Genesis that Christmas Eve of 1968. But there is another thing for which the journey of Apollo 8 will always be remembered, and that is the iconic photo we know as "Earthrise." Two celestial worlds in the one photograph, but the difference is profound. As mission commander Frank Borman states in this engrossing book, it was "the most beautiful, heart-catching sight of my life." Fellow crewmember James Lovell is also quoted as saying that "People down here don't realize what they have," while the third member of an otherwise fairly pragmatic crew, Bill Anders, reveals that he was "immediately almost overcome by the thought that here we came all this way to the moon, and yet the most significant thing we're seeing is our own home planet, the Earth." This is a truly magnificent book, and not just because it explores the background of the cover photo and others, but in its own subtle way it causes us to take a good, long, hard look at ourselves. Many astronauts have said that it is a pity we can't all have the privilege of looking at our planet from space, because such things as wars and borders would become irrelevant in seeing Earth as a whole, united planet. We would embrace and want to protect it as our spectacularly sublime home, instead of trying our best to destroy or overwhelm it. This book is not just about space programmes and explorers - it is about us, and a gloriously iconic photograph that made us all gasp in awe some 40 years ago. The author has done an exemplary job in creating this book, and it deserves to be around for a long time. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Seeing Ourselves in the Mirror By Space Fan A captivating and fascinating book, Earthrise brought back childhood memories of being glued to the TV on Christmas Eve, 1968 and hearing Borman, Lovell and Anders read from the Book of Genesis and signing off just before they went around the dark side of the moon by wishing a Merry Christmas and God's blessings to all of us "on the good earth". A few weeks later the famous Earthrise photo became public and I remember being so fascinated by the starkness between the black of space, the gray of the moon and the blue and white "floating half-sphere" of our home. The author Robert Poole does a great job capturing these 1968 moments again and subsequent moments of the lunar landing, the 1972 "Blue Marble" photo and other related tidbits of what seems like yesterday but is now surpassing 40 years. We have not looked at our home the same since...and those born after 1968 may not comprehend fully the impact of these photos on not only our national, but global society. My only disappointment with the book and hence 4 stars has to do with some poor proof reading and fact checking. For example, "...waters called He seas." (see p. 26), a couple of references to "three-manned" Gemini missions (p. 69 and 125)- [they were all two-manned missions]; Jacques Cousteau "diving at an island off New Mexico." (p. 120) and mention of a 1963 encyclical by Pius XII on page 132. Pius XII died in 1958. Finding this many errors in an otherwise very good book make me a bit skeptical that there may be other errors as well. I hope not!

Earthrise tells the remarkable story of the first photographs of Earth from space and the totally unexpected impact of those images. The Apollo Earthrise and Blue Marble photographs were beamed across the world some forty years ago. They had an astounding effect, Robert Poole explains, and in fact transformed thinking about the Earth and its environment in a way that echoed throughout religion, culture, and science. Gazing upon our whole planet for the first time, we saw ourselves and our place in the universe with new clarity. Poole delves into new areas of research and looks at familiar history from fresh perspectives. With intriguing anecdotes and wonderful pictures, he examines afresh the politics of the Apollo missions, the challenges of whole Earth photography, and the story of the behind-the-scenes struggles to get photographs of the Earth put into mission plans. He traces the history of imagined visions of Earth from space and explores what happened when imagination met reality. The photographs of Earth represented a turning point, Poole contends. In their wake, Earth Day was inaugurated, the environmental movement took off, and the first space age ended. People turned their focus back toward Earth, toward the precious and fragile planet we call home.

From Publishers Weekly Concisely and thoughtfully, British historian Poole reveals the behind-the-scenes story of the first photographs taken of Earth from space, and how those amazing images forever changed our view of the planet, the universe and humanity. The tightly scheduled 1968 Apollo 8 mission was focused on the first lunar orbit, but "Earthrise"--the image of a cloudy blue Earth rising over a starkly monochromatic lunar surface--stunned everyone. Astronaut Frank Borman called it "the most beautiful, heart-catching sight of my life." NASA, at the forefront of the "astrofuturist" movement that saw humanity's future out among the stars, was unprepared for the paradoxical reaction "Earthrise" provoked. Rather than turning people's eyes on a future in space, it refocused them on Earth. For many astronauts, says Poole, the sight "hit with the force of a religious experience," which echoed throughout the world. Fifteen months later came the first Earth Day and the start of an "eco-renaissance" devoted to preserving and protecting "Spaceship Earth." Drawing on historical reports and interviews, Poole smartly delineates the philosophical, spiritual and environmental impact of the photo that reminded humankind of the beauty and fragility of Earth. Photos.

(Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A remarkable book." -- Susan Salter Reynolds "Los Angeles Times" "An absorbing account of how the first pictures of Earth shaped mankind's perception of itself, and its relationship with nature." -The Chronicle "A remarkable book."?Susan Salter Reynolds, Los Angeles Times (My book gift choice of this season) -- Susan Salter Reynolds "Los Angeles Times" "Marvelous."?Eve Lichtgarn, The Space -- Eve Lichtgarn "The Space " (03/23/2009)"This smart and exciting little book sets the historical context for this photo [Earthrise], and is especially fascinating about the almost forgotten Apollo program. . . . This book is rich in the relationship between past and contemporary imagination and the realities of these missions." -- William Kowinski, "North Coast Journal" (01/01/2009)"Marvelous." -- Eve Lichtgarn "The Space " (03/23/2009)From the AuthorThe astronauts, on seeing Earth from space:We came all this way to the Moon, and yet the most significant thing we were seeing is the Earth.Bill Anders, Apollo 8The Earth is a grand oasis in the vastness of space.James Lovell, Apollo 8This must be what God sees.Frank Borman, Apollo 8On that small spot, that little blue and white thing, is everything that means anything to you . . . and you can cover it with your thumb.Russell Schweickart, Apollo 9There it was, shining like a jewel in a black sky. I looked at it in wonderment . . . Suddenly I was also aware of a shift in my attitude toward Earth .Michael Collins, Apollo 11