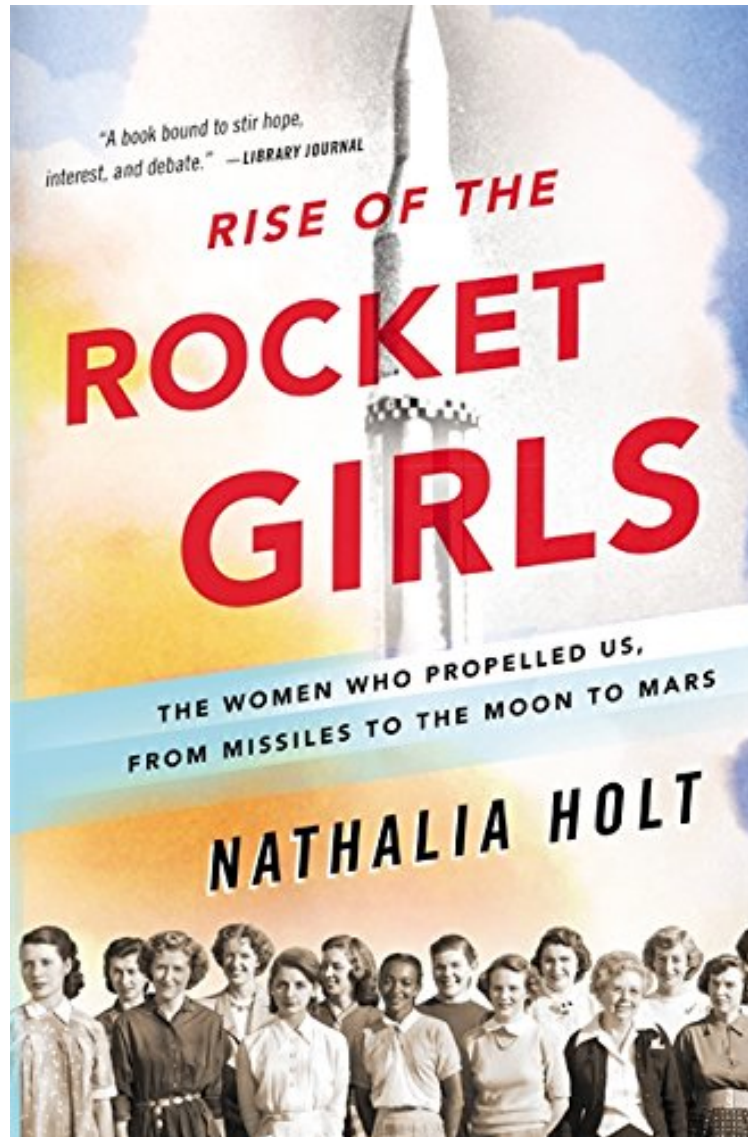


Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars

Nathalia Holt

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#21710 in Books Holt Nathalia 2017-01-17 2017-01-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .88 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0316338907352 pagesRise of the Rocket Girls The Women Who Propelled Us from Missiles to the Moon to Mars | File size: 30.Mb

Nathalia Holt : Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars:

78 of 80 people found the following review helpful. Girls Who Code - the Women Who Built America's Space

ProgramBy Lynne SpreenWhile the STEM debate rages, Rise of the Rocket Girls shatters the American stereotype that girls can't do numbers. Rocket Girls tells the story of California's JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) from the early days (1940s) when the main goal was to strap a rocket onto a plane to make it go faster, to the present time of space exploration. In 1940, when the guys were shooting rockets out of a dry canyon in southern California, one of them just happened to be married to a girl who was good with numbers. Barbara calculated speed, trajectory, combustion, and other factors for rocket and propellant development, and she set the tone for future projects. As the work grew, and young JPL expanded, the number of women "computers" (they computed! The term predates the machines) grew. The woman who was in charge of the "computers," Macie Roberts, hired only women for the department, because she wanted to preserve the camaraderie and team spirit so essential to this critical work. Thus, in a benevolent form of gender discrimination, JPL developed a sterling team of brilliant women. Macie often reminded the women, "In this job you need to look like a girl, act like a lady, think like a man, and work like a dog." As we learn about the development of rocketry, the author, Nathalia Holt, weaves in cultural developments, such as the invention of pantyhose and the rise of the women's liberation movement. She also includes snippets from the women's personal lives (like the fact that pregnancy meant instant termination--until the program realized it was dead without the women computers, and adapted flexibility to accommodate them). The women went from pencils and notebook paper to making history. Their calculations put the first man on the moon. Their formulas became code, and they became the first computer programmers. As Holt says, "You can write a lot of programs in five decades. The code that (the women) wrote would continue to work its way into spacecraft, navigation systems, climate studies, and Mars rovers. It would get spliced up and repurposed, pasted into different missions, sent out into space, driven on far-off planets...to (currently orbiting Mars and Saturn spacecraft)...to future Earth-orbiting instruments designed to study our own world." If you are one of those who believes females aren't geared toward math and science, you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to read this engaging, compelling book. It will tell you of a time when women, using only their minds and pencils, rendered the complex calculations that allowed the United States of America to have a space program at all. 76 of 80 people found the following review helpful. Rocket GirlBy Katie CustomerAs a former 'Rocket Girl' (General Dynamics/Convair Launch Vehicle Engineering), I found this book fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. By degree a mechanical engineer, I wrote and ran computer code (on punch cards) to determine heat loads on the rockets and their payloads. I remember the engineering challenges of correctly modeling laminar and turbulent air flows over payload cover structures and how much I enjoyed the work. It was a short career - I was tempted away by a High Temperature Gas Cooled Nuclear Reactor - but my most vivid memories will always be my first job out of college on the Atlas (work horse of the century) and Centaur launch vehicles. 63 of 65 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book! A fantastic history of the women who pioneered space flight!By Antonio PaolaI have read this book twice already. I honestly loved it in so many ways. It's one of those rare, well-written, well-researched books that serves as a great tribute to these women; a tribute to the women pioneers of space flight. Nathalia, thank you for sharing their story!

"If Hidden Figures has you itching to learn more about the women who worked in the space program, pick up Nathalia Holt's lively, immensely readable history, Rise of the Rocket Girls." --Entertainment WeeklyThe riveting true story of the women who launched America into space. In the 1940s and 50s, when the newly minted Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed quick-thinking mathematicians to calculate velocities and plot trajectories, they didn't turn to male graduates. Rather, they recruited an elite group of young women who, with only pencil, paper, and mathematical prowess, transformed rocket design, helped bring about the first American satellites, and made the exploration of the solar system possible. For the first time, Rise of the Rocket Girls tells the stories of these women--known as "human computers"--who broke the boundaries of both gender and science. Based on extensive research and interviews with all the living members of the team, Rise of the Rocket Girls offers a unique perspective on the role of women in science: both where we've been, and the far reaches of space to which we're heading.

.com An Best Book of April 2016: Women's history buffs rejoice! Wonderfully told and intrinsically captivating, this is the story about the elite group of women in the 40s and 50s who broke gender and science boundaries to transform rocket design and lay the groundwork for U.S. space travel. Not only did I geek out on the incredible look into the early days of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, but I also fell in love with these women who quite possibly invented the pant suit, and were vital to America's space travel. --Penny MannFrom School Library JournalWe take so much for granted now, but in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, women who wanted a career other than homemaker were mostly limited to becoming teachers, nurses, or secretaries, and there was no such thing as maternity leave. However, a few smart young women who loved math were hired to be human computers for the Jet Propulsion Lab in California. What we think of as computers now hadn't been invented yet. These women spent their days writing equations and computing numbers with pencils, paper, and slide rules to give the male engineers the information they needed to build rockets, satellites, and space shuttles. This selection will surprise and thrill teens not only because it honors the crucial work of these female scientists but also because it shows their individual humanitytheir favorite fashions, their

personal relationships within the broader context of the international space race, changes in U.S. society brought about by feminism and integration, and transformations in American daily life brought about by evolving technology. Teen book clubs will enjoy discussing the pros and cons of all-female work groups, the costs and benefits of space exploration, and more. Readers will want to search online for information about the Juno probe, mentioned in the "1970s-Today" section as orbiting Jupiter in July 2016. The extensive notes section details the many first-person interviews conducted by the author, plus the archival materials she used. VERDICT An engaging, inspiring offering that will appeal to fans of history, science, and feminism. Hope Baugh, Carmel Clay Public Library, Carmel, IN A New York Times bestseller A Los Angeles Times bestseller An Best Book of 2016 An Entertainment Weekly "10 Books You Have to Read in April" An Elle "8 Books by Women for Bill Gates to Read This Summer" Goodreads Choice Awards finalist "Illuminating...these women are vividly depicted at work, at play, in and out of love, raising children--and making history. What a team--and what a story!" Gene Seymour, USA Today (3.5 stars/4) "The women's stories are fun, intense, and endearing, and they give a new perspective on the rise of the space age." Popular Science "A marvelous book.... When Neil Armstrong made his 'giant leap for mankind,' there was womankind in the control room." Maria Popova, Brain Pickings "Immersive, evocative.... Superbly readable.... Holt's poignant narrative should be required reading." Maya Gittelman, Bookreporter "Holt investigates the fascinating lives and important contributions of these women, who defied the sexist stereotypes of their times to play pivotal roles in sending the first rockets beyond Earth." Scientific American "An intriguing account of the young, female 'human computers' who worked at Caltech's JPL. Be inspired by their work on America's first satellite and other groundbreaking projects, against the social backdrop of the Space Age, slowly changing gender norms, and the dawn of computers." Estelle Tang, Elle, "5 Books That You Can Read With Your Mom" "Holt argues that these women's calculations played an under-appreciated part in NASA's towering achievements.... Here, math is dramatic, not mundane. Calculating is a physical, even athletic, act.... Holt depicts the human computers' life stories vividly." Jennifer Light, Nature "Women were obviously just as vital to innovation and progress. Rise of the Rocket Girls proves that by reexamining the space age-specifically, the group of women who redesigned rocket science in the '40s and '50s and made that 'one small step for man' possible in the first place." Isabella Biedenbarn, Christian Holub, Dana Getz, Entertainment Weekly "NASA's 'Rocket Girls' are no longer forgotten history. Thanks to a new book, these female pioneers who helped the U.S. win the space race are finally getting their due... Holt documents the lives of these women, who were not only pioneers in their profession, but also in their personal lives." Naomi Shavin, Smithsonian "A must read for any women in tech or interested in technology!" Girls Who Code