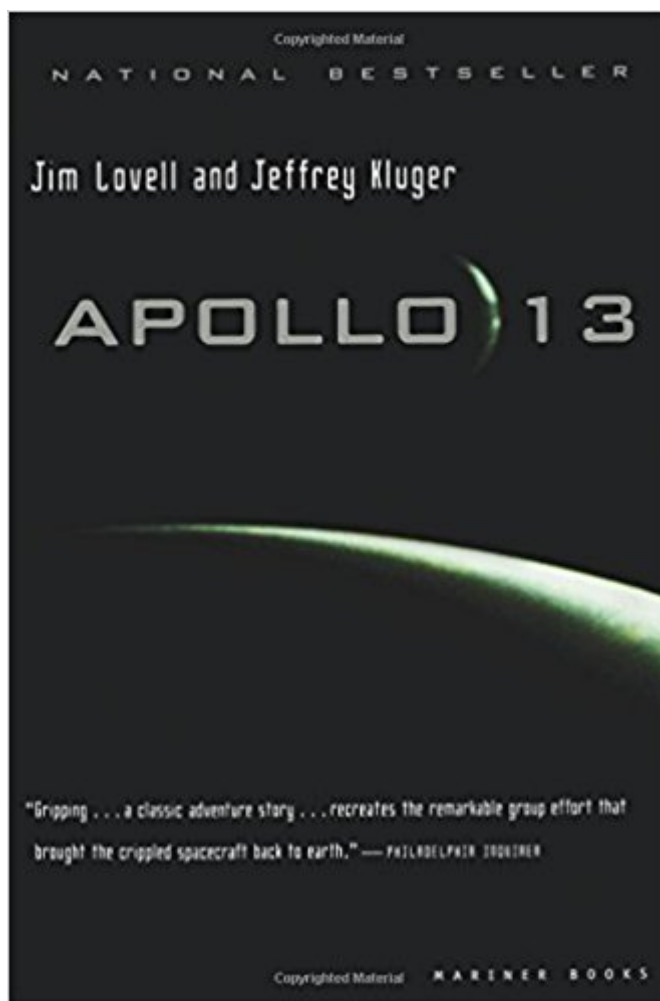


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# Apollo 13



## Synopsis

In April 1970, during the glory days of the Apollo space program, NASA sent Navy Captain Jim Lovell and two other astronauts on America's fifth mission to the moon. Only fifty-five hours into the flight of Apollo 13, disaster struck: a mysterious explosion rocked the ship, and soon its oxygen and power began draining away. Written with all the color and drama of the best fiction, APOLLO 13 (previously published as Lost Moon) tells the full story of the moon shot that almost ended in catastrophe. Minutes after the explosion, the three astronauts are forced to abandon the main ship for the lunar module, a tiny craft designed to keep two men alive for just two days. As the hours tick away, the narrative shifts from the crippled spacecraft to Mission Control, from engineers searching desperately for a way to fix the ship to Lovell's wife and children praying for his safe return. The entire nation watches as one crisis after another is met and overcome. By the time the ship splashes down in the Pacific, we understand why the heroic effort to rescue Lovell and his crew is considered by many to be NASA's finest hour. Now, thirty years after the launch of the mission, Jim Lovell and coauthor Jeffrey Kluger add a new preface and never-before-seen photographs to Apollo 13. In their preface, they offer an incisive look at America's waxing and waning love affair with space exploration during the past three decades, culminating only recently when the Apollo 13 spacecraft itself, long consigned to an aviation museum outside Paris, was at last returned to its rightful home in the United States. As inspiring today as it was thirty years ago, the story of Apollo 13 is a timeless tribute to the enduring American spirit and sparkling individual heroism.

## Book Information

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; Reprint edition (February 20, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618619585

ISBN-13: 978-0618619580

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 117 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,643 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries #84 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astrophysics & Space Science #609 in Books > Science & Math > Physics

## Customer Reviews

On April 13, 1970, three American astronauts were on their way to the moon when a mysterious explosion rocked their ship, forcing them to abandon the main ship and spend four days in the tiny lunar module which was intended to support two men for two days. A harrowing story of danger, courage and brilliant off-the-cuff engineering solutions which resulted in a dramatic rescue. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A thrilling story of a thrilling episode in the history of space exploration." -- James A. Michener

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.

This book is absolutely great, I actually bought "The Lost Moon" when I was just 8 years old at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. Somewhere in the last few years I lost the original copy. I ordered this one as a replacement and it just came today, I got to say the original cover art was much better than this.

Always enjoyed the movie and finally got around to reading Lovell's book. The movie tracked the book remarkably closely. Enjoyed the read though. Good stuff.

Apollo Thirteen Commemorative The 30th Anniversary by Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger is great. A fast passed 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 NASA's finest hour. So much technology learned and inventions from manned space exploration. Apollo 13's crew and all members of mission control were true heroes. It's 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.

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.

Sat glued to the TV during the Apollo 13 mission. Liked the movie, but the book is always better!

Not sure what I expected, but this book was more gripping than any fictional novel I've ever read. The fact that it really happened simply adds to the appeal. Though it's a 'true story', it is written in the style of an adventure novel and, while this seemed strange at first, it really worked in the end. I was so disappointed when I reached the end - it's not like there's a sequel!! Went on a shopping spree after this and bought dozens of books through , all about the Apollo program. Makes for interesting

reading!

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