



## T-Minus: The Race to the Moon

*Jim Ottaviani , Zander Cannon (Illustrator) , Kevin Cannon (Illustrator)*

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Question:What happens when you take two global superpowers, dozens of daring pilots, thousands of engineers and scientists, and then point them at the night sky and say "Go!"

Answer:A SPACE RACE!

The whole world Followed the countdown to sending the first men to the moon. *T-Minus: The Race to the Moon* is the story of the people who made it happen, both in the rockets and behind the scenes.

## **T-Minus: The Race to the Moon Details**

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Author : Jim Ottaviani , Zander Cannon (Illustrator) , Kevin Cannon (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review T-Minus: The Race to the Moon for online ebook

### Soobie's scared says

Come al solito i romanzi grafici di Jim Ottaviani sono pieni di informazioni e molto dettagliati. Però ciò, a volte, può trasformarsi in un difetto, com'è successo in questo libro. Ho fatto tanta, tanta fatica a connettere con i personaggi che comparivano sulle vignette. Spesso, poi, tanta gente compariva per un paio di pagine e poi spariva nel nulla senza lasciare tracce. E quelli che ritornavano beh... ogni tanto mi dimenticavo di chi fossero e di quale ruolo avessero nella vicenda. I miei soliti problemi, insomma.

Come al solito, un po' di conoscenza della materia ci vuole. La mostra che ho visto... quando? L'anno scorso? un paio di anni fa? a Udine non bastava. Almeno avevo idea delle varie macchinette che russi e americani si son divertiti a mandare in orbita. E ho toccato un pezzo di Luna, mica bruscolini!

Ogni volta che si parla di Laika, la piccola Kudryavka, mi viene in mente *Laika* di Nick Abadzis [Ma è solo con me che non funziona più la possibilità di inserire collegamenti per libri e autori o è un problema generale?]... Quanto piangere per quel romanzo grafico... Senza contare che io preferisco di gran lunga i cani ai gatti.

Lo stile non è male. Tanto bianco; il nero spesso si usa solo per lo spazio. Forme e visi un po' semplici ma funzionali.

Il prossimo volume è dedicato a Charles Darwin. Speriamo bene.

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### Lars Guthrie says

I read this in conjunction with Brian Floca's picture book, 'Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11.' Both books commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the giant step. I thought 'Moonshot' the better of the two. I love Floca's deft lines and keeping the story simple works better in these formats (picture book and comic book). There is almost too much info in 'T-minus,' which begins at T-minus 12 years, just prior to the Soviet Union launching Sputnik.

No, actually, even before, as it flashes back to T-minus 86 years and oddball Russian Konstantin Tsiolkovsky more or less inventing theoretical astronautics. It's all quite fascinating but overwhelming as facts, figures and faces (which were often not distinctive enough for me to keep track of who was who) are crammed into small black and white cartoon panels. Undoubtedly more comprehensive than 'Moonshot,' and fun, but not as effective.

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### Tariq Malik says

This is a wonderful retelling of the Space Race days from Sputnik to Apollo 11, with a novel storytelling style. As a space reporter, I appreciated the care taken on the details to share the challenges of spaceflight, the tragedies and the passion that pushed both the U.S. and USSR onward. POYEKHALI!

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### **Vinayak Hegde says**

A well written story which moves briskly along as two nations - USA and Soviet Russia - race to put a man on the moon. Soviet Russia wins the first few rounds sending the first man / woman in space (Yuri and Valentina), perform the spacewalk. Then JFK gives his famous address to the nation to put a man on the moon to galvanise the American space community band together and focus on this mission at the height of the cold war.

The book is well researched and has lot of facts in a small space. I had to look up wikipedia a couple of times to read about the context and details. The artwork is good and done well. Especially liked the facts that they have focussed on the astronauts and cosmonauts and their experiences before or during the flight itself. The book also highlights how the loss of key individuals affected the race (such as assassination of JFK for the USA and the loss of rocket pioneer Korlev for Soviet Russia). You almost feel bad for Russia towards the end of the book.

The constant switchback and forth between the Russian and American stories can be somewhat disorienting. Also I felt there could be more details in the Russian buildup to their program.

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### **David Bales says**

Very moving graphic novel that chronicles the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States, from the launch of Sputnik in 1957 to the landing on the moon by Apollo 11 in 1969. I liked the inclusion of the Soviet contribution to space exploration, (the Russians had the first satellite, the first man in space--Yuri Gagarin in 1961--as well as the first WOMAN in space--in 1963!--and the first space walk in 1965.) After 1965, the U.S. pulled away with the Gemini program and ended up overwhelming the Russian space program that was plagued with technical problems. It made me proud of a great, great achievement in technology and adventure, (I wanted more. Book could have been much longer).

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### **Dov Zeller says**

I found myself a little bored reading this one. Lots of great details and info but I didn't emotionally connect to the characters or the story. That said, I appreciate Jim Ottaviani's graphic address of this strange historical period and recommend the book to anyone interested in the subject matter.

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### **Sesana says**

T-Minus is a brief, graphic novel history of the space race. And I did enjoy it, for the most part, but this is not the book to start with if you know little or nothing about the race to the moon.

It's obvious that a lot of research and love went into this book. There's some very detailed information here, and the writing is very enthusiastic. But it does seem to skip around quite a bit. I knew enough already to be

able to follow it, but it might be confusing for somebody whose knowledge of space flight doesn't go any further back than Apollo 11. I also wondered if anything important was being left out.

But it seems like Ottaviani was going for depicting the personalities on both sides of the space race. And I did like that, especially that the Soviet scientists and cosmonauts were given nearly as much coverage as the Americans. But I did feel like the Cold War aspect was played down a bit. Maybe the scientists and astronauts/cosmonauts weren't as concerned about it as the average American (at one point, the book says that some of the American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts had met and were friendly) but explaining that would have been nice, and wouldn't have taken more than a line or two.

I do like the idea of nonfiction graphic novels, and this one was fairly well done. But it's really more for somebody who's already done some basic reading on early space flight, and not for somebody coming in without prior knowledge.

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### **Shane Perry says**

The art by Zander Cannon and Kevin Cannon is good. That is about the best thing I can say about this book. What could have been a fascinating story gets bogged down in technical jargon and an overused countdown device. I liked the little factoids about rocket tests that helped serve as a timeline of sorts, but this graphic novel is the equivalent of watching paint dry. Surely the facts could have been presented in a slightly more interesting way.

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### **538AM\_Steph says**

Ottaviani and his illustrators, Cannon & Cannon, are able to take the historical facts and NASA engineering terminology and pack the excitement of the US's 60s race to space with the USSR into 121 beautifully illustrated pages. not only do the illustrations provide a graphic representation of the written word, but they illustrate in the margins additional information, such as other rocket missions important to the history of the space race, but not exactly to the story line. This provided additional information without interrupting or distracting the reader.

The comic book style of the story helps the reader step through the multiple events in a manageable way. Ottaviani ensures the characters use the NASA terminology in their dialogue as they would have, but provides a definition below each frame that uses acronyms or "space terms" for clarification, making it a great teaching tool. Additionally, Cannon & Cannon effectively guide the reader as the story switches between USSR and US scenes by providing a map of each respective country as a symbol the readers can use to prevent confusion. Because the story flips between the two countries, this helps build the suspense of the competitive situation of the two nations during the 60s.

T-Minus: The Race to the Moon provides a fresh way to study the space race and is almost a non-fiction piece accurately describing historical facts and terms that could easily be worked into class research. My one critique of the book is that Ottaviani, although staying true to "astronaut technical jargon speak," often used words such as "wanna" to portray more natural speech, but this seems to not fit the speech of the 1960s where many were still very proper. However, despite this one minor critique, I still see this book as a very useful teaching tool that not only introduces important historical accounts, but also illustrates for students a

creative way to provide information.

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### **Maurizio Codogno says**

Questo fumetto racconta la storia della conquista della Luna (l'ora T: le varie date sono misurate come in un conto alla rovescia) con la corsa parallela russa e americana. L'accenno, più che agli astronauti, è posto sulle persone che sono state a capo dei rispettivi programmi, Sergej Korolëv da una parte e Max Faget e Caldwell C. Johnson dall'altra. La storia è interessante soprattutto per il lato russo che come sempre è meno noto, ma mi ha lasciato un po' deluso: il tratto dei disegnatori Zander e Kevin Cannon è poco incisivo, e la scelta (italiana?) di un lettering diverso quando parlano i russi, con "a" ed "e" minuscole e ? al posto di "N" diventa presto stancante. Niente da eccepire invece sulla traduzione di Stefano Visinoni.

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### **Matthew says**

Jim Ottaviani is a God-send for those who don't have a science background but want to be scientifically-literate. This graphic history provides a superb overview of the American and Soviet Space Programs. It should be added to all US History course's coverage of the Cold War.

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### **Artur Coelho says**

Uma compra irresistível na Dr. Kartoon no Fórum Fantástico. Não dos melhores livros que por lá se encontravam, mas um especial. Daqueles que actualiza a BD como linguagem pedagógica, forma acessível de ensinar às crianças. O tema são os primórdios da exploração espacial, a culminar na primeira pegada humana na lua. Escrito por um físico nuclear transmutado em argumentista de BD, a história é didáctica sem cair no didacticismo. Os eventos estão lá, bem como a informação histórica, contados através de personagens reais que encarnam as enormes equipes de cientistas e engenheiros que desenvolveram a tecnologia capaz de levar o homem para além da órbita terrestre. A cola que reúne o arco narrativo, histórico, é a ilustração, num estilo contínuo e bem conseguido que se mantém ao longo do livro. Notável, a sequência que mostra a primeira foto do nascer da Terra vista da órbita lunar.

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### **Kent Archie says**

This is a wonderful little book. Even though I knew how it came out, it was exciting. I learned some things about the Russian space program that I didn't know. The drawings of each individual rocket launch emphasizes how much was happening in a very short time. Especially how far behind the US was in the beginning. This is a dramatization rather than a straight history but the authors detail the few liberties they took in a text page near the end. If you were around in the 60's and you want to give your kids a sense of what it was like, this is a good summary.

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## **Zachary says**

T-minus: The Race to the Moon is a book all about the space race between the United States of America and the Soviet Union during the late 1950s to the mid 1970s. It covers both sides of the story rather than just one and goes into the stories of the astronauts, and the workers at NASA / NACA; as well as the stories of the People at the Russian research institutes, and the Russian cosmonauts. Its fun when reading as the Americans have typical text but then the Russians have certain letters replaced with their mirrored equivalent (which are letters in the Russian alphabet). Overall I really enjoyed this story, I mean i love space ask anyone who knows me and they'll be able to tell you that so this was a natural choice for me; and it was cool reading a graphic novel interpretation of the space race.

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## **Priya says**

T-Minus Race to the Moon is a light comic on the politics of the space race between US and USSR in the 60's. The long and short of it was that both countries had astro(cosmo)nauts who wanted nothing but to experience the wonder of space and moon and the world beyond Earth, while a bunch of politicians started an Earth race inside.

Did you know Valentina Tereshkova the first woman on space was there because she weighed lesser and the module needed a specific weight? If any of you thought wow, they sent a woman those days - its got nothing to do with being forward - they were just being sciency like how they sent the dog Laika to space.

On the other hand the Soviets came really close to plonking a lunar module Luna in the moon, but unfortunately it crash landed. They might have been the first to put a module into moon, if not man.

Did you know IBM built the navigational sensor of Apollo 11? Amazing. This book is a light and informative read. As usual, with Ottoviani's works, the graphic novel is a little painful to follow with too much cramped details. But it was good fun!

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