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# Norman Mailer: Moonfire, The Epic Journey Of Apollo 11



## Synopsis

And the moon came nearer:Â Journey back to July 20, 1969 Â It has been called theÂ single most historic event of the 20th century: OnÂ July 20, 1969, after a decade of tests and training, supported by a staff of 400,000 engineers and scientists, and with a budget of billions, the most powerful rocket ever launched brought Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins to the moon. NobodyÂ captured the men, the mood, and the machinery like Norman Mailer, hired byÂ LIFEÂ magazine to cover the mission in a dazzling reportage he later enhanced into the brilliantly crafted book,Â Of a Fire on the Moon. Rediscover this epoch-making event with TASCHENÂ™s adaptation of MailerÂ™s account, now in our popular Reader's Edition so you can reallyÂ curl up and travel not just back in time, but into outer space. The text is accompanied by hundreds of photographsÂ from theÂ NASA vaults, theÂ archives ofÂ LIFE, and other leading magazines of the day, documenting the development of the agency and the mission, life inside the command module and on the moonÂ™s surface, as well as the worldÂ™s jubilant reaction to the landing. Captions by leading Apollo 11 expertsÂ explain the history and science behind the images, citing the mission log, publications of the day, and postflight astronaut interviews, while an evocative introduction byÂ Colum McCann celebrates MailerÂ™s incomparable skill at transforming â œthe science of space...the weight of history...the breadth of mythologyâ • into prose. Â About the Series: Bibliotheca UniversalisÂ â ” Compact cultural companions celebrating the eclectic TASCHEN universe at an unbeatable, democratic price! Since we started our work as cultural archaeologists in 1980, the name TASCHEN has become synonymous with accessible, open-minded publishing.Â Bibliotheca UniversalisÂ brings together nearly 100 of our all-time favorite titles in a neat new format so you can curate your own affordable library of art, anthropology, and aphrodisia. BookwormÂ™s delight â ” never bore, always excite!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Norman Mailer (1923–2007) was one of the 20th century's greatest and most influential writers, as well as one of America's most renowned and controversial literary figures. The best-selling author of a dozen novels and 20 works of nonfiction, he also wrote stage plays, screenplays, television miniseries, hundreds of essays, two books of poetry, and a collection of short stories. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, he lived in Brooklyn, New York, and Provincetown, Massachusetts. Colum McCann is the author of seven books, including *Let the Great World Spin*. He has written for *The New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *The Times* (London), *The Irish Times*, and *La República*.

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Beautiful photographic coverage of the first lunar landing mission.

Very disappointed by this edition. I bought this as a gift expecting it to be the larger earlier edition. This one is the same size as a hardback novel and half the text is missing compared to the original edition which means the impact of the original edition is totally lost. The information about the different editions should be clearer especially about the size. I was going to send it back but the return costs are half the cost of the purchase price. I'll be doing my research more thoroughly next time, so and Taschen thanks for nothing...you got me. I must say though, if you are after *Moonfire* then this is an epic publication and you won't be disappointed, just make sure you are buying the proper one .

An absolutely wonderful book. But, let me be more specific. First, the actual text of the book is three stars at best. Norman Mailer does little to hide his jealousy of the astronauts, and repeatedly degrades NASA and its agents for their logical attitude and technical communication style. As if, for some reason, the absence of communicated emotion was proof that Norman Mailer (or some other

artist) should have been included on the flight manifest. This strange tone polluted an otherwise informative snapshot of what it was like to live in July of 1969. Second, this edition has something like 300 stunning images from NASA and other sources. The pages are nice and glossy, and the images are in full Technicolor. The photos, images descriptions and other annotations make this a five star book despite Mr. Mailer's somewhat pouty text. Overall this should be in every space/science/space program enthusiasts library.

This is an absolutely beautiful book. It is a well made, heavyweight book. The pictures are stunning. If you are a fan of the Apollo space program, you will love this book.

Mailer's words are worth reading on their own, but the quantity and quality of the pictures throughout this book make it a must-have for any Apollo enthusiast.

My four-star review is an average of two ratings: five stars for the photography and three for the text. Mailer's prose is too flowery and overwrought for this reader's taste. What the astronauts, engineers and everyone else associated with Apollo accomplished was epic, and stands on its own merit without the need for this pompous ass to analyze and put it all into context (that is, the clearly biased context of his own worldview) for us. And the third-person injection of himself into the story under the ridiculous moniker "Aquarius" is just irritating. But the photos and (well-written) captions make the book well worth buying anyway.

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