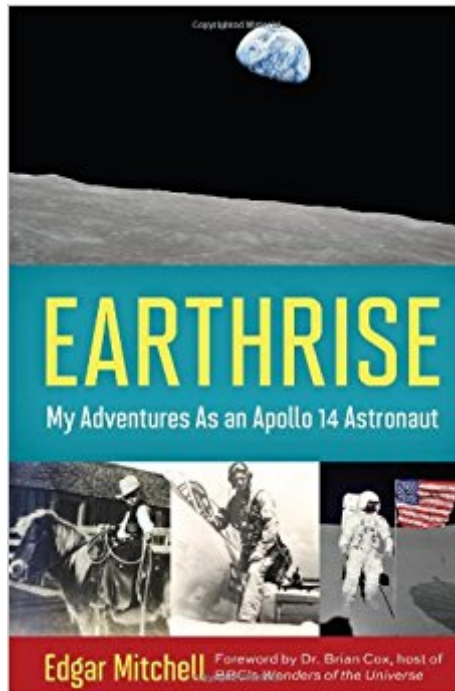




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# Earthrise: My Adventures As An Apollo 14 Astronaut



## Synopsis

Recollections from the sixth man to ever walk on the Moon, for young adult readers. On February 5, 1971, Edgar Mitchell jumped off the last rungs of a ladder connecting him to NASA's Antares spacecraft and landed with two feet on the Moon. Following the disastrous Apollo 13 mission, Mitchell was one of three astronauts to successfully complete the Apollo 14 journey to the Moon, though it wasn't without its own alarming moments. In *Earthrise*, Edgar recalls his spectacular trip to the Moon and the life experiences that got him there, including his early days spent in Roswell, New Mexico, amid nuclear testing and the rumored UFO crash; his first solo airplane flight as a young teen; his time as a navy combat pilot; and becoming a NASA astronaut. With fascinating detail, Edgar describes what it was like to launch into space and land on the Moon, illuminating everything from the practical—eating, sleeping, and going to the bathroom in space—to the mystical, life-changing experience of gazing at Earth from afar. With illuminating sidebars, transcripts of NASA recordings from the historic Apollo 14 mission, and extensive resources including lists of space-related websites, museums, organizations, films, and books, *Earthrise* is an invaluable addition to any space, astronomy, or science buff's bookshelf.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Only 12 human beings have walked on the moon, and Edgar Mitchell, lunar module pilot of the 1971 Apollo 14 mission, is one of the fortunate few. This is Mitchell's inspiring autobiography, from his beginnings on his family's ranch in New Mexico, to a career as a navy combat pilot and astronaut, to the founding of the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Mitchell returned from the moon transformed by an experience he calls his "metanoia," a Greek word meaning change of mind or heart, and he has spent his post-NASA career researching human consciousness. Meticulous in its details, the text skillfully translates the highly scientific aspects of Mitchell's work into easily managed sections that will perfectly suit casual readers and researchers alike. While less attention is paid to his personal life, no aspect of the space program is left unexplained. Younger readers may find his explanations of going to the bathroom in space and the ESP experiments he conducted while in orbit of particular interest. A time line and annotated list of additional resources follows the text. Grades 7-10. --Magan Szwerek

"In *Earthrise*, Edgar Mitchell treats us to a firsthand account of his life—a trajectory that just happens to include a visit to the Moon as an Apollo 14 astronaut. We learn how such views of the universe have the power to transform your feelings, your emotions, and your state of mind. Edgar Mitchell was a different person upon returning to Earth, having obtained a cosmic perspective on life that so few of us will ever achieve." —Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist, American Museum of Natural History  
"*Earthrise* goes a long way towards shining some well-deserved light onto someone who (dare I say it?) may have been eclipsed by others in the past. It is a revealing look at how one man's sense of adventure took him places that the rest of us can only imagine." —*Growing With Science*  
"I've never read an autobiography for children that was this riveting, honest, and understandable." —*Smart Books for Smart Kids*  
"This fascinating, charming, and gripping book gives us a rare and powerful glimpse into the fantastic life of an Apollo astronaut. Edgar's catching narration—describing his journey, the flight, the fun and exertions of a weightless life in space, the walk on the Moon, and the collection of Moon rocks—makes this book so very absorbing and spellbinding." —Juliane Gross, PhD, research scientist, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, The American Museum of Natural History  
"*Earthrise* provides a great picture of the space program and of Ed Mitchell's personal experiences, from growing up to his education to his military flight experience that ultimately led to his walking on the Moon on the Apollo 14 Mission." —Fred Haise, Apollo 13 Lunar Module Pilot  
"Like my fellow moonwalker Edgar

Mitchell, I had the opportunity to see the Earth from some 240,000 miles away. I believe this experience will give anyone a changed perspective. This book is a gift to all of us, as it is an honest look at a heroic historical figure and his unique way of thinking." — Alan Bean, Apollo 12 Lunar Module Pilot "Meticulous in its details, the text skillfully translates the highly scientific aspects of Mitchell's work into easily managed sections that will perfectly suit casual readers and researchers alike." — Booklist "This fascinating insider account of astronaut training and the transformative experience of traveling to the moon will especially appeal to readers with an interest in astronomy and space travel." — Kirkus "Budding scientists will find the book useful, both for reports and for its description, straightforward and unadorned, of a seminal time in American history." — VOYA "With each turn of the page, Mitchell's relatable voice speaks to the reader and creates a fully immersive experience — one that is truly out of this world." — South Florida Sun-Sentinel "Edgar Mitchell writes in a comfortable friendly way, making this book a natural for a young adult, or advanced child, as well as an easy read for the adult looking to read beyond the cold facts (as told by NASA) of this lunar mission." — SeattlePI.com "This book is strongly recommended for all children who are interested in space; as Edgar Mitchell was inspired by stories of Roswell and of Buck Rogers when he was young, perhaps a child who reads this very book will someday fly around the Moon and watch the Earth come up." — Universe Today

I'm predisposed, as an aerospace engineer who was barely old enough to understand the first moon landing and a bit of a space fanatic, to enjoy any book about Apollo. But this is the least engaging and least informative of the astronaut autobiographies I've yet read. It's a quick read (literally, just a few hours) because there's really not much to read. The book fills in a few biographical details, avoids the mildest technical detail, and completely skips describing Edgar's state of mind: his hopes, fears, thrills and disappointments. It reads almost like a first-person revision of a long encyclopedia entry: I did this, then that happened. I felt proud. We parted ways. Clearly Ed Mitchell had many adventures and experienced what he says are life-changing sensations, but this book doesn't give us anything to grab hold of, to allow us to sense or feel what he sensed and felt. I found myself, halfway through, being glad the book wasn't longer.

Even though I grew up during the "space age," it wasn't until I read *Earthrise* that I truly appreciated what an extraordinary time it was and what exceptional men and women made it so. While reading this book, I often felt that I was there with Mitchell, holding my breath during close calls in space and

breathing a sigh of relief after the resolution. I got to share the thrill of seeing the Earth from space, landing and walking on the moon and safely splashing back to our planet. The book provides a clear picture of life before, during and after a space mission. I had imagined that astronauts experienced long hours of idle time and boredom in space, but now I realize that they were in a near non-stop state of mental and emotional engagement. The writing is clear, engaging and illuminating and the story gripping. I recommend this book for anyone who wants to learn more about and appreciate an extraordinary time.

There are many biographies to read that are engaging and interesting but this one about Astronaut Edgar Mitchell is a real delight, mainly because so few human beings have had his experience. From farm boy to astronaut to founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences the story is fascinating and provocative. This well written account of Mitchell's life is full of surprises and is sure to inform all who read it from a 12 year old to someone who saw Neil Armstrong landing on the moon on TV. Bravo to Edgar Mitchell and Ellen Mahoney for bringing this important story forward.

A good read written by an unusual Astronaut. Scientist who walked on the moon and believed until his death in the existence of extraterrestrial life.

This book was easy reading, but the Apollo 14 flight itself, wasn't too detailed. Edgar Mitchell didn't go into the personalities of the two other Apollo 14 crewmen, Alan Shepard and Stuart Roosa and how they bonded as a team. That would have been interesting!cshooper

To put it bluntly this is one of the poorer astronaut autobiographies. At only 190 pages it's just a thin general run through of Ed Mitchell's time at Nasa with no personal insights of any value. I was hoping for his views on working with Alan Shepard but there isn't a personal observation to be found about him. Unless you are a collector of the astronaut autobiographies there are much better books on the Apollo program out there than this. Give this one a pass.

This book is well written as far as it goes, but I could not help but feel that it fell short of my expectations. I've read other Apollo astronaut autobiographies including those of Mike Collins, Dave Scott, Al Worden, and John Young, and this one just is not as detailed (or captivating) as it could be. Maybe Mitchell didn't feel the need to cover the same ground as the other guys, or maybe he was apprehensive about boring the public with excessive detail, or maybe he just wanted to stick to his

personal take on everything and leave it to the reader to discover more in other books or documents, but I think he could have gotten into the nitty-gritty in some parts of the book. But I'm glad he wrote it - he's the last surviving member of the Apollo 14 crew.

Excellent book about a great American Hero

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