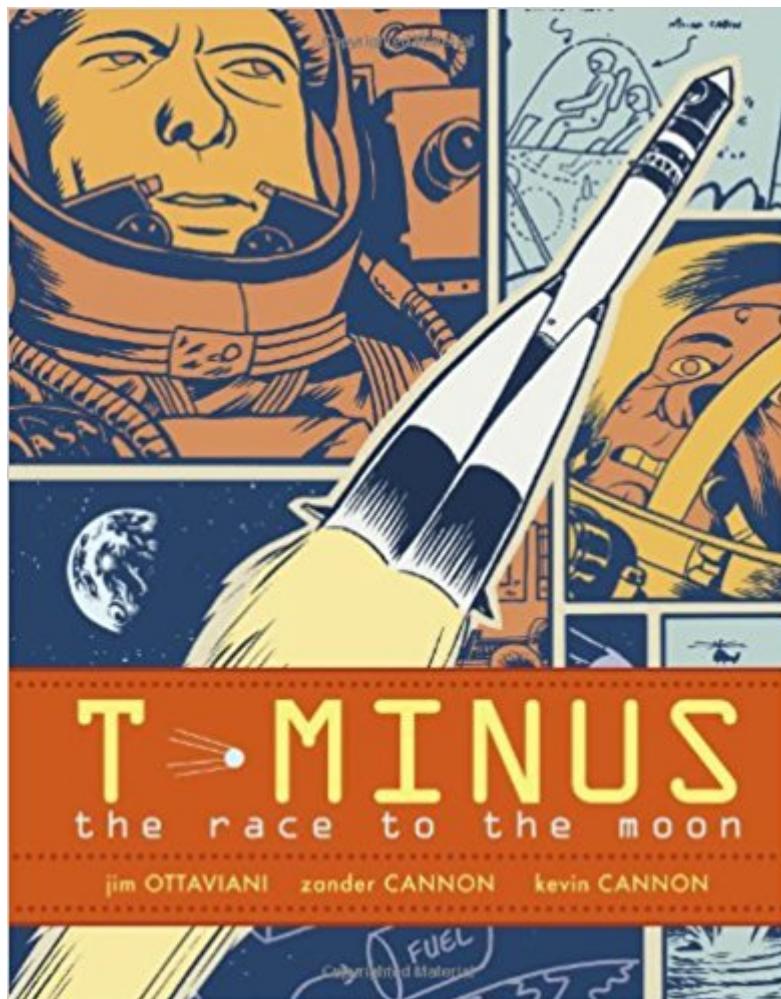


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# T-Minus: The Race To The Moon



## **Synopsis**

Graphic fictionalized retelling of the moon landing timed for the fortieth anniversary! In T-Minus the exciting story of two world superpowers racing to land a man on the moon is depicted through compelling comics artwork, taking readers through the history of the race and turning the engineers and astronauts involved into vivid and real characters. The story unfolds through the eyes of the figures working behind the scenes to make this miracle happen, showing every triumph and catastrophe along the way, and culminating in the dramatic event itself.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Aladdin (May 19, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416949607

ISBN-13: 978-1416949602

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #175,573 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #251 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #1278 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up Beginning 12 years before the lunar landing, this book chronicles the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union through a catalog of both countries' multiple attempts on the road to manned spaceflight. Organized as a countdown, making the outcome seem inevitable, the frequent, prominent sidebars list a type of rocket, the duration of its flight, and whether the mission was a success or a failure. There are more than 30 attempts chronicled, and the shift between Soviet and U.S. successes creates an interesting balance in the narrative. Ottaviani credits the early Russian successes to chief designer Korolev, and his influence and personal vision fill the first half of the book. The American portion of the narrative lacks a parallel central architect, with the text focusing less on process and more on the majesty, beauty,

and peril of simply being in space. The story is necessarily condensed—*the author notes* that approximately 400,000 people worked on the U.S. projects overall—but plentiful information is provided in the numerous panels and explanatory captions per page. The copious detail will appeal to some, and certainly helps to underscore the meticulous research that went into this undertaking. Ottaviani is particular with facts and eager to inspire readers with regard to the scientific process.—*Benjamin Russell, Belmont High School, NH* END --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Jim Ottaviani, a former engineer who is now a librarian at the University of Michigan, has garnered numerous nominations and awards (including Eisner and ALA/YALSA nods) for his graphic novels about science. He speaks regularly on comics in venues ranging from local schools to Stockholm—*the* Nobel Museum. Jim lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Kevin Cannon and Zander Cannon (no relation) have worked together since 2004, illustrating such books as *Bone Sharps, Cowboys, and Thunder Lizards* and *The Stuff of Life*. Zander earned two Eisner awards for his work on the *Top Ten* series. Both Cannons reside in Minneapolis.

If you grew up during the space age this book will instantly take you back to those days. Both the Americans and the Soviets had "the right Stuff" but the Soviets held the lead and, as this book demonstrates, the USSR's hammer and sickle may very well have been the first to be planted on the moon if not for the sudden death of Russian rocket genius Korolev. The illustrations are great. When the Russians speak, the occasional letter appears backwards. It seems well researched and is well plotted giving proper praise of each triumph whether it be East or West. A great read for those who recall the heady days of NASA or those too young to have experienced the race to the moon. My only complaint is that it is too short.

Arrived in a timely manner and was as described in product description.

What did it take to get a man on the moon? This book is the fascinating tale of the US/Soviet space race. The writing is excellent, and the art is perfectly suited for the subject - the narrative is literally framed with the launches, failed and successful, on the path to this goal. This is mostly an ensemble cast, but if there's a single star it's the mysterious genius in charge of the Soviet space program - The Designer. I didn't really know much about him (we still don't, in absolute terms, but I sure know a lot more now). And in fact the USSR most likely would have beaten the US to the Moon if not...

well I won't spoil the why. While the art may be appropriately clinical, the story is as much human as technical, and the book is a slowly building crescendo to a double page spread that to my surprise actually choked me up a bit. I had not to that point realized how pulled into the book I was. Some of Ottaviani's other books are a bit too introspective for me to recommend to just anyone, but this and Bone Sharps I would recommend to anyone of any age.

I'm a real space nut and enjoyed this story. It's nice to see other characters in this incredibly important story get their day in the sun too...but it does drag a little bit at times. I had a difficult time telling characters apart sometimes as well because of the art style. Over all this is a solid story and any space enthusiast will appreciate it. It succeeds in breathing life into the less glamorous side of the space race.

An excellent way to track the Superpowers' struggle for domination in space as each launch and development is shown with national iconography. This technique underlines the breathtaking rivalry between the USA and the USSR. Indeed, this book is a fine example of history told in a graphic form.

This is an historically and technically accurate, although somewhat simplified, story of the race between the United States and the Soviet Union to land a man on the moon. For those who enjoy the Graphic Novel style, I recommend this book.

I bought this for my son (who loved it!) and really enjoyed it myself. Tons of historical detail and personal stories. I learned much more about the Soviet side of the space race from this book than from anything else I've read or seen. Every boy with an interest in space, rocketry, science or engineering should have a copy and so should every school library.

Bought this book for a young boy who loves all things space and astronauts. Flipping through it, I saw a curse word in it so I don't feel good about giving it to him now. If he were a teen or tween, I would have, but then, I don't think this graphic novel would appeal as much to an older kid.

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