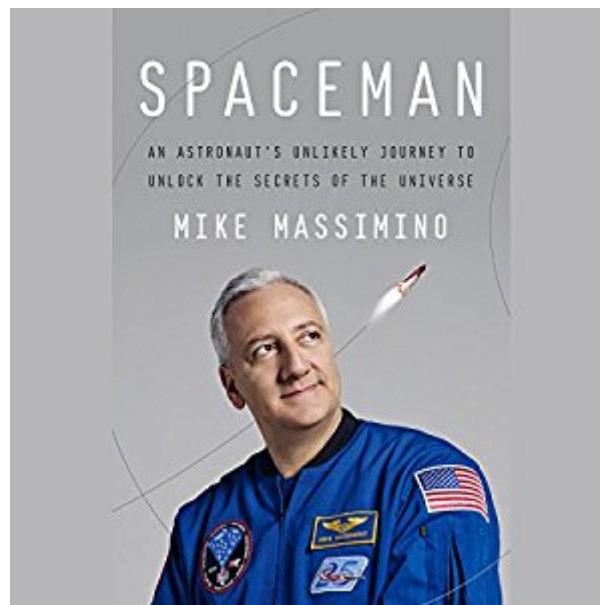




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# Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey To Unlock The Secrets Of The Universe



## Synopsis

Earphones Award Winner (AudioFile Magazine) Have you ever wondered what it would be like to find yourself strapped to a giant rocket that's about to go from zero to 17,500 miles per hour? Or to look back on Earth from outer space and see the surprisingly precise line between day and night? Or to stand in front of the Hubble Space Telescope, wondering if the emergency repair you're about to make will inadvertently ruin humankind's chance to unlock the universe's secrets? Mike Massimino has been there, and in *Spaceman* he puts you inside the suit, with all the zip and buoyancy of life in microgravity. Massimino's childhood space dreams were born the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. Growing up in a working-class Long Island family, he catapulted himself to Columbia and then MIT, only to flunk his first doctoral exam and be rejected three times by NASA before making it through the final round of astronaut selection. Taking us through the surreal wonder and beauty of his first spacewalk, the tragedy of losing friends in the Columbia shuttle accident, and the development of his enduring love for the Hubble Telescope - which he and his fellow astronauts were tasked with saving on his final mission - Massimino has written an ode to never giving up and the power of teamwork to make anything possible. *Spaceman* invites us into a rare, wonderful world where science meets the most thrilling adventure, revealing just what having "the right stuff" really means.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Put this one right up there with Mike Collins' "Carrying the Fire." As a nearly-life long space freak, I

soak in everything related to human space flight. I have wanted to be an astronaut since I was six years old. Like many out there who are intensely interested in the space program, I've met many astronauts (one of my claims to fame is that I have shaken hands with every human who has so far walked on the Moon!), and even come to know a few. Mike Massimino is definitely one I want to get to know. Besides being a terrific autobiography, this is one of those books that makes you really feel like "you're there." When Mike writes of being selected to be an astronaut, I actually teared up -- he wrote in a way that made me feel like I was the person being selected by NASA. Massimino's description of his first extravehicular activity (EVA -- "spacewalk") is one of the best "what-did-it-feel-like-and-what-were-you-thinking" descriptions ever. I felt like I was actually out there with him, being a "Hubble Jedi" right beside him. The book is funny, informative, entertaining, moving, and educational. Massimino's writing style almost perfectly emulates the way he speaks. He is a normal kid from Brooklyn who, by skills, capabilities, intelligence, persistence and sheer luck, went on to do extraordinary things. After reading this book, I had an intense desire to meet Massimino and sit down over dinner and drinks and talk until he kicks me out. At 344 pages, "Spaceman" is an average-sized book. It is not an average life story. I read it over the Christmas break in seven hours and did not want it to end. If you have even one-tenth the interest I have in the space program, buy Massimino's "Spaceman." This book is that good.

When I first heard Mass's interview on NPR, I knew I had to read his book. I was not disappointed. This is one man's story of a dream and the determination to achieve it despite serious and real obstacles. It reminds us all to persist..to believe and pursue our goals, and to enjoy the acquisition of knowledge and skills required. My daughter worked on that last Hubble mission. His accounts of the NASA experience was especially meaningful for me. I grew up along with NASA. I am saddened by the current status of US spaceflight but I have no doubt that there are more future astronauts yearning for a stronger US program. Their persistence and commitment will reflect yours, and in the same spirit of all the astronauts preceding them can and will prevail. We the people must never forget. We must never stop supporting these crucial programs. Thank you, Mass, for giving us your story, for reminding us to pursue greatness, to overcome our fears and keep improving our own skill sets, to make the future brighter for all who follow us.

Spoken from the heart and soul of a 'big' kid with a bigger imagination and spirit. Mike speaks to the kid in all of us: to dream big; to take big steps; to undertake big challenges. And to persevere through it all. This IS the book for any kid, big or small, who desires to be involved in space

exploration in some manner; whether as an astronaut, an astronomer or an educator. Mike makes those dreams seem more attainable through his experiences and revolutions.

I just finished reading this. I heard "Mass" on NPR and thought the book would be worthwhile. 3 takeaways:1. "Mass", as badly as he wanted to be an astronaut all his life, did not subscribe to the foolish notion of "you can be anything you want if you put your mind to it". Instead he tried as hard as he could, had setbacks, and knew if he didn't make it at least he gave it his all. He did succeed in the end but success was never assured just because he wanted it so badly.2. Where failure is not an option, I admire the extreme preparation for space missions, manned and unmanned. We can apply some of these principles to mission critical earthbound systems.3. Astronauts will not include jerks in their ranks, no matter how talented. Jerks lead to "poor expedition behavior" which can lead to disaster. Another lesson for earthbound teams here too.

I have read a lot of astronaut biographies and I like biographies and memoirs in general. This one is top of the heap. An engaging story, well told and something that any person can relate to, whether interested in the space program or not. I highly recommend the audio version. He reads his story beautifully. This will make you laugh, cry and feel pride. Just a great story by a fine human being.

I found it harder to put down this book than almost any I have read. Mike made me feel like I was there with him as he lived out his dreams. I was especially impressed with his positive outlook on life and his respect and appreciation of all those whom he worked with. While he accomplished great things there was no attempt at drawing credit to himself, rather he acknowledged that all that was accomplished was a team effort. An enjoyable way to vicariously experience an astronaut's life.

This, without a doubt, is the best book I have read regarding the actual feelings that an astronaut feels about becoming an astronaut and going into space. Author Mike Massimino is able to bring the reader along with him as he goes from being a youngster and his thoughts about space, to the reality of actually becoming an astronaut. He is also able to translate his emotions, especially his fears, as he goes through that various aspects of his education and astronaut training. In my opinion, this book captures what it would be like to become an astronaut and going into space myself. I found this book highly interesting and educational. It was hard to put down.

An fun book that inspires people to seek to achieve their dreams. This book tells the story of Mike

Massimino from his childhood dream to his achievement of going into space. He has to face many obstacles along the way and finally accomplishes what he sets out to do. This book can inspire young people and older ones like me to reach for their goals and to keep pushing even when faced with challenges.

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