



A Galaxy of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space

Libby Jackson

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From small steps to giant leaps, A Galaxy of Her Own tells fifty stories of inspirational women who have been fundamental to the story of humans in space, from scientists to astronauts to some surprising roles in between.

From Ada Lovelace in the nineteenth century, to the women behind the Apollo missions, from the astronauts breaking records on the International Space Station to those blazing the way in the race to get to Mars, A Galaxy of Her Own reveals extraordinary stories, champions unsung heroes and celebrates remarkable achievements from around the world.

Written by Libby Jackson, a leading UK expert in human space flight, and illustrated with bold and beautiful artwork from the students of London College of Communication, this is a book to delight and inspire trailblazers of all ages.

Packed full of both amazing female role models and mind-blowing secrets of space travel, A Galaxy of Her Own is guaranteed to make any reader reach for the stars.

A Galaxy of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space Details

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Author : Libby Jackson

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From Reader Review A Galaxy of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space for online ebook

Molly says

I learned so much about the history of space travel and was so inspired by these brilliant women's stories.

ArwendeLuhtiene says

I absolutely loved this book! Written by physicist and engineer for the UK Space Agency Libby Jackson and beautifully illustrated by students of the London College of Communication, this is a selection of 50 women who have been central in the history of human space exploration, including a wide range of women astronauts, pilots, scientists (physicists, mathematicians, chemists, geologists,...), engineers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, teachers, lawyers, politicians, actresses, entrepreneurs, seamstresses,...An engaging, enjoyable, refreshing and empowering book that visibilizes remarkable women in history and does a great representation job in the still male-dominated world of space exploration. 10/10 would recommend.

The language used throughout the book is also refreshingly inclusive and non-sexist, with 'human(kind)', 'men and women' and 'women' replacing the invisibilizing male generic (as in 'mankind', 'manned' or 'men' used to encompass both men and women).

Lizzy // The Bookish Unicorn says

This was an awesome book about amazing women who have done amazing things for our knowledge about space! Plus the illustrations are simply wonderful.

Nicolle says

What a fabulous little book! I didn't realize I was picking up a children's book when this popped up on my recommended books list, but I'm glad I listened to it anyway. Of great breadth and little depth, it serves its purpose: to inspire little girls to reach for their dreams. Of course, I spent half of the book kicking myself for abandoning my own dream, but I would definitely recommend it for any young person who has yet to give up on theirs. It was a little difficult to follow along with in its audiobook form, so this is one I'd pick up in print.

Elizabeth Green says

This books celebrates a variety of Women and their impact on space exploration.

Its a shame this book isn't classified as a children's book. My library has shelved it as an adult non-fiction book. That being said I can't help but feel that it is made for children. The book doesn't go into much detail

about the science and mathematics that these women contributed to the space exploration.

The illustrations are quite lovely. I knew of about 20 of the women before reading this and I was pleasantly surprised with being introduced to so many wonderful women in STEM fields.

There is an overall tone of feminism, hope, and dreams.

Kent Archie says

I knew about some of these but most were new stories to me. For example, I knew how the Apollo Guidance Computer worked and that it used core memory ropes as read-only memory. But this book talks about the women that made those ropes. Some thing for the women that hat made the space suits. I had learned some about the construction of the suits, but not the people behind it. I recommend it and this would be good bed time stories for kids.

Monika Kilińska says

Gratka dla fanów i fanek astronomii, astronautyki i kosmonautyki. 50 inspirujących autobiografii kobiet, które przyczyniły się do podboju przestrzeni kosmicznej. Są tu pierwsze kobiety w kosmosie w ogóle, pierwsze kobiety czarnoskóre, pracownice laboratoriów, programistki, dietetyczki, ale także szwaczki skafandrów czy żony astronautów. Bo przecież za każdym lecącym może stać jakaś kobieta: żona, matka, córka. Te ambitne kobiety udowadniają nam, że chce to znaczy móc. Na końcu książki znajduje się miejsce na zaplanowanie własnej misji!

Warto dodać, że autorka książki, Libby Jackson, także pracuje w narodowej agencji kosmicznej jako kierowniczka programu lotów załogowych i mikrogravitacji.

Więcej na <https://konfabula.pl/ksiazki-dla-nast...>

Lindsey says

I adore books like this. I (and many others) would never know about these extraordinary women if books like this were not available. Science and space having been so male dominated over the centuries, it is nice to learn about the women who are having an impact on our future.

Ari Santillanes says

I am a huge fan of the way this book is a true labor of love, penned by a spaceflight expert and illustrated by students of illustration and visual media. How awesome to be a student and have your artwork published! What more credible source to present these stories for posterity! Learned about a number of women and space agencies and programs that I had not heard of before.

Jaz says

As a self-confessed space nerd, I'm embarrassed to say I only knew a handful of these women's stories before picking up this book. The author doesn't just limit her coverage to astronauts, like heroic Soviet worker girl parachutist-turned-Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova - the first woman in space - but looks at those with a wider involvement such as Star Trek actor Nichelle Nichols, who campaigned for years to increase the number of BME applicants to the space programme; Mary Sherman Morgan, who invented the fuel that got NASA into orbit, and even spares a thought for the seamstresses who painstakingly built the suits in which the astronauts would venture out into the dark void of space.

It's a fascinating read, and beautifully illustrated to boot.

Amanda says

Tekst pochodzi z bloga: <https://amandaasays.blogspot.com/2018...>

KOSMICZNE DZIEWCZYNY

Przyznam wprost - ksi??ka g?ównie skierowana jest w moim odczuciu do m?odych dziewczynek, by od ma?ego pokazywa? im, ?e nie istniej? limity, a marzenia s? po to, by je spe?nia?. Nie wyklucza to jednak faktu, ?e doro?li równie? mog? z zaciekawieniem poch?ania? t? cieniutk? ksi??k?. W moim przypadku tak by?o! Pozna?am ca?e mnóstwo ciekawostek, o których wcze?niej nie mia?am nawet poj?cia. Co najbardziej mnie zainteresowa?o? Prawdopodobnie historia skafandrów i tego, kto je stworzy?, a tak?e inne rozwini?cie skrótu LOL. Czego ?a?uj?? ?e g?ównie pojawia si? tam flaga USA, jednak (jak wspomnia?a zreszt? sama autorka), najwi?ksze osi?gni?cia w tej dziedzinie nale?? do Stanów Zjednoczonych i Rosji, wi?c nie ma si? co dziwi?. Ale kto wie, mo?e kiedy? pojawi si? tam wi?cej polskich nazwisk? ;-)

Nie b?d? si? rozpisywa?a, ani opisywa?a ka?dej z kobiet, których sylwetki przybli?ono w powy?szej ksi??ce, bo mija?oby si? to z celem, jednak podrzucam kilka zdj?? ze ?rodka, aby?cie mieli przedsmak tego, jak pi?knie jest wydana ta ksi??ka. Ka?dej z kobiet po?wi?cono dwie strony - jedna to notka biograficzna, druga to ilustracja z podobizn?. Bywa równie?, i? pojawiaj? si? grupy kobiet, jak jest to w przypadku ?on astronautów b?d? wspomnianych ju? wcze?niej pa? od skrótu LOL. Wszystko jest zgrabnie uporz?dkowane, dzi?ki czemu lektura jest istn? przyjemno?ci?.

STRUKTURA

Ksi??ka podzielona jest na pi?? g?ównych cz??ci, które poprzedzone zosta?y wst?pem, w którym autorka wyja?nia mi?dzy innymi cel powstania ksi??ki oraz jej w?asn? histori? z kosmosem w roli g?ównej. W ramach ka?dej z cz??ci mamy krótkie biografie naszych kosmicznych dziewczyn, którym towarzysz? przepi?kne ilustracje z ich podobiznami. Ksi??ka skierowana jest g?ównie do m?odych dziewcz?t, st?d prosty j?zyk i brak przekombinowania, czy przerostu formy nad tre?ci?. Wszystko jest przedstawione w zgrabny i estetyczny sposób, dzi?ki czemu niejedna dziewczynka zachwyci si? tym tytu?em. Na ko?cu pojawia si? równie? miejsce na zapiski czytelniczki - jej imi?, narodowo??, przemy?lenia z lektury oraz profesje, które szczególnie j? zainteresowa?y. Ksi??ka uczy i anga?uje, a liczne ciekawostki sprawi?, ?e podczas lektury nie b?dzie da?o si? nudzi?!

PODSUMOWUJ?C

Kosmiczne dziewczyny to ksi??ka, która zachwyci dziewczynki - nie tylko te ma?e! To zdecydowane must have dla mi?o?niczek kosmosu oraz osób doceniaj?cych estetyczne wydania. Gar?? ciekawostek i historii potwierdzaj?cych, ?e marzenia nie maj? p?ci, a kobiety dorównuj? m??czyznom (A nawet bywaj? o wiele lepsze!). Pozwól zabra? si? na podbój kosmosu razem z kobietami, dzi?ki którym historia wcale nie b?dzie taka nudna! ;-)

Kathy says

I read a ton of anthologies (normally about women) so I was ready for a bit of a change with this one. Jackson specifically dedicated her anthology to women who have contributed to space exploration and travel, in one way or another. I loved the way she integrated a history of space exploration as a whole, and gave credit where it was due throughout the entire process. The one page summaries, paired with great art from students in London, made reading this a supremely enjoyable experience. This book is obviously geared towards a younger crowd, and it's honestly a great read for kids or those who know they're somewhat interested in STEM fields. The use of quotes from each of the women highlighted in the book, plus an encouraging message at the end really drives home the fact that ANYONE can go to space despite any barriers or setbacks that might stand in their way.

Brian Clegg says

This is an interesting book, even if it probably tries to be too many things to too many people. I wondered from the cover design whether it was a children's book, but the publisher's website (and the back of the book) resolutely refuse to categorise it as such. The back copy doesn't help by saying that it will 'inspire trailblazers and pioneers of all ages.' As I belong to the set 'all ages' I thought I'd give it a go.

Inside are featured the 'stories of fifty inspirational women who have been fundamental to the story of humans in space.' So, in some ways, A Galaxy of Her Own presents the other side of the coin to Angela Saini's excellent *Inferior*. But, inevitably, given the format, it can hardly provide the same level of discourse.

Despite that 'all ages' comment and the lack of children's book labelling we get a bit of a hint when we get to a bookplate page in the form of a Galaxy Pioneers security pass (with the rather worryingly militaristic job title Commander) to fill in your name. Then, however, the opposing pages to a four page timeline of space travel is an introduction where Libby Jackson explains her own background and describes how, despite the UK not being hot on space travel, she still managed to become involved in the space business. This would work equally well for adults and echoes the underlying message, that you should aim for you dreams, however unlikely they may seem.

We then get 50 double page spreads with a page of text on the left and a whole page illustration of the woman in question on the right. For an adult audience it might have been better to dedicate the whole two pages with just a small illustration, but this format is quite popular even in adult gift book non-fiction, so I suppose we should go with the flow. The text, though does make it clear that Jackson is writing with a young audience in mind when we see opening sentences such as 'Valentina Tereshkova wanted to be a train driver.' and 'Jacqueline Cochran loved clothes and makeup, and dreamt of a glamorous lifestyle.'

Probably the weakest section is the first one where we get pre-1957 figures. I can see why this was done - but it does lead to some distinct exaggeration of the roles of the earliest women featured, because, of course, their main contributions had nothing to do with space travel. So, for instance, the opener is Émilie du Châtelet. It's all going well through the basic bio, but when we get the justification for her being here, we're told 'Émilie's heroic efforts laid the foundations of science and space for generations.' I think it's hard to justify that statement based on having written a translation of Newton's *Principia* into French as Jackson does - it's not that du Chatalet's work was insignificant, but this seems an exaggerated claim.

We then get the inevitable bugbear of historians of science, Ada Lovelace, labelled 'the first published computer programmer'. Again, most of the biographical description is fine, but the claims for the significance of what she did seem unnecessarily distorted. Surely the likes of Caroline Herschel and Henrietta Swan Leavitt would have been more appropriate than Lovelace? Once we get those two out of the way, though, I'm pleased to say that even the historical figures get a lot more interesting, partly because they aren't already over-hyped like Lovelace, but also because we're into the 20th century and their work starts to have a more direct relevance to space.

It's once we get into these section where an adult book particularly could do with more nuance. So, for example, when hearing the genuinely fascinating story of Mary Sherman Morgan's contribution to rocket science we just get a passing line that 'the American team led by Wernher von Braun developed a rocket to launch their own satellite' without pointing out that von Braun's technology was largely initially developed from the Nazi V weapons he had developed. Even in a children's book, perhaps there could be a little balance to the unrelenting positivism - but in the end, this is a book with a mission and it's a mission I wholeheartedly support.

The stories of often unfamiliar names keep on coming with some excellent stories. For every Valentina Tereshkova we've all heard of (I hope) there are several entries such as Jerrie Cobb, a female pilot who with a handful of other women was given the same tests as the recruits for the Mercury space programme. Reflecting the bias of the times, despite often doing better than the men, the testing regime never led to a woman having a role in space and was quietly dropped.

There is no doubt that we need more role model material for women in science to help girls at school make better decisions and boys to avoid thinking that STEM is just for them - I think this is an excellent book to do this. I just wish it had been more clearly aimed at a particular age group, as this isn't a genre where crossover works as well as it can with, for example, in fantasy fiction. The fourth star I've given it is provisional on limiting it to a 10-16 audience.

P42 says

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 - + prosta i zachęcająca forma książki
 - + piękne wydanie
 - + nawiazania (wiecej w filmie)
 - + inspirująca treść która ma ogromną wartość
-

LillyBooks says

This is an excellent collection of women of all sorts who shaped aeronautics. I especially liked that the author thought outside the box and included women who didn't actually travel to space but were essential, such as those that helped formulate food packs and those that designed space suits. I was introduced to several

women I was not familiar with and enjoyed learning their stories.
