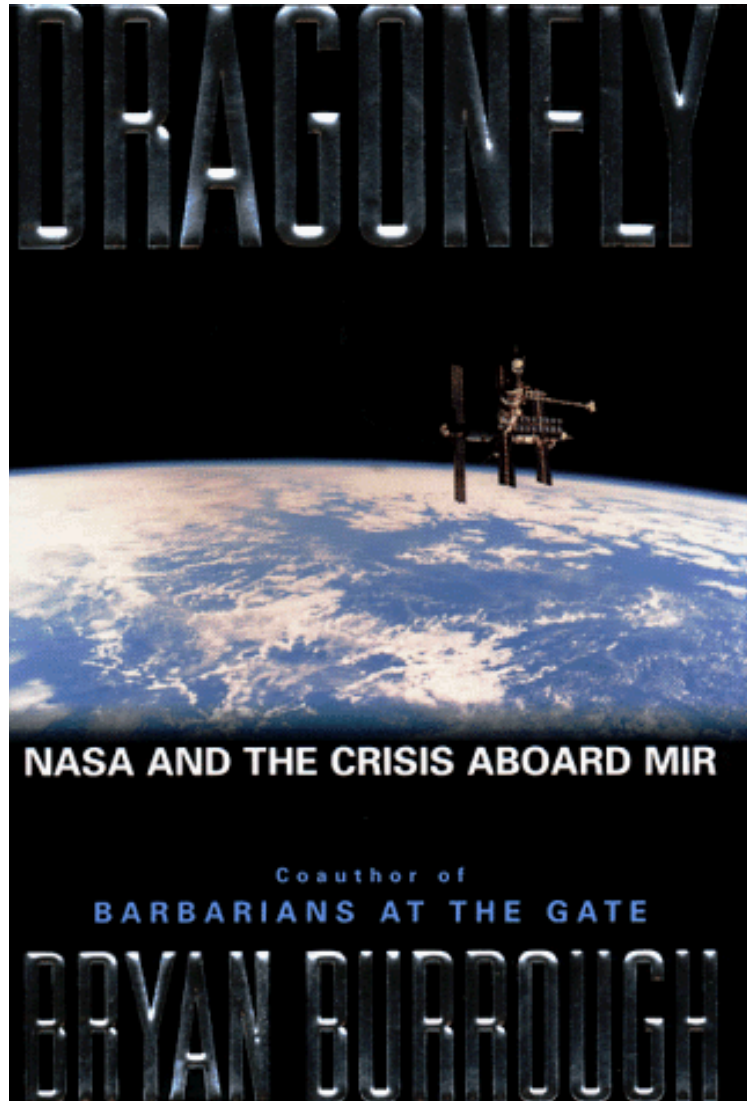


[Download] Dragonfly: NASA And The Crisis Aboard Mir

Dragonfly: NASA And The Crisis Aboard Mir

Bryan Burrough

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#964483 in Books HarperCollins 1998-12-01 1998-11-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.61 x 6.13l, #File Name: 0887307833544 pagesGreat product! | File size: 63.Mb

Bryan Burrough : Dragonfly: NASA And The Crisis Aboard Mir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dragonfly: NASA And The Crisis Aboard Mir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Wrong Stuff, well describedBy Bob ScottAs a Baby Boomer who followed NASA from its very inception, this book is both fascinating and disheartening. I rate it high because it is thorough, well-written, and even-handed in its presentation. The appalling part is finding out just how much of The Wrong Stuff had gotten into both countries' space programs. Burrough clearly describes the extent to which neither side trusted each other, how often money politics took precedence over safety common sense, and the painful situation

the cosmonauts astronauts found themselves in. This is a study in bureaucratic incompetence, irresponsibility, and indifference. The author pulls no punches, and doesn't hesitate to criticize either side of a dispute. The Russians managers cared much more about getting U.S. money than safety, and about keeping their iron-fisted control over the cosmonauts. The cosmonauts, being paid by their performance, were afraid of making any mistakes, so wouldn't tell the astronauts how anything worked, but wouldn't do anything themselves without permission from the ground. When things did go wrong, the ground controllers would pretend nothing had happened, keeping the Americans in the dark, and later the managers and cosmonauts would blame each other. NASA managers only seemed to care about keeping Congressional money flowing, maintaining their own power positions, and keeping the Russians from bailing on the ISS program. They couldn't get any experienced astronauts or competent managers to volunteer for this train wreck of a program. Nobody wanted to rock the boat, so looked the other way about proper training and safety. The astronauts that did complain were ignored, and all of them lived in fear of displeasing the one NASA guy who decided who would get to fly shuttle missions, and who wouldn't. One of the most startling revelations is that this whole ill-conceived program came about only because President George H.W. Bush needed a poll boost in election year 1992, and wanted a impressive sounding announcement to come out of an otherwise lackluster summit meeting with Boris Yeltsin. Ironically, the Clinton administration inherited this turkey and also played along, but the bottom line was: neither countries' space programs wanted to have to try to work with each other, nor did the crews. Not surprisingly, this misbegotten program "ran as smoothly as a pig on stilts", as the results on-orbit painfully demonstrated. Nevertheless, this is an eye-opening, well-written, exciting book that you will enjoy if spaceflight interests you. It must, however, make Chris Kraft and Gene Kranz either want to chew nails or cry. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for satisfying my inner Astronaut. By MikeGood read, and very intriguing. An insiders view of how the NASA and Russian space programs waded through the troubles of putting a joint mission together. I loved the way the author made me feel there when describing the station and it's daily life. Also interesting was how the personalities of all involved created problems. I found it captivating how one of the three personalities can cause issues, but that's to be expected when you live in an area the size of a garage with no real way of getting away from your other occupants. This was never mentioned in the media coverage. My only complaint would be that the author didn't stick to chronological order with the missions, but some of that can be explained away by wanting to get the "good" parts up front to hold the readers interest. I still would recommend this one to any fan of space, NASA. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative, educational, and gripping. By JoyReally good story. I know and have occasionally spoken with one of the astronauts in this book. It was he who mentioned the book and got my interest piqued. It is surprising the amount of politics involved in that whole debacle. It was great to see the human side of the space program and get a glimpse into the way that the Russians approach obstacles v. the way the Americans do. It had great descriptions of the several gripping and life threatening events that occurred above in MIR. It makes me wonder why we would have pursued the joint venture with the on the ISS.

On February 12, 1997, two Russian cosmonauts joined an American astronaut on board the only permanent manned outpost in space, the dilapidated, eleven-year-old Mir space station. It was to be a routine mission, the fourth of seven trips to Mir that NASA astronauts would take as "dress rehearsals" for the two countries' partnership in a new International Space Station they were building back on Earth. But there had been bad omens: a Moscow psychic who predicted a mysterious disaster; a Russian doctor who warned that the crew was psychologically incompatible. Within two weeks the omens were borne out, as the three men were suddenly forced to fight the worst fire in space history. This was only the beginning of what would become the most dangerous mission in the thirty-six-year history of manned space travel an epic, six-month misadventure that would climax in the most harrowing accident man has faced in space since Apollo 13. In *Dragonfly*, bestselling author Bryan Burrough tells for the first time the incredible true story of how a joint Russian-American crew narrowly survived almost every trauma an astronaut could imagine: fire, power blackouts, chemical leaks, docking failures, nail-biting spacewalks, and constant mechanical breakdowns, all climaxing in a dramatic midspace collision that left everyone on board scrambling for their lives. Based on hundreds of hours of interviews with the cosmonauts, astronauts, Russian and American ground controllers, psychologists, and scientists involved, *Dragonfly* is the saga of a mission as fraught with political and bureaucratic intrigues as any Washington potboiler. Using never-before-released internal NASA memoranda, flight logs, and debriefings, Burrough vividly portrays an American space program in which many astronauts refuse to raise safety concerns for fear they will be frozen out of future missions. It offers an unprecedented look inside the rattletrap Russian space program, where the desperate thirst for hard currency leads to safety shortcuts and exhausted, puppetlike cosmonauts endure truly inhuman pressures from their unfeeling, all-powerful masters on the ground. In *Dragonfly*, for the first time, the American astronauts who journeyed to Mir speak out bluntly about the failings of the program, from the rigors of training at Russia's Star City military base to the slapdash experiments they were required to perform in space. Yet through it all the men and women of the Russian and American programs persevered, forging friendships that will serve them well as the two countries prepare for the first launches of the International Space Station in late 1998. Theirs is a classic story of a triumph over adversity, destined to be one of the most enduring and widely celebrated adventure stories of

our time.

.com Bryan Burrough, coauthor of the bestselling *Barbarians at the Gate*, has a talent for reworking factual accounts so they read like first-rate thrillers. *Dragonfly: NASA and the Crisis Aboard Mir* is overwhelming in its scope and breadth of detail, culled from one-on-one interviews and transcripts of recorded conversations between the astronauts and cosmonauts on Mir and Russian Mission Control. Burrough delves deeply into the personal and professional lives of the 11 people who lived aboard Mir from 1995 to 1998. What we soon discover is simultaneously disheartening and fascinating: the men and women who would be astronauts must run a gauntlet of hazings, are judged professionally on their personal lives, and win flight assignments through serendipity as often as through hard work. NASA is controlled by cliques and cults of personality: "People don't speak out, because George makes short work of you if you do.... If you get on his bad side, you won't get a flight assignment...." There are "issues dealing with training and the selection of crews that you don't dare speak up about." The down-to-the-last-bolt descriptions of life aboard the station, from what the air smells like to an explanation of "penguin suits" to the distance between the dinner table and the original, now seldom-used toilet--2 feet--will thrill space enthusiasts. Space may not be "where no man has gone before" anymore, but it nevertheless provides endless dream fodder for those of us left behind on Earth. --Jhana Bach
From Library Journal
Enthusiasts who followed the 1997 crises aboard Mir, an orbiting Russian space station, knew of the many mishaps. *Dragonfly* is a timely retelling of what transpired when American astronauts joined the Russians on Mir, as well as their background, training, and personalities. The Americans realized too late that they knew little about the outpost's inner workings: its fluctuating temperatures, antifreeze-like pollution, oxygen depletion, repeated threat of power failure, etc. Some of this may exasperate a listener expecting adventure; a dangerous fire, a near-collision, and an actual crash with a spaceship supply the main suspense. Brian Murray, a skilled actor, cues a quote from any Russian by switching to a gruff accent. This set is recommended for popular collections where an interest in space exploration is high.
AGordon Blackwell, Rochester, NY Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. (Bryan Burrough's) book will probably become required reading, and entertaining reading, for anyone who wants to understand the dysfunction of (NASA). -- Peter Maas, Washington Post
Burrough ... writes like a dream ... (t)his book - the best of its kind in the past five years - deserves a larger audience than it has received so far. -- Alex Beam, The Boston Globe
Frightening, informative and silkily readable. -- New Yorker Magazine
I'm embarrassed by how much I enjoyed this book... Burrough writes brilliantly... "Dragonfly" is the best account of the interplay of American and Russian cultures to appear in years. -- Alex Beam, The Boston Globe
Mr Burrough has written one of the most absorbing space books in some time -- Thomas Mallon, The Wall Street Journal
He succeeds in spinning a gripping yarn out of his remarkably candid conversations with both countries' Mir crews, managers and flight controllers. -- The New York Times Book , Andrew Chaikin