Hypersonic: The Story of the North American X-15 (Revised Edition) (Specialty Press)

Dennis Jenkins
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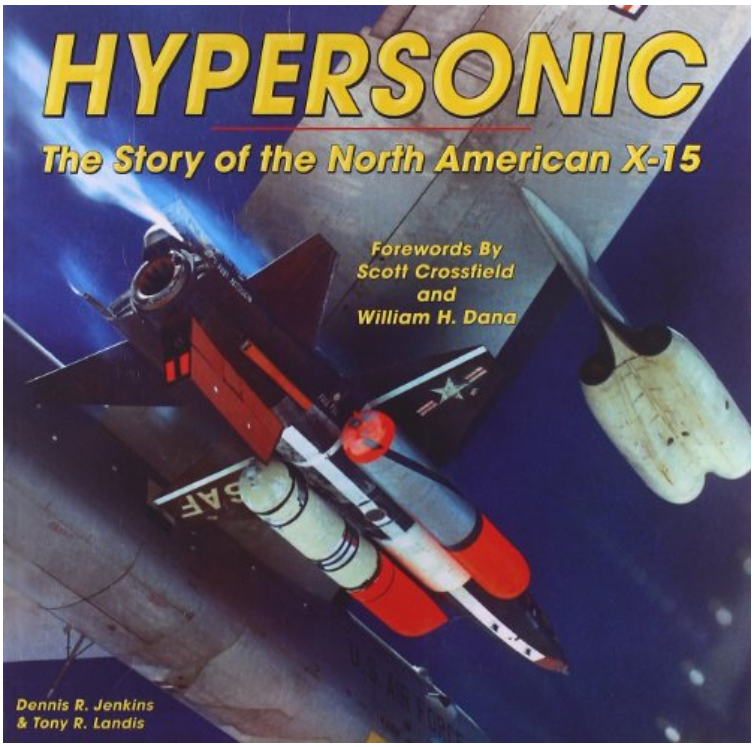

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Dennis Jenkins : Hypersonic: The Story of the North American X-15 (Revised Edition) (Specialty Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hypersonic: The Story of the North American X-15 (Revised Edition) (Specialty Press):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended reading for those interested in America's early ventures into spaceBy Homers OdysseyI was just starting grade school when the X-15 was making its final flights, and the books that came out soon after didn't even cover a fraction of the information that Mr. Jenkins compiles in this fantastic read. The spirit of his writing does capture the spirit of the nation at that time, when Americans felt they could do anything.Actually, one book did admirably cover the engineering points and human character of the X-15 program, and that was "90 Seconds to Space - the Story of the X-15" by Jules Bergman. It was printed many, many years ago (first printing in 1960), and in the following years I couldn't find any other books that met that standard of engineering and journalistic coverage. Jules Bergman was ABC's science editor for 25 years, and as a kid growing up during the Gemini and Apollo programs, I couldn't wait to hear his thorough and honest reporting on the subject. He helped make our space program one of the best liked federal programs in the world, and that's saying a lot."Hypersonic" by Dennis Jenkins picks up all of the remaining and vital pieces of X-15 program information, and the author crafts it all together into one fine read. He does a splendid job of explaining the strong-willed characters who had the genius and determination to even suggest such a program, the engineering challenges the entire team of

engineers, pilots and support personnel faced, and their almost unbelievably continuous series of successes and triumphs.Yes, this is recommended reading!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. In-depth history of the X-15By Flying PhotographerThis must be one of the most in-depth books I have ever read about any airplane. Very well researched and documented, you will find a lot of information about almost every imaginable aspect of the aircraft. The numerous pictures (with their respective captions) are very descriptive and illustrative, in particular the excellent color ones.Well, if this is all so great, why did I rate it 'only' 4-stars? Most readers who take the time to write a review either do it because they really liked that particular book (in which case 5-star ratings are the norm), or they found something particular they disliked (in which case 3-star or less ratings are the norm). Personally, 5-stars should be reserved to books in which I can only find very little or nothing to crtitize, which unfortunately is not the case with Hypersonic.First comes the format: This book should have been printed in a different format (page size). As it is, there is so much information 'cramped' into one page, that it becomes almost a pain to really read through all of it. Additionally, the font size is so small (in order to pack the pages full), that you better have good eyesight and lots of light - not an ideal read before sleeping! The number of pages in this book does not reflect the content, it should be rather 500+ pages with 'normal' content per page.Then, I found it very anoying for such an otherwise so well done book to find that many typing and editing errors, this is really not a good editing job.Finally, I think the book deserved more 'cockpit' piloting stories that tell you what it felt to be mounted on top of such a powerfull rocket engine and for a few minutes be an astronaut, maybe even some more amusing annecdotes that must have happened throughout the 10+ years of flying. Even such an interesting subject as the X-15 can become a rather dry and technical read, and unfortunately this does happen in this book.Overall, this is an authoritative history of the X-15 program, focused on the enginerring and technical challenges that needed to be overcomed before putiing a man on a rocket plane and fly at Mach 6.7 and 350.000 feet - recommended.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. As good as it getsBy Old DogShort of doing your own primary research, I don't see how you could find more complete information on the X-15 project than this book. The bonus is, the book is well written, clearly organized in a logical fashion, and has all the indicators of a labor of love on the part of the authors.I find myself constantly re-reading sections; the audacity (and talent!) of the people involved is breathtaking; the authors capture that. If, for example, you're fascinated with the development of the SR-71, and reading about the ingenuity exhibited by those folks in problem solving, this is a book for you.Never reckless, but never timid, these folks pushed through challenges that would scare the current NASA mob witless. In a weird way, the Soviet challenge may have set back manned space flight decades; we junked far more promising projects to win a race we were never going to loose anyway - the logical follow-ons to the X-15 were ignored in favor of quick-fix solutions. But no whining here! The X-15 stands on it's own merits as a thunderous success. Read this book!

Nineteen years before Space Shuttle, the small, black, rocket-powered, bullet-shaped X-15 showed it was possible to fly into - and out of - space. There had never been anything like the X-15; it had a million-horsepower engine and could fly twice as fast as a rifle bullet. The X-15 set records that stood for years. Specialty Press's bestseller, Hypersonic, has been re-released in a softbound format at a reduced price. This book is the most extensively researched history of the X-15 program yet published. The book was written with the cooperation of surviving X-15 pilots as well as many other program principals and is based on six years of research in Air Force, NASA, and North American archives. It covers the tasks of converting and testing the B-52 carrier airplanes, building the first full-pressure suits to protect the pilot, building the first engineering mission simulators, acquiring the remote lakebed landing sites, and building the radar range. It also covers the flight program in detail, including the most authoritative flight log ever assembled; in many instances, information in this log was derived from the original flight-data recordings. Also covered are each of the experiments that were flown aboard the X-15 late in its career when it became the workhorse of the space program, carrying such things as startrackers destined for the Apollo program and missile-detection systems that would later be sent into orbit on satellites.

.com Rocket plane: The term now conjures images from vintage pulp sci-fi. But in a program that began years before Gagarin and Shepard launched the space race, NASA's X-15 research vehicle ambitiously arched towards the fringes of space, expanding the speed-and-altitude envelope of manned flight like none before it. In the course of a 199 flights over a decade, the X-15 became the first manned aircraft to rocket past Mach 4, 5 and 6; soared some 67 miles above the Earth (earning a handful of its dozen pilots their Astronaut wings, though ironically not Neil Armstrong, later first to set foot on the Moon); and crucially gathered the cornerstone data that enabled the Space Shuttle's return from space a couple decades later. Authors/historians/archivists Dennis Jenkins and Tony Landis have produced nothing short of a landmark history of the X-15's pioneering effort which, they argue, was the most productive flight test program ever)--the first truly comprehensive chronicle of every phase of its pre-history, development, and often perilous journeys (USAF pilot Mike Adams was killed on one of the craft's final flights, while several others suffered injuries in mishaps). Fueled by an obvious passion for their subject, the authors skillfully boil a daunting body of history, technical data, and personalities down into an eminently accessible chronicle of technical achievement and human

bravery. In doing so they've drawn on a wealth of documentary materials and interviews from pilots, NASA and USAF sources and key personnel from North American Aviation, the X-15's manufacturer. Pilots Scott Crossfield and Bill Dana (the first and last to fly the spaceplane, respectively) have also contributed written introductions. --Jerry McCulley "If you get the impression that this is the most complete, most detailed, and most well-researched book ever written on the X-15 program, then you are correct. This is a book that every aviation enthusiast should have on their shelves. My highest recommendation." (Scott Van Aken Modeling Madness 2008-08-19)"If there's anything you want to know about the X-15 program, then this book is for you-and now at a much less expensive rate." (Matt Bittner Internet Modeler 2008-09-01)"If you're into the X-15, you'll want to get a copy of this book. Highest recommendation for this one!!!" (Dennie Adams IPMS 2008-11-01)"I'm certain enthusiasts everywhere will welcome these affordable reprints of landmark titles. If you missed any of them the first time around, you're in luck now. All three deserve spots in every aviation library. Strongly recommended." (David L. Veres Model Aircraft Monthly 2009-03-01)"When all is said and done, I really liked this book and recommend it highly to anyone interested in finding out what the X-15 was all about. A very good mix of technical and historical writing that left me feeling satisfied at the end." (Bill Ingalls SpeedReaders.info 2015-02-02)About the AuthorDennis R. Jenkins is a consulting engineer in Cape Canaveral, Florida, working on various aerospace projects including 20 years on the Space Shuttle and several on the stillborn X-33 program. He is the author of Space Shuttle: The History of the National Space Transportation System – The First 100 Missions in addition to more than 30 other works on aerospace history.Tony Landis was born and raised in southern California and joined the Air Force right out of high school. He has a life-long interest in aerospace history and images from his photo collection have been published in hundreds of publications.