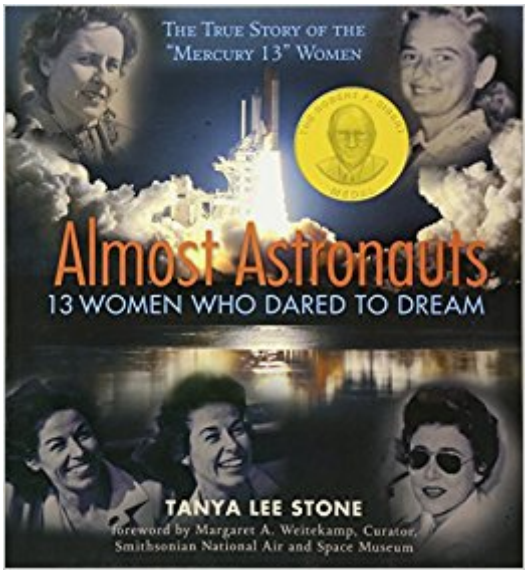
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# Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared To Dream




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## Synopsis

They had the right stuff. They defied the prejudices of the time. And they blazed a trail for generations of women to follow.What does it take to be an astronaut? Excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress, top physical shape Ã¢â ¬â • any checklist would include these. But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man. Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to challenge the government. They were blocked by prejudice, jealousy, and the scrawled note of one of the most powerful men in Washington. But even though the Mercury 13 women did not make it into space, they did not lose, for their example empowered young women to take their place in the sky, piloting jets and commanding space capsules. ALMOST ASTRONAUTS is the story of thirteen true pioneers of the space age.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 5Ã¢â ¬â œ7Ã¢â ¬â •Stone adopts a tone of righteous indignation in chronicling the quixotic efforts of 13 women to win admission into NASA's initial astronaut training program in the early 1960s. The women were all pilots (one, Jerrie Cobb, had more hours in the air than John Glenn or Scott Carpenter), earned high scores in preliminary tests, and even counted a

senator’s wife among their number. But resistance came from all directionsÃ¢â ¬â •including NASA regulations, which were weighted toward men; media coverage that reflected contemporary gender expectations; political maneuvering by then vice president LBJ and other officials; and the crushing opposition expressed by renowned aviatrix Jackie Cochran in a 1962 Congressional hearing. Properly noting, however, that losing "depends on where you draw the finish line," the author closes with chapters on how women did ultimately win their way into spaceÃ¢â ¬â •not only as mission specialists, but also as pilots and commanders. Illustrated with sheaves of photos, and based on published sources, recently discovered documents, and original interviews with surviving members of the "Mercury 13," this passionately written account of a classic but little-known challenge to established gender prejudices also introduces readers to a select group of courageous, independent women.Ã¢â ¬â •John Peters, New York Public Library Copyright Â Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Space gals. Astronettes. Astrodolls . . . Who do these women think they are?Ã¢â ¬Â• The media mocked them. Male astronauts did not want them, and neither did then vice-president Lyndon Johnson. If they were to let women into the space program, blacks and other minorities would be next. Nearly 20 years before the U.S. officially admitted women into the astronaut program, 13 women, known as the Mercury 13, fought for the right to soar into space. This dramatic, large-size photo-essay covers their stories, along with the exciting politics of the womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s liberation struggle in the 1950s and Ã¢â ¬â„¢60s (Ã¢â ¬Å“What is a womanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s place?Ã¢â ¬Â•) and the breakthrough science and technology surrounding space exploration, including details of the would-be astronautsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ tests and training. The chatty, immediate style (Ã¢â ¬Å“Picture thisÃ¢â ¬Â•) and full-page photos make for a fast read, and the crucial civil-rights history will stay with readers. The long, spacious back matter is part of the story, with detailed chapter notes and a bibliography. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My granddaughter has decided to become an astronaaut. I selected this book for her because I think it’s important for her to read about those who went before her. She is someone who is comfortable with hersef and having a career goal at 10 years of age is admirable. This book will only add to her confidence and knowledge.

excellent

bought this for book report my 11 year old daughter had to do. She loved it..

Great book about forgotten heroes! I read it and then gave it to my 83 year old mother in law. Even though she lived during that era she'd had no idea that women had been qualified for the space program by NASA.

This book is spectacular

This book is well written and researched, and offers accurate historical perspective.Ms. Stone accurately portrays attitudes of the era of which she writes.Anyone interested in aviation would find this information fascinating.

Bought for a gift--they loved it.

good

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