



## Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science: In Space to Stay

**Walter Sierra**

Xlibris (Oct 3, 2019)

Softcover \$115.95 (372pp)

978-1-4990-9524-1

*Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science: In Space to Stay is an enthusiastic review of the modern history of rocket science.*

Walter Sierra's *Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science: In Space to Stay* concerns the progress, struggles, setbacks, and victories of human space exploration.

Humans have only inhabited space for a few decades, Sierra notes, but what eventful decades they have been. From manned lunar missions to the first space laboratories, from the evolution of shuttle design to immutable laws of physics, Sierra discusses a broad sampling of the experiments and projects that have furthered humanity's efforts to explore the cosmos.

The third book in the *Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science* series, *In Space to Stay* begins with the tension-filled Apollo 11 mission that put the first humans on the Moon. From there, it moves into the evolution of the Earth and Moon, the triumphs and tragedies of American and Russian space programs, and the behind-the-scenes political and personal dramas that so often hindered progress.

The book is detailed, sharing the minutiae of major events and scientific concepts and resulting in an intricate picture of the material. But the narrative is sidetracked by tangents whose relation to the main subject matter is either tenuous or not adequately explained. Bite-sized segments make it easy to focus on areas of particular interest, while copious photographs, charts, and other images help to make sense of the book's technical explanations of rocket engine design and function.

The small typeset on some graphics is hard to read, while haphazard page layouts find images and text arranged in cramped and awkward positions. The book's unnecessary use of italics, typographical errors, and inconsistent methodology for denoting measurements are distracting, while its reconstructed dialogues are stiff and unconvincing. The book employs a dizzying abundance of acronyms that are collected in the appendix.

Throughout the text are frequent references to information contained in the rest of the series; this entry is best read in series order, or with prior knowledge of rocket science. The book's impressive stories about the history and technology of space exploration make it more able to stand on its own. They are sometimes funny, sometimes gross, and always awe-inspiring, capturing the danger, thrill, and complexities of space exploration. They are laced with hints at what the future of rocket science may hold, promising even more spectacular developments in the coming years—and in the next and final book in the series.

A meticulous, dazzling picture of human progress in rocket science that's packed with historical and scientific data, *Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science: In Space to Stay* is an enthusiastic review of the modern history of rocket science.

EILEEN GONZALEZ (June 24, 2020)

*Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book and paid a small fee to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. Foreword Reviews and Clarion Reviews make no guarantee that the author will receive a positive review. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.*