



www.pacificbookreview.com

Pacific Book Review

helping authors succeed!

Title: Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science: The Dawn of the Space Age

Author: Walter Sierra

Publisher: XlibrisUS

ISBN: 9781493171224

Pages: 344

Genre: Science Fiction

Reviewed by: Liz Konkel

Pacific Book Review

“The Dawn of the Space Age” is the first in the “Beyond the Saga of Rocket Science” series of books by Walter Sierra, which dives into rocketry and the people who contributed to what the rocket science we know today. It’s well-researched, concise, and well-versed. It’s clear that Sierra, a rocket scientist, is passionate about the history and science presented. The language is easy to understand and the topic doesn’t require a great deal of knowledge regarding history or science. It’s entertaining and educational, really engaging you into the world of rockets, as it pulls you through the past, teaching each concept as it was developed. With a basic understanding about rocketry, I learned not only facts about the evolution, but also why people are so drawn to inventing and advancing rockets. I even found myself sharing different facts with my family.

In-depth history of important figures in rocket science are included, along with biographical information complete with vivid details about their accomplishments, personal lives, and relationships. The history goes back to the very beginning of the concept, to the first advancements, and trails each invention in history through the lives, which include the Wright Brothers, Robert Goddard, Sergei P. Korolyov, and astronaut

John Glenn. Everyone has heard of most of these names, but Sierra dives so deep into their lives that it feels like he's teaching about new people.

The biographical information is written in a storytelling prose, which does more than state facts. Sierra frames the background information through stories, turning these famous figures into characters. This allows for a chance to get to know the Wright Brothers, engineer Albert Zadler, and others on a deeper level, developing them into more than famous names in history; indeed showing them beyond their achievements. Sierra brings them to life as ordinary people who did extraordinary things.

Illustrations, photographs, and diagrams are included throughout, providing faces to names as well as easy breakdowns of models and how the rockets were created. These pair well with the progression of rockets graphs and photos showing early rockets launched into space. The photographs show the real people behind every achievement, from the first Wright gliders to the astronauts. This book will mainly appeal to those interested in rocket science and its history, but also those wanting to further their understanding of the topic or simply wanting to learn something new. It's the perfect beginning tool that easily entertains.