

Smith, Tracy K.

Life on Mars: Poems (2011)

With allusions to David Bowie and interplanetary travel, *Life on Mars* imagines a soundtrack for the universe to accompany the discoveries, failures, and oddities of human existence. These poems reveal the realities of life lived here, on the ground, where a daughter is imprisoned in the basement by her own father, where celebrities and pop stars walk among us, and where the poet herself loses her father—one of the engineers who worked on the Hubble Space Telescope.

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry (2017)

A little book that handles the big questions. Acclaimed astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson takes the mystery out of the Big Bang, black holes, quarks and quantum mechanics and leads us on a search for life in the universe with the same degree of comfort we would experience if we were attending a star show at his Hayden Planetarium.

Tyson, Neil deGrasse

The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet (2014)

Pluto not a planet? And why is Pluto entrenched in our cultural and emotional view of the cosmos? See the opinions of Plutophiles and hate mail from third-graders, as Tyson humorously recounts how America's favorite planet was ousted from the cosmic hub.

Wolfe, Tom

The Right Stuff (1979)

Tom Wolfe puts himself into the minds of the first American astronauts in this masterpiece of New Journalism.



TO THE MOON AND BEYOND:

Fiction and Non-Fiction About Outer Space

All fiction and nonfiction titles listed are available
at libraries in the Monroe County Library System.



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TO THE MOON AND BEYOND:

Fiction and Non-Fiction About Outer Space



Fiction

Kress, Nancy
Tomorrow's Kin (2017)

Geneticist Marianne Jenner is called aboard the Embassy, an alien ship that has landed in New York Harbor. Surprises and twists follow. This is Book 1 of the *Yesterday's Kin Trilogy* by an imaginative author with Rochester connections.

Okorafor, Nnedi
Binti (2015)

Binti is the first of her people, the Himba, to be accepted into Oomza University—the most elite educational institution in the galaxy. Despite the prestige, she must go against her tribe's wishes to attend; the Himba value knowledge and innovation, but they don't leave Earth. En route to the Uni, Binti's ship is attacked by the bane of humanity, the Meduse. Her survival will depend on more than just brains. *Binti*, a novella and first book in a trilogy, is thought-provoking and culturally diverse. You don't need to be a science fiction fan to enjoy this title.

Robinson, Kim Stanley
Red Moon (2018)

It is thirty years from now and we have colonized the moon. Fred Fredericks is making his first trip, his purpose to install a communications system for China's Lunar Science Foundation. But hours after his arrival he witnesses a murder and is forced into hiding. Fred must figure out who is killed and why he's a target. Part mystery, thriller and science fiction, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Valente, Catherynne
Space Opera (2019)

Compared to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, main character Decibel Jones is a British musician in a washed-up glam-rock band. Dess has always believed in aliens, but when they come to Earth he finds he's responsible for the fate of the planet. Then, when galaxies compete for glory in a universe-wide musical contest, the stakes are high and he must win!

Non-Fiction

Hadfield, Chris
You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes (2014)

View the earth as if from the orbit of the International Space Station. This visually delightful book is playful and thought provoking as it brings our attention to interesting landscapes and the way natural forces shape our world.

Impey, Chris
Einstein's Monsters: the Life and Times of Black Holes (2019)

A comprehensive treatment of black holes with attention paid to how knowledge and methods of detection have changed over time. Understand the new image of the supermassive black hole located in Messier 87 that was published in April of 2019.

Kelly, Scott
Endurance (2017)

Endurance is an unusually candid behind-the-scenes look at the life of an astronaut. The book details Kelly's life, as well as that of his twin brother Mark, as they became naval aviators and test pilots, and were both selected for NASA Astronaut Group 16. A fascinating look at what it means to be an astronaut and live and work in space.

Munroe, Randall
What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions (2014)

Wildly unusual questions answered in a (mostly) serious way make up the pages of this informative, delightful book. Stick figures, such as used in his webcomic *xkcd*, illustrate the concepts, making them easier to understand.

Roach, Mary
Packing for Mars: the Curious Science of Life in the Void (2010)

An entertaining look at what NASA and astronauts go through to prepare for space missions, low gravity and enclosed spaces. Read about the challenges of planting a flag on the moon, creating a sandwich that doesn't crumble, and more.

Sherr, Lynn
Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space (2014)

The definitive biography of Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, with exclusive insights from Ride's family and partner; by the ABC reporter who covered NASA during its transformation from a test-pilot boys' club to a more inclusive elite.