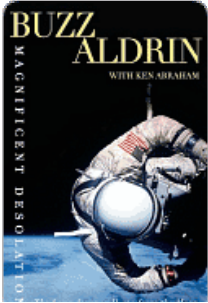


Book Review

Magnificent Desolation

Author: Buzz Aldrin

Harmony Books (p.316)



Aldrin was the second man to walk on the moon after Neil Armstrong. He described the alien world as 'magnificent desolation.' In this newly published memoir of the same name (Magnificent Desolation), Buzz Aldrin talks about his

life after Apollo 11. Aldrin talks candidly about his psychiatric problems, alcoholism and failed marriages.

However, the important part of his memoir is his appeal for space travel as an entrepreneurial venture. He rightly advocates the return of America's supremacy in space by sending man to Mars. Some of the later sections of the book become repetitive, but there are enough fascinating nuggets – like his explanation of the infamous punch to the face of a faked-moon landing conspiracy theorist – to make it a page-turner right to the end. I don't think that space history enthusiasts or NASA historians will find any vital data in this book, but all of us can learn from the steep fall and redemptive rise of this ex-astronaut.

Stimulated

Author: Andrew Pek and Jeannine

McGlade

Greenleaf Book Group (p. 195)

Pek and McGlade emphasize on the need to be creative. According to the authors, to create is a basic human urge that is not only an evolutionary imperative, but a spiritual one. The authors have cited examples of people who have pursued creative satisfaction and attained material success, such as Nike cofounder Bill Bowerman. The most important

attribute, according to *Stimulated* is the importance and the rewards of maintaining creative thought processes. Pek and McGlade also describe a series of five habits that can access creative potential: scouting, cultivating, playing, venturing, and harvesting.

But for a book about stimulating creativity, the solutions and suggestions – the power of play, the importance of confidence and spark moments – are not very convincing. The illustrations and quotations are mundane, dull and intrusive. Overall, it is an inspirational book that does not say anything new or innovative.

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