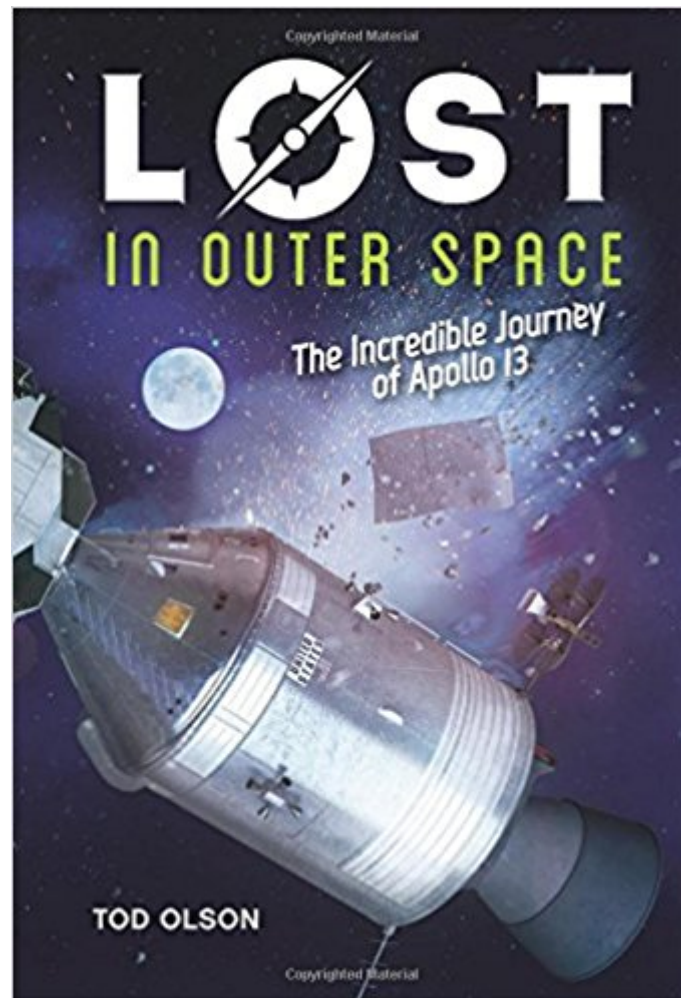




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Lost In Outer Space (Lost #2): The Incredible Journey Of Apollo 13



Synopsis

April 13, 1970: Two hundred thousand miles from Earth and counting, an explosion rips through Jim Lovell's spacecraft. The crippled ship hurtles toward the moon at three times the speed of sound, losing power and leaking oxygen into space. Lovell and his crew were two days from the dream of a lifetime - walking on the surface of moon. Now, they will count themselves lucky to set foot on Earth again. From "Houston, we've had a problem" to the final tense moments at Mission Control, *Lost in Outer Space* takes readers on the unbelievable journey of Apollo 13 and inside the minds of its famous and heroic astronauts. Complete with photographs of the crew and diagrams of the spacecraft, this is an up-close-and-personal look at one of the most thrilling survival stories of all time.

Book Information

Series: *Lost* (Book 2)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Nonfiction (January 31, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054592815X

ISBN-13: 978-0545928151

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #185,029 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in *Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space*
#100 in *Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery*
#165 in *Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s*

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Praise for *Lost in the Pacific, 1942* (Lost #1):* "A riveting, completely engrossing true survival story." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Engaging... A great choice for collections." -- School Library Journal

Tod Olson is the author of the "How to Get Rich" historical fiction series for kids, as well as

numerous books for the school/library and classroom markets. He has written for national magazines on the Columbine school shooting, homeless teens, the murder of Matthew Shepherd, and many other stories of interest to children and young adults. During his 25 years in children's publishing he has edited and developed several collections of books for both school/library and the classroom. Tod holds an MFA from Vermont College.

I've read other books about the Apollo 13 disaster as well as the movie so I had some background when I picked up this story. Once again, Olson does a great job of telling the story. It can be difficult sometimes telling a complicated story like this one in such a way that children can understand it. The Apollo 13 disaster makes a fascinating, compelling account, but it can also be very technical. It would have been easy to fall into that problem, but Olson does not, he explains things correctly without getting lost in technical jargon. I also appreciated the inclusion of some of the experiences of Barbara Lovell, the eldest daughter of one of the three astronauts, this gives someone for the younger readers to especially connect with as they read. The book begins with the beginning of the disaster then returns to introduce the astronauts, their families, and what lead up to the situation, including a brief introduction to the creation of NASA and the space program. All of this is done quickly and doesn't bog down the story in the least. I enjoyed reading this account of the events and the people involved. I was left with admiration for the efforts of those involved. It's clear that the astronauts made it back safely because of the efforts of these people. At the same time, and the author points this out, while so many were waiting with baited breath to find out if the astronauts were going to make it back safely, conflict on a much larger scale continued to rage around the world (including the Vietnam War). It's ironic to realize the way Jim Lovell, Fred Haise, and Jim Swigert were turned into heroes for surviving the Apollo 13 disaster, while those who made it possible for them to return safely were not. Society can be remarkably fickle about who it identifies as heroes. In any case, this is a great narrative nonfiction book that middle grade nonfiction lovers are bound to enjoy.

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