

Chasing the Moon: The Extraordinary Story of Three Women Who Changed the Face of Space Exploration

In *Chasing the Moon*, Penny Chamberlain tells the extraordinary story of three women who played pivotal roles in the Apollo missions, which culminated in the first Moon landing in 1969. These women—Margaret Hamilton, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden—were brilliant mathematicians, engineers, and programmers who overcame sexism and discrimination to make their mark on history.



Chasing the Moon by Penny Chamberlain

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3375 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 258 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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Hamilton was the lead software engineer for the Apollo guidance computer, which was responsible for navigating the spacecraft to the Moon. Johnson was a mathematician who calculated the trajectories of the Apollo spacecraft. Darden was a computer programmer who developed the software that processed the data from the spacecraft's instruments.

These women's contributions were essential to the success of the Apollo missions. However, their stories have largely been hidden from history. Chasing the Moon brings their stories to light, and in doing so, it challenges the traditional narrative of space exploration as a male-dominated field.

Chasing the Moon is a fascinating and inspiring account of the accomplishments of three extraordinary women. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of space exploration, women in STEM, or the power of perseverance.

Margaret Hamilton



Margaret Hamilton was born in 1936 in Terre Haute, Indiana. She showed an early interest in mathematics and science, and she went on to earn a degree in mathematics from Earlham College. After graduating, she worked as a computer programmer for the U.S. Air Force.

In 1961, Hamilton joined the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, which was responsible for developing the guidance computer for the Apollo spacecraft. Hamilton led a team of programmers who developed the software for the computer. The software was incredibly complex, and it had to be able to withstand the harsh conditions of space.

Hamilton's software was essential to the success of the Apollo missions. It helped to navigate the spacecraft to the Moon, and it also helped to land the astronauts on the lunar surface. Hamilton's work was a major contribution to the space race, and it helped to make the United States the first country to land a man on the Moon.

Katherine Johnson



Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. She showed an early interest in mathematics, and she went on to earn a degree in mathematics from West Virginia State College. After graduating, she taught mathematics at a high school in Virginia.

In 1953, Johnson joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. She worked as a mathematician in the

Flight Research Division, where she calculated the trajectories of the Apollo spacecraft. Johnson's calculations were essential to the success of the Apollo missions. They helped to ensure that the spacecraft would reach the Moon and land safely.

Johnson's work was a major contribution to the space race, and she helped to make the United States the first country to land a man on the Moon. She was also a pioneer for women in STEM, and she inspired many young women to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Christine Darden



Christine Darden was born in 1942 in Monroe, North Carolina. She showed an early interest in mathematics and science, and she went on to earn a

degree in mathematics from North Carolina A&T State University. After graduating, she worked as a computer programmer for IBM.

In 1967, Darden joined NASA's Langley Research Center. She worked as a computer programmer on the Apollo missions, where she developed the software that processed the data from the spacecraft's instruments.

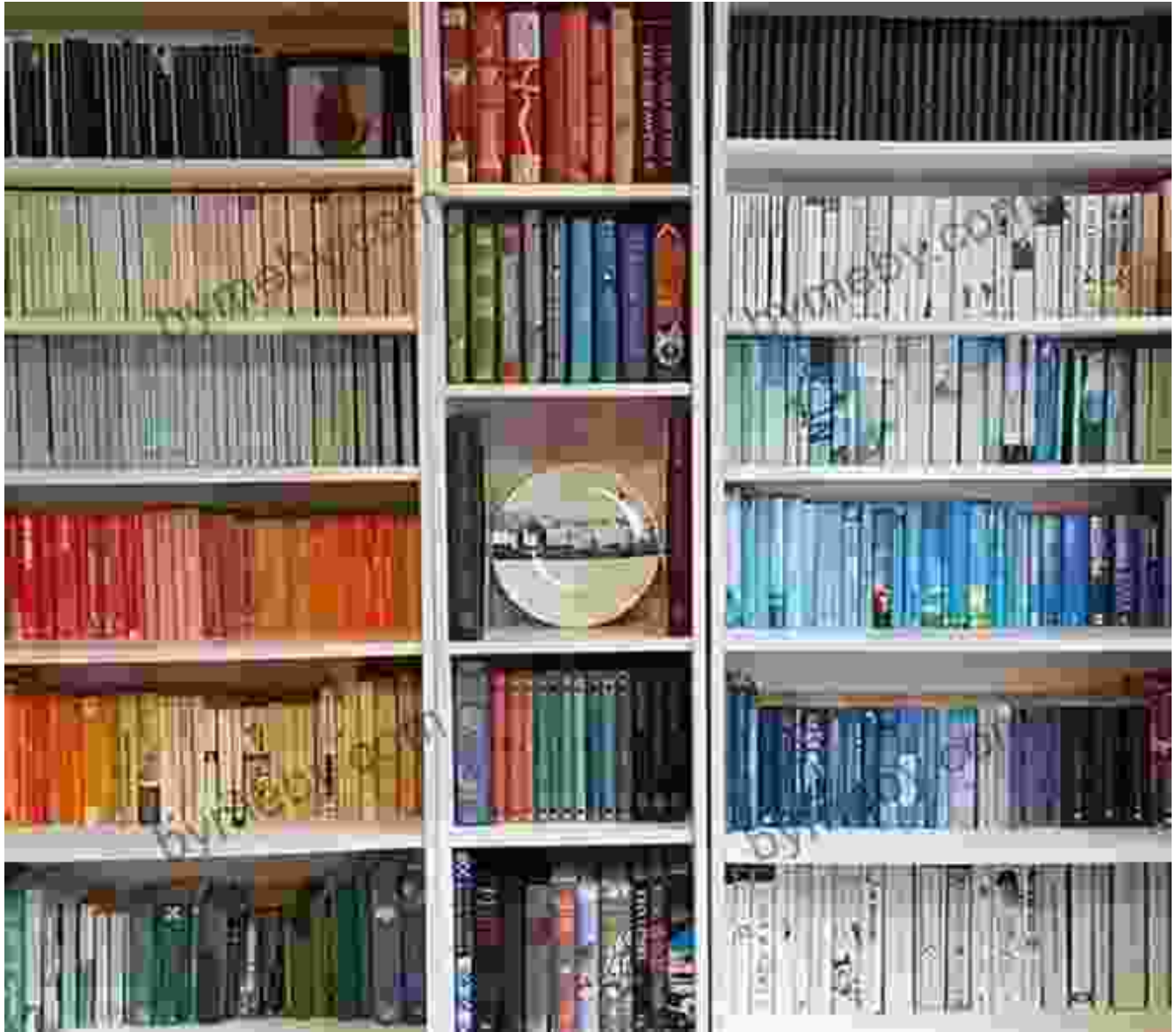
Darden's software was essential to the success of the Apollo missions. It helped to ensure that the astronauts had the information they needed to make critical decisions.

Darden's work was a major contribution to the space race, and she helped to make the United States the first country to land a man on the Moon. She was also a pioneer for women in STEM, and she inspired many young women to pursue careers in science and engineering.

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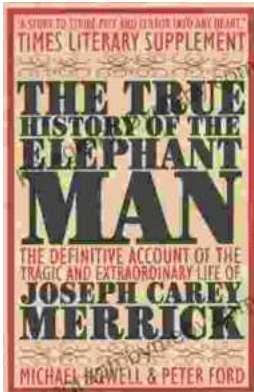
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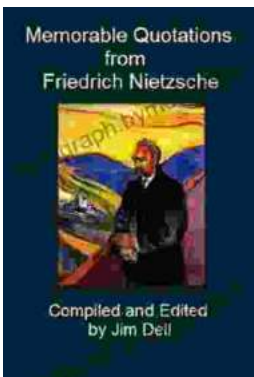
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