

Coming closer and closer as you read these words is the greatest moment in mankind's history. M-Day... the day a human being will land on the moon. The moon will be our springboard in space... the outpost from which we will journey on to other, even more distant worlds. And the adventures that lie in wait... the wonders and hazards man will encounter in space... the changes spaceage technology has already started to effect in life here on earth... stagger the imagination.

For example, scientists foresee such revolutionary innovations as an orbital post office that will "deliver" letters almost anywhere in minutes. Person-to-person communication anywhere on earth through a wristwatch-sized transceiver. A "local" phone rate for calls to any point on the globe.

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THE VAST CHANGES the space age is bringing will affect all of us. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are now working on space-connected projects—millions will in the future. This year almost five billions of your tax dollars will be spent for space developments. Yet most of us have little real understanding of this new age of space. The LIFE Science Library—an important series of books designed to simplify, unify, organize and dramatize the whole fascinating world of science—saw the need for a volume that would explore man's past, present and future in space. Only LIFE's vast resources could handle such a huge editorial job. Now a unique combination of clear, crisp prose by space authority Arthur C. Clarke and dramatic picture essays reveals the whole story of MAN AND SPACE in a way that any intelligent adult or teenager can readily understand.

IN THIS REMARKABLE BOOK you'll meet all the

IN THIS REMARKABLE BOOK you'll meet all the dreamers and doers of space. Early Greeks who launched their mythological "astronauts" on waxed bird feathers. A Syrian who "peopled" the moon with cavalry riders on three-headed buzzards. A Boston clergyman whose fictional "Brick Moon"

successful liquid-propelled rocket.
You'll read the fascinating details of the space race. How Operation Paperclip delivered to us Germany's top space scientists. How a grapefruit-sized satellite gave us the first clue that the earth is pear-shaped. How "microbiological engineering" might turn Venus into a new home for man. How science may devise ways to travel to such distant planets as Saturn and Jupiter...even beyond our solar system to far-off Alpha Centauri.

YOU WILL SEE in vivid photographs, paintings YOU WILL SEE in vivid photographs, paintings and drawings, the wonders man has created or visualized for space conquest. The Lunar Excursion Module, one of the most complicated and ingenious machines ever designed. An advance lunar base that could shelter 6 explorers for 90 days. The "Sunflower" for solar power in space. The strange forms intelligent life may take on other planets. The sign language man may use to communicate with space "neighbors."

EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A TV SET WORKS, this book will open your mind to the basic concepts of space technology. It will lift your heart with the story of man's ingenuity and enduring courage. It may even inspire in you, or in someone near to you, a dream that will one day help us leap for the stars.

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Twenty years ago, Arthur C. Clarke wrote a technical paper which first suggested the communications satellite. For this he was awarded a gold medal by the Franklin Institute. He has an international reputation as an authority on space and as a science-fiction writer, and has written some 30 books published around the world in 200 editions.

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