



Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey Into the Unknown

By Gordon Cooper, Bruce Henderson

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Gordon Cooper was one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts, a select group of the nation's top military test pilots who braved the frontiers of space in the days when strapping yourself to a rocket meant you would be either a hundred miles up or six feet under. Today he is undeniably a part of our nation's history as one of the four surviving Mercury Seven space pioneers. In *Leap of Faith*, Cooper not only reveals compellingly what went on behind the scenes of the early U.S. space program, but he also takes dead aim at the next millennium of space travel with his strong views on the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence--and even the distinct possibility that we have already had contact.

During his distinguished military flying career, Cooper was one of the best of the best at Edwards Air Force Base, where the setting of world records for speed, endurance, and altitude was an everyday occurrence. Even before joining this nation's newly formed manned space program, he understood the dangerous nature of new technologies: hanging it over the edge and pushing the envelope, then hauling it back in and doing it again tomorrow.

"Gordo" Cooper learned to fly with his father at age eight in his hometown of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and soloed by the time he was twelve. As an impressionable boy, he met overnight visitors to the Cooper household, including famous aviators like Amelia Earhart and Wiley Post, which only heightened his desire to take to the skies.

Ride with Cooper through his adventurous life in the cockpits of planes and spacecraft alike--he was the last American to go into space alone, exactly thirty-five years ago. He flew in Mercury and Gemini, and served as head of flight crew operations for both Apollo and Skylab, America's first orbiting space station. He was also backup command pilot for Apollo X and directed design input changes for the space shuttle program. He was buddies with Gus Grissom, who died in the tragic Apollo I fire at Cape Canaveral, and was close to Wernher von Braun, the German rocket scientist who was responsible for the United States beating Russia into space, and then to the Moon. Through it all, Cooper, a hero who shuns the label, speaks candidly of his defeats as well as his accomplishments. His life is a

tapestry of space travel in the twentieth century.

And beyond. From a source as credible as Gordo Cooper come these claims: He innocently took revealing pictures of the mysterious Area 51 during his Gemini mission and ended up in the White House speaking about it to the president of the United States; he and other military pilots have chased unidentified aircraft in their Jets; and footage of UFOs taken by his film crew was confiscated by the government, all part of the U.S. military's long-time UFO cover-up.

Buckle yourself in and prepare for a wild ride; *Leap of Faith* takes you places you have never been before---and with Cooper's firm hand at the controls.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this engaging memoir, Mercury 7 astronaut Cooper adds his compelling voice to the chorus of critics charging a U.S. governmental coverup of the UFO phenomenon. Written in the first person with Henderson (coauthor of *And the Sea Will Tell*), this book will challenge UFO skeptics and believers alike. On the one hand, Cooper states that, despite many reports to the contrary, neither he nor other astronauts saw UFOs in outer space. On the other hand, he reports that in 1951, as a young air force pilot based in Germany, he chased saucer-shaped UFOs, and that groups of UFOs passed over the base daily at speeds far superior to any manmade craft. In 1957, at Edwards Air Force Base in the California desert, Cooper was given photographs of a "classic saucer" that had reportedly landed at the top-secret military installation. He sent the photos to a Pentagon general, but never heard about the matter again. In the late 1970s, Cooper (who's now an aeronautical designer) unsuccessfully tried to launch a research company devoted to free worldwide energy transmission using Nikola Tesla's discoveries, as well as to advanced medical devices and other projects. His partner in this venture, Valerie Ransone, claims to receive scientifically useful telepathic transmissions from extraterrestrial sources. The story gets a lot weirder, as Cooper agrees to join Ransone in the Arizona desert for a telepathically arranged rendezvous with a UFO. Joining them at this alleged meeting (which was canceled) was Atlas missile aerospace engineer Dan Fry, who claims to have flown over Texas on board a UFO in 1950. On a more mundane level, Cooper's reminiscence offers an exciting insider's look at Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, full of startling details about NASA's internal politics, disasters, glitches and close calls. 16 pages of color photos. (Aug.)

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From Booklist

Although *he* is not, this autobiography of Cooper (youngest of the original seven *Mercury* astronauts) is slightly schizoid. Half of it recalls Cooper's distinguished career as an astronaut, which included the 22-orbit flight of *Mercury Faith 7* and the record-breaking, trouble-plagued flight of *Gemini 5* with the late Pete Conrad. Born and raised around aviation, Cooper left both the astronaut corps and the air force after the small-group politics of mission assignments led to his being denied an Apollo mission. He has devoted his life since, and devotes the rest of the book, to exploring the question of unidentified flying objects, in whose extraterrestrial origins he firmly believes, even if he isn't a UFO cultist. He draws on his background as an astronaut to bolster his persuasively argued position that, whatever UFO's may actually be, a policy of cover-up and obfuscation isn't going to help turn them into IFO's--identified flying objects. Full of tasty nuggets for space and ufology buffs and of portraits, not all of them kind, of his *Mercury* fellows, as well as his self-portrayal as an almost stereotypical fighter-jockey, Cooper's book attests that, when the time came, he boldly went where few had gone before, helping blaze the trail for the many who have followed. *Roland Green*

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Review

"You must read *Leap of Faith*. Gordon Cooper is a true American hero from a stock in short supply today." - --Art Bell

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Zimmerman:

What do you consider book? It is just for students as they are still students or that for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey Into the Unknown*. All type of book would you see on many methods. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

James Rodriguez:

Typically the book *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey Into the Unknown* will bring that you the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very suitable to you. The book *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey Into the Unknown* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Anne Corchado:

Exactly why? Because this *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey Into the Unknown* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Larry Tatro:

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