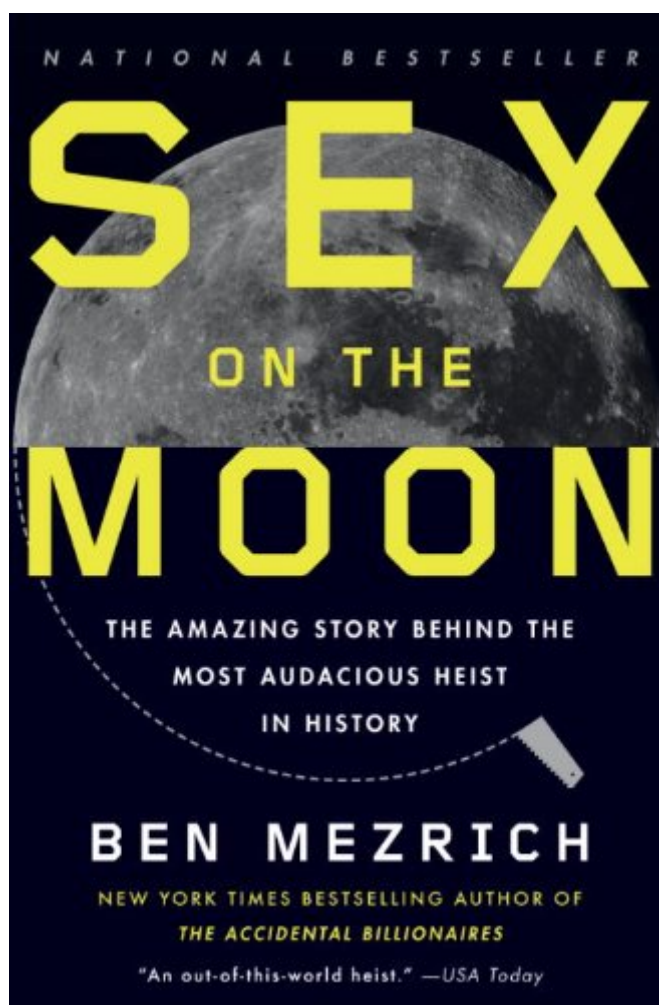


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Sex On The Moon: The Amazing Story Behind The Most Audacious Heist In History



Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *The Accidental Billionaires* and *Bringing Down the House*, this is the incredible true story of how a college student and two female accomplices stole some of the rarest objects on the planet—moon rocks—from an "impregnable" high-tech vault. But breaking into a highly secure laboratory wasn't easy. Thad Roberts, an intern in a prestigious NASA training program, would have to concoct a meticulous plan to get past security checkpoints, an electronically locked door with cipher security codes, and camera-lined hallways even before he could get his hands on the 600-pound safe. And then how was he supposed to get it out? And what does one do with an item so valuable that it's illegal even to own? With his signature high-velocity style, Mezrich reconstructs the outlandish heist and tells a story of genius, love, and duplicity that reads like a Hollywood thrill ride.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Prologue had me hooked. Reading this story was like watching a movie that was based on a true story, and I kept wishing Thad would back out of his crazy plan. It was a bittersweet, fascinating

glimpse into a world I would otherwise never see or experience and for that alone, it was worth the read. Thad was as good a protagonist as a made-up character with all his flaws and strengths. It was wonderful to see how he pulled himself up and strode forward to excel in astonishing fashion after his parents' cold and devastating abandonment. Equally amazing and even more heart-rendering was how easily Thad veered off the path to self-destruction. The detail was pitch-perfect so that the scenes and their ambiance came through as genuine. And, even when the scenes made me think Thad was being incredibly dim-witted for such a smart kid, the story was written well enough that I believed it. For example, Thad was naive to believe the rock collectors would not tip off the police, yet Ben Mezrich tells the story in a way that made me understand how it could happen, even while I shook my head in disbelief. Thad's anguish and heartbreak are palpable and I was glad to follow him out of prison and back into society as a productive, rehabilitated genius.

I must add my vote to the poor ratings for this book. My perspective may be different from most; I knew both Thad and his wife from their early days in Utah. I'd hoped to learn some of the back story that led to the disintegration of their relationship and to Thad's downfall. Forget it! Mr. Mezrich may have had to make up a story to protect the not-so-innocent, but his narrative has nothing to do with reality as I'd seen it firsthand. This is a superficial work of little merit whose appeal ends just after its title.

Thad Roberts was an intellectually gifted man, who was at a social disadvantage from the start. Kicked out of his house, and shunned from his family, Roberts was forced to create his own success. Always fascinated with the stars, Thad made the confusing decision to pursue a career as an astronaut. Despite not having the money or the education of his peers and competitors Roberts achieves his dreams, and is on the fast track to become an astronaut. However, he throws it away for a girl when he literally gives her the moon by stealing a moon rock from NASA. Thad's journey to jail is one of true perseverance, intelligence, and stupidity. In Ben Mezrich's six non-fiction book, he hits it out of the park. Through stellar writing, Mezrich is able to effectively introduce the confusing Thad Roberts to the audience. Roberts is clearly a man of great depth, and Mezrich's writing helps unlock Roberts' depth, to the reader's delight. The true beauty of Mezrich's writing is that he makes the readers fall in love with a character despite the fact that the character is breaking the law. By the end of the story the reader is emotionally attached to the misunderstood genius that is Thad Roberts. Even when Roberts is hauled off to jail for stealing from the government, the reader feels for him because they are emotionally attached to Roberts. Mezrich writes from the viewpoint of

Roberts, and uses Thad's thoughts to explain the ins and outs of NASA and the situation. With this method Mezrich is never forced to go on a tangent to explain a situation. This keeps the reader engaged throughout the story, because there is no feeling that the author is giving a history lesson instead of telling a story. In comparison to his other books, this is by far Mezrich's hardest task due to Roberts' mistakes, and the complexity of the situation. However, Mezrich passes with flying colors, and creates by far his most interesting book, as well as his most well written one. Read this book no matter what because Mezrich has created a beauty of a book that should be read and enjoyed by all.

Nice writing style, you feel like you are there during the entire episode. Will read more books by this author. Title is a little mis-leading. Not quite what it sounds like.

My 23 year old son loved this book. He suggested it to my sister, a retired librarian and full time reader. She mentioned it to me several times. I finally ordered it and could not put it down. I don't know why the author titled it "Sex on the Moon" . I would appreciate it if anyone has any thoughts on that in another review. If you are a NASA fan or have ever visited NASA in Houston you will enjoy it even more as you will be familiar with the terms and places at NASA. Since my son worked there, I was familiar with many of the areas of the building mentioned in the book. BUT you certainly don't have to really enjoy this wonderful book. Knowing this was a true story, pulled off by a 20 year old made it even more intriguing

Ben Mezrich is a gifted writer, and this is a fascinating story proving that Truth is often stranger than Fiction. But I have to say, if it had not been a book club selection, I never would have picked up the book because of its title. For those readers of similar mind, I'll reveal that the title originates from a short scene which would appeal to the very young, which I definitely am not, and struck me as a too obvious ploy to get people to buy the book. Do not let the title deter you. If you are at all interested in the space program at NASA in historical terms, this book makes the history go down easily, and the main character is portrayed as a charismatic blend of good and evil.

The story is compelling in the beginning but mid way through the book the main character becomes annoying. We start out being led to believe that he was stealing the moon rocks for the sake of love. It sounds crazy and impossible so I read on to find out how. But then as the story goes the main character it turns out is simply a thief, counting the cash he's going to get when he sells national

treasures.

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