



I am very happy to report that my new book *Spaceman: The True Story of a Young Boy's Journey to Becoming an Astronaut* will be published on April 7, 2020! Just in time to help keep young readers occupied with a positive activity while staying inside and healthy!

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Since publishing my NY Times Bestseller *Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe*, I have had the opportunity to speak about the book, my journey, and my experiences to a variety of audiences including school groups and younger readers. A question I often get from these younger readers is: "What kept you going after NASA rejected you 3 times?" I usually answer with a story from my days in graduate school at MIT. I was making dinner one evening in my apartment before a night of studying. I had the television news on in the background, and an interview with some astronauts was being

played. I took a break from cooking to watch and listen. As I watched the astronauts floating in the space shuttle answering questions, I thought to myself: "that is exactly what I want to do." I had clarity, no question, being an astronaut was the job for me. Almost immediately, another thought entered my mind: "but you will never get a chance to do that, becoming an astronaut is impossible." That is the way I felt about it a lot of the time, that I was pursuing something that could never happen. But that was not true. It was not impossible. It was just unlikely or really hard. If I were to look at it mathematically, the chances of my becoming an astronaut were maybe one out of a million or 0.000001, which is a non-zero number and by definition - possible. The only way that 1 at the end of the string of zeroes becomes a zero and then by definition my chances of becoming an astronaut would become 0.0 or impossible, is if I would give up. Once you give up you know the outcome, it won't happen, it is impossible. I encourage young people (and adults) to think about that 1 at the end of the string of zeros and to not give up on their dreams.

I started thinking about rewriting *Spaceman* to be more relatable to younger readers. I wanted to emphasize more of the formative experiences from my younger years that lead me to the astronaut program. The last push for me to write the young reader version of *Spaceman*, came when I received a special note from a young reader. I have received many nice letters from readers but this one stood out for me. Here is an excerpt:

"Your book has inspired me to never give up on my dreams. I am about to move to another state and I'm a little nervous but your book taught me that sometimes things are scary but if you try you can get through it."

I hope that after reading this book young people (and adults) will be inspired to follow their dreams, and never give up. If realizing a little kid dream can happen to me, it can happen to you too!

About the book:

An astronaut who completed spacewalks on two Hubble missions tells his inspiring story in this middle grade adaptation of the bestselling adult memoir, *Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe*. Publication Date: April 7, 2020.

From the time he was seven-years-old and saw Apollo 11 land on the moon, Mike Massimino dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Long Island is a long way from space. Kids like him, growing up in working-class families, seldom left the neighborhood. But with the encouragement of teachers and mentors, Mike ventured down on a path that took him to Columbia University and to MIT. It wasn't easy. There were academic setbacks and disappointments aplenty--and NASA turned him down three times. Still, Mike never gave up. He rose to each challenge and forged ahead, inching closer to realizing his boyhood dream. His love of science and space, along with his indomitable spirit and sense of teamwork eventually got him assigned to two missions to fix the Hubble Space Telescope--as a spacewalker.

Spaceman takes readers on Mike's unlikely ride from Earth to space, showing the breathtaking wonder of science and technology along the way.



Praise for *Spaceman: The True Story of a Young Boy's Journey to Becoming an Astronaut*:

"Mike Massimino is a spaceman through and through. In this edition for young people, he tells us how hard work can take you out of this world. He believes in teamwork, and he never gives up. Prepare to be inspired." —**Bill Nye, Science Guy and CEO, The Planetary Society**

"A grand, inspiring, sometimes hilarious ride." —**Kirkus Reviews**

"From his childhood days peering up at the sky to his struggles to find his life's calling, Massimino's story will inspire many kids." —**School Library Journal**

"An inspirational guide for young people on their own life journeys." —**Booklist**

Praise for *Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe*:

During astronaut training, Massimino was merely adequate at most tasks, never the best. But after returning to Earth, he began lecturing on his experiences, and he decided, “Maybe I could be one of the best at telling the story of space.” If “Spaceman” is any indication, he might well be. —**New York Times Book Review**

“Every generation of astronauts needs a storyteller — a person with wit, humor, and passion who has lived our collective dreams of space exploration and returned to tell us all about it. Mike Massimino is that person. He’s that astronaut. And this is his story.”—**Neil deGrasse Tyson**

“Mike Massimino writes about space with an astronaut’s eye and an engineer’s precision. You’ll be impressed with his journey and his perspective on where a well-developed space program can take us in the future.”—**Senator John Glenn**

“Massimino’s incredible journeys, filled with grit, courage, suspense and thrills, are told with such candor and delight, that for a brief moment I felt I’d finally made it to space too. Read this book and be inspired to reach for the impossible.” —**Brian Greene, Columbia University, author of *The Fabric of the Cosmos***

“An engaging and uplifting memoir that’s sure to give readers a deeper appreciation for the U.S. space program and inspire some future astronauts.” —**Publishers Weekly**

About the author (2020)

MIKE MASSIMINO served as a NASA astronaut from 1996 to 2014. A veteran of two space flights to the Hubble Space Telescope, Mike and his crews set team records for spacewalking time, and he became the first person to tweet from space. He has played himself on the CBS sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, was featured in the IMAX film *Hubble 3D*, and has appeared frequently in television documentaries and on late-night talk shows and news programs. A graduate of Columbia University and MIT, Mike lives in New York City, where he is a professor at Columbia and an advisor at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. Visit him online at MikeMassimino.com and follow @Astro_Mike on Twitter and @astromikemassimino on Instagram.

