



Martian Summer: My Ninety Days with Interplanetary Pioneers, Temperamental Robots, and NASA's Phoenix Mars Mission

By Andrew Kessler

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A space enthusiast goes inside mission control with a motley crew of rocket scientists in this “fascinating journey of discovery peppered with humor” (*Publishers Weekly*).

The *Phoenix* Mars mission was the first man-made probe ever sent to the Martian arctic. Its purpose was to find out how climate change could turn a warm, wet planet (read: Earth) into a cold, barren desert (read: Mars). Along the way, *Phoenix* discovered a giant frozen ocean trapped beneath the north pole of Mars, exotic food for aliens, and liquid water, and laid the foundation for NASA’s current exploration of Mars using the *Curiosity* rover.

This is not science fiction. It’s fact. And for the luckiest fanboy in fandom, it was the best vacation ever. Andrew Kessler spent the summer of 2008 in NASA’s mission control with one hundred thirty of the world’s best planetary scientists and engineers as they carried out this ambitious operation. He came back with a story of human drama about modern-day pioneers battling NASA politics, temperamental robots, and the bizarre world of daily life in mission control.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Readers will thrill to this slightly offbeat firsthand account of scientific determination and stubborn intellect. Kessler, producer of a Discovery Channel documentary on Mars and the self-professed winner of "the space-nerd lottery," was allowed to shadow the 2009 Phoenix Mars Lander mission, which would make the groundbreaking discovery of water and ice on Mars. A product of NASA's 1990s "faster, cheaper, better" mantra, Phoenix had none of the space program's usual bells and whistles, with a recycled lander and a mission control with a decided "church basement aesthetic." But there was free ice cream. Offered this unique opportunity, Kessler felt some self-doubt and had trouble adjusting to a work schedule set by the long Mars days. But along with his own witty personality, he captures the lively scientists behind the project, from Peter Smith, "world's greatest Martian Photographer," to Matt Robinson, a robot arm expert. Kessler also captures the frustrations and triumphs of a project in which a 15-minute communications lag between Mars and Earth meant anything could go wrong. This behind-the-scenes look delivers a fascinating journey of discovery peppered with humor. (Apr.)

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Review

"An informative and even charming semi-insider account of how such a mission operates, how humans fare on Mars time, and how scientists and administrators behave under extreme stress." —*The Washington Post*

"Readers will thrill to this slightly offbeat firsthand account of scientific determination and stubborn intellect. . . . This behind-the-scenes look delivers a fascinating journey of discovery peppered with humor." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A candid and precise account of the ups and downs of a space mission. This book shows what it is to participate in a short and intense landed Mars expedition. It gives the feel of the pressure and excitement at mission control, where engineers, managers and scientists work together while trying to satisfy contradictory requirements, showing the human side of science with refreshing honesty." —Nilton Renno, professor of atmospheric and space sciences, University of Michigan

"It is as if I imagined Holden Caulfield writing about the mission. *Martian Summer* is a riot." —Peter Smith, professor, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, and principal investigator of the *Phoenix* Project

About the Author

Andrew Kessler is a writer living in Brooklyn. He holds a degree in mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley. *Martian Summer* is his first book about Mars or any planet, for that matter.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Colleen Key:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading through you can get a

lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write for their book. One of them is this Martian Summer: My Ninety Days with Interplanetary Pioneers, Temperamental Robots, and NASA's Phoenix Mars Mission.

Rick Maldonado:

Martian Summer: My Ninety Days with Interplanetary Pioneers, Temperamental Robots, and NASA's Phoenix Mars Mission can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Martian Summer: My Ninety Days with Interplanetary Pioneers, Temperamental Robots, and NASA's Phoenix Mars Mission nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Robert Beaubien:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that question was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them are these claims Martian Summer: My Ninety Days with Interplanetary Pioneers, Temperamental Robots, and NASA's Phoenix Mars Mission.

Walter Pyle:

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