



Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship

By George Dyson

Download now

Read Online 

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson

The improbable story of the wildest idea—a space craft powered by hydrogen bombs—to come out of the space race.

It was the late 1950s. The Cold War was raging. *Sputnik* had made its voyage and the space race was on. In America, it was the age of tail fins and "duck and cover," but it was also a time of big ideas and dreams. On his way to school one day, George Dyson learned of a truly fantastical idea: massive space vehicles that would be powered by explosions of multiple hydrogen bombs. Among the brilliant minds behind this project was George's father, the eminent physicist Freeman Dyson.

Project Orion chronicles this fascinating episode in U.S. scientific research, while capturing a unique time in American history and culture. The project brought together a cadre of brilliant physicists, the first such assemblage since the Manhattan Project of fifteen years earlier. In an idyllic seaside community in southern California—the very picture of 1950s suburban prosperity—a handful of scientists, tackled a massive project that required the ingenuity of an engineer and the vision of a great theoretician. Their work—ambitious but ultimately futile—took place against the political and cultural backdrop of the Cold War, when nuclear technology spelled both promise and terror.

Dyson's prodigious historical and scientific research, combined with his personal reminiscences and connections, make for a lively, richly detailed narrative.

 [Download Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaces ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spac ...pdf](#)

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship

By George Dyson

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson

The improbable story of the wildest idea—a space craft powered by hydrogen bombs—to come out of the space race.

It was the late 1950s. The Cold War was raging. *Sputnik* had made its voyage and the space race was on. In America, it was the age of tail fins and "duck and cover," but it was also a time of big ideas and dreams. On his way to school one day, George Dyson learned of a truly fantastical idea: massive space vehicles that would be powered by explosions of multiple hydrogen bombs. Among the brilliant minds behind this project was George's father, the eminent physicist Freeman Dyson.

Project Orion chronicles this fascinating episode in U.S. scientific research, while capturing a unique time in American history and culture. The project brought together a cadre of brilliant physicists, the first such assemblage since the Manhattan Project of fifteen years earlier. In an idyllic seaside community in southern California—the very picture of 1950s suburban prosperity—a handful of scientists, tackled a massive project that required the ingenuity of an engineer and the vision of a great theoretician. Their work—ambitious but ultimately futile—took place against the political and cultural backdrop of the Cold War, when nuclear technology spelled both promise and terror.

Dyson's prodigious historical and scientific research, combined with his personal reminiscences and connections, make for a lively, richly detailed narrative.

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Bibliography

- Rank: #1193635 in Books
- Published on: 2002-04-16
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.62" h x 1.24" w x 6.26" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

 [Download Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaces ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spac ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Like cheap, shiny space suits and bug-eyed rubber monsters, nuclear-powered spaceships today seem like little more than laughably naïve 1950s science fiction tropes. It might have been otherwise--and still could be. George Dyson, son of supergenius physicist Freeman Dyson, wrote *Project Orion* to share some of his father's amazing research with the world. Much had been kept secret for years, but Dyson's unique insider status permits great depth and breadth on this important tale. Conceived in the wake of *Sputnik*, Project Orion was a true vision of '50s engineering: a huge 40-person ship powered by hundreds of tiny atomic bombs, capable of much greater lift and efficiency than chemically driven rockets. Struggles between NASA, the military, Congress, and other parties doomed Orion, but Dyson has gathered hundreds of documents and interviewed most of the researchers and engineers who worked together, trying to reach "Saturn by 1970." His knack for storytelling makes the book a quick, delightful read; even the staunchest anti-nuke activist has to admit that lighting a cigarette off a parabolic mirror facing a bomb test is pretty cool. By the end of the 20th century, technology had caught up with the vision of Orion--it's considered one of our best bets for long-distance space transit. Whether or not that could ever happen politically, *Project Orion* is a compelling exploration of scientific imagination. --Rob Lightner

From Publishers Weekly

In the years after WWII and the Russian launch of two sputniks, Americans were searching for any technology that would give them dominance in the space race. In his latest, Dyson (*Darwin Among the Machines*) charts the history of the failed Project Orion, which called for a massive rocket to be built atop a nuclear-powered piston. The project's physicists and engineers, buoyed by the thrilling idea of traveling through space on "pulse technology," conducted a number of explosive experiments to ascertain the abilities of such a system (which reveals how little was actually known about the bombs being produced by the world's superpowers). Meanwhile, the project, started in 1957, ran headlong into detractors Kennedy and NASA included and eventually was canceled. Much of the technical information in the Orion files remains classified, but Dyson's explanations of the nuclear science behind the system are lucid. A great strength of Dyson's project is the interviews he conducted with surviving Orion team members among them his father, Freeman Dyson affording readers an intimate view of the story's central characters (and its government contractors) who helped shape Orion. At the same time, these compelling interviews drag on; the story's drama is diffused by the musings of its key players, who sometimes crowd out the dynamic background of the Cold War, Wernher Von Braun's chemical rocket program, atmospheric weapons test bans and presidential administrations vested in nuclear capacities only designed for destruction. Illus. and photos. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Shortly after the first Sputnik launch in 1957, an American scientific team proposed Project Orion, an enormous interplanetary spaceship propelled by exploding hundreds of nuclear bombs. The project commenced during the golden age of support for U.S. scientific research, but the team struggled to find ongoing funding. Civilian NASA found Orion unpalatable because of its inextricable link with nuclear weapons, while the military regarded the team's ultimate goal exploration of the solar system as peripheral to their own space research program. As public opposition to atmospheric nuclear testing grew, making even a small-scale test shot politically unfeasible, the project died for lack of support. Dyson, son of physicist Freeman Dyson (himself an Orion consultant), interviewed team members and tracked down scores of technical reports to compile this unique history. Unfortunately, some of the author's and interviewees'

remarks about fallout and classified bomb research seem naive, cavalier, or just plain insensitive in a post-September 11 context. For academic and larger public libraries. Nancy R. Curtis, Univ. of Maine Lib., Orono
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Sanchez:

Book is definitely written, printed, or created for everything. You can know everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A e-book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading a book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or suited book with you?

Nellie Wellborn:

The book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So why must we leave a very important thing like a book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship? Several of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim that book can give many info for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you are able to give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

John Edwards:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray an individual, why because this Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship as good book not merely by the cover but also with the content. This is one e-book that can break don't assess book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Helen Scott:

You can spend your free time to see this book this e-book. This Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship is simple to deliver you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train and soon. If you did not include much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you quicker to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that

you will get when one buys this book.

Download and Read Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson #NQ50I1Z9HXW

Read Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson for online ebook

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson books to read online.

Online Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson ebook PDF download

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Doc

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson Mobipocket

Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson EPub

NQ5011Z9HXW: Project Orion: The True Story of the Atomic Spaceship By George Dyson