

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

NEIL ARMSTRONG

PUFFIN BOOKS

UK | USA | Canada | Ireland | Australia
India | New Zealand | South Africa

Puffin Books is part of the Penguin Random House group of companies
whose addresses can be found at global.penguinrandomhouse.com.

www.penguin.co.uk
www.puffin.co.uk
www.ladybird.co.uk



Penguin
Random House
UK

First published 2019

001

Text copyright © Martin Howard, 2019
Illustrations copyright © Freda Chiu, 2019

The moral right of the author and illustrator has been asserted

Text design by Jan Bielecki
Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-0-241-37542-6

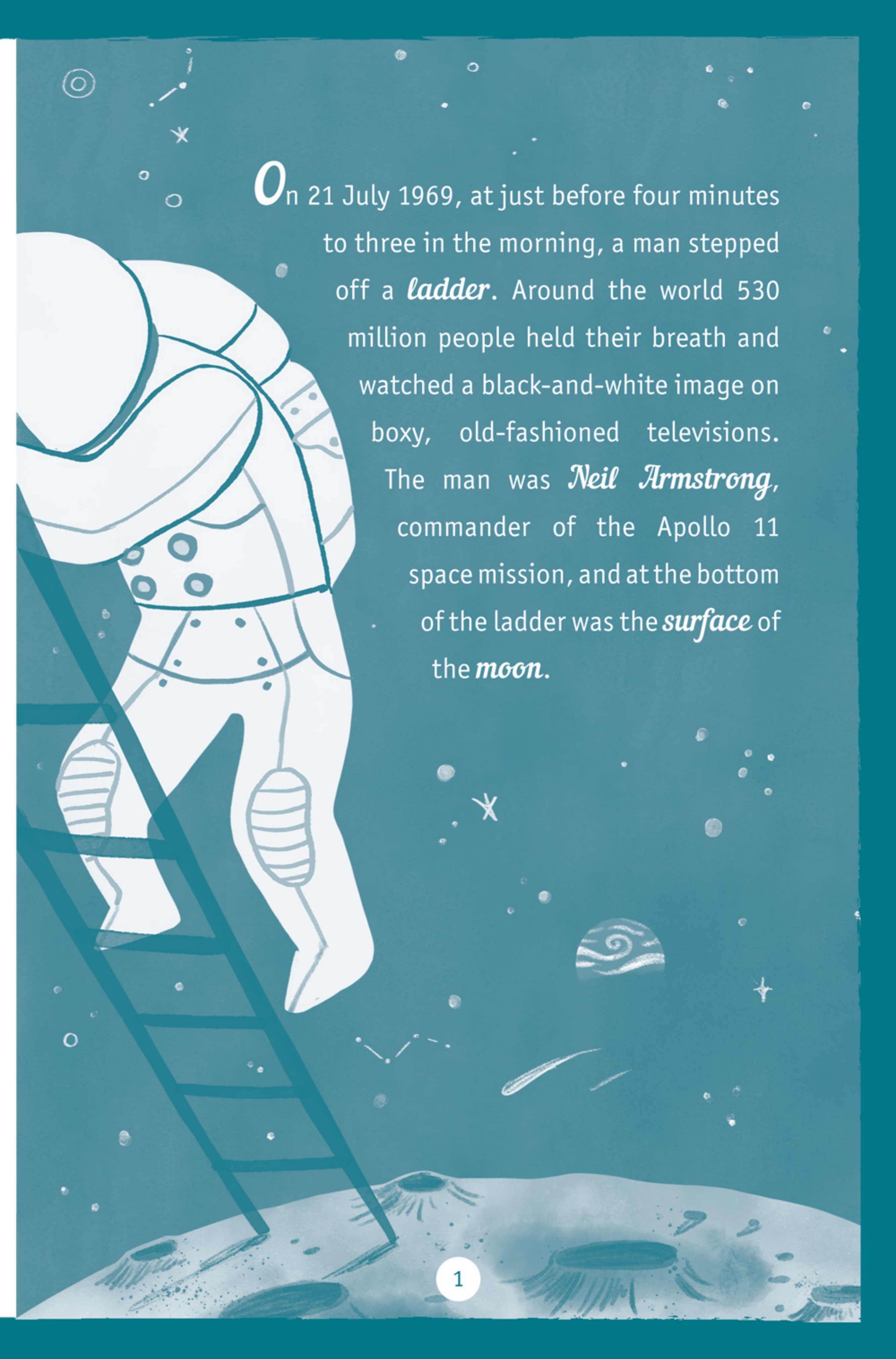
All correspondence to:
Puffin Books, Penguin Random House Children's
80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL



Penguin Random House is committed to a sustainable future for our business, our readers and our planet. This book is made from Forest Stewardship Council® certified paper.


WHO WAS *Neil* *Armstrong?*



An illustration of an astronaut in a white spacesuit with a large helmet, standing on a dark ladder that extends from the top left towards the bottom center. The astronaut is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking down. The background is a dark teal space filled with various celestial objects: stars of different sizes and shapes, constellations represented by thin white lines, a crescent moon in the lower right, and a larger, textured sphere resembling a planet or moon in the middle right. The overall style is a simple, hand-drawn illustration.

On 21 July 1969, at just before four minutes to three in the morning, a man stepped off a *ladder*. Around the world 530 million people held their breath and watched a black-and-white image on boxy, old-fashioned televisions. The man was *Neil Armstrong*, commander of the Apollo 11 space mission, and at the bottom of the ladder was the *surface* of the *moon*.



A stylized illustration of space. At the top center is a planet with blue and white swirling patterns. The background is a dark teal color filled with various stars and small white circles. In the lower half, there's a lighter teal area representing a comet shower or a different part of space, with many small white circles and some larger, elongated shapes resembling comets or meteors. The overall style is simple and illustrative.

When he first set foot on the moon Neil Armstrong was thirty-eight years old. He was a quiet **ENGINEER** and pilot who once described himself as a 'nerd'.

Neil's step was one of the most important and extraordinary in human history. With one footstep he showed that humanity's voyages of discovery could continue out into space.

ENGINEER:
someone
who designs
and makes
machinery.

MOONWALKERS: A VERY SMALL CLUB

You could probably fit all the people who have ever walked on the moon into your bedroom. So far there have been only twelve, including Neil Armstrong.



The moon landing was not Neil's achievement alone. Back in the landing craft – called the lunar module, or Eagle – his co-pilot, **Buzz Aldrin**, was waiting to follow him down.

Miles above, *Michael Collins* was **ORBITING** the moon in the command module called Columbia, waiting to take them home again.



ORBIT:

to go round and round something. All the planets in the solar system orbit the sun.

The moon is a **satellite**

(something that travels round the Earth), or a 'celestial body', or an 'astronomical body'.



Back on Earth thousands of people, from presidents to engineers, had made incredible *efforts* to prepare for the journey. It had cost the American people *billions* of dollars to get all three men to the moon. But this was Neil Armstrong's moment, a moment that made him one of the most *famous* people on Earth, and a moment that would be *remembered* for all time.

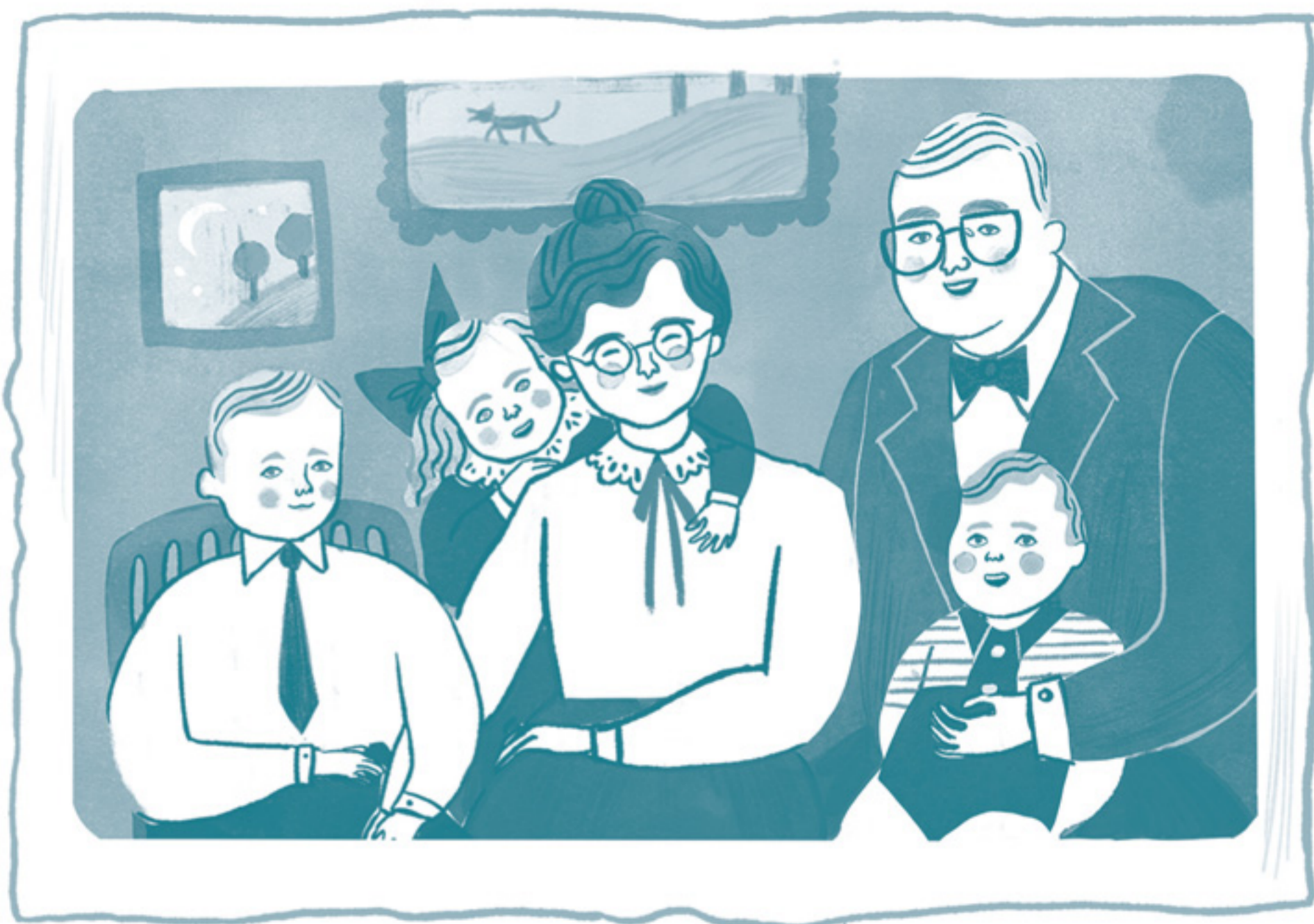


*'I think we're
going to the moon
because it's in the nature
of the human being to face
challenges.'*



Small steps

The boy who would one day walk on the moon was born near a small town called **Wapakoneta** in the American state of Ohio on 5 August 1930. The **oldest** of three children, Neil had a happy childhood.



His father, Stephen, moved around a lot for his work as an **AUDITOR**. By the time Neil was fourteen the family had moved sixteen times, ending up back in Wapakoneta.

AUDITOR:
a person who does
an audit, checking a
company's accounts.

Everywhere the family went, Neil made friends easily. People liked him. He read a lot, and was a *quiet* kid who didn't much enjoy being the centre of *attention*, but he was clever, honest, often funny and easy to get along with.

