

Windstorm Creative
7419 Ebbert Dr SE Port Orchard WA 98367
(360) 769-7174 ph • (206) 350-7963 fx
www.WindstormCreative.com

TITLE INFORMATION

A Teen's-Eye View of Life on the Moon. Blue Works, the young adult division of Windstorm Creative, is pleased to announce *Lunar Pioneers*, by Robert A. Black, author of *The Real Life Channel* and former script writer for *You Can't Do That on Television*.

All her life, Blair Kelly has listened to the stories of her ancestors on the American frontier. Now it's her turn to follow in their footsteps – but she'll be helping settle the new frontier of the Moon. Soon, an ordinary 22nd century Earth girl is learning how to wear a spacesuit, discovering the wonders of space flight and exploring the Moon's mysteries. But is she ready to leave everything she knew behind and face the challenge of a new world?

This media kit includes:

Press Release
Author Interview
First-Person Essays (2)
Reader Review
Ordering Information

Jennifer DiMarco
Chief Executive Officer

Cris K.A. DiMarco
Senior Editor

All Divisions

Order Processing
orders@windstormcreative.com

Legal and Subsidiary Rights
legal@windstormcreative.com

Blue Works
Fandom Press
Immortal Day Publishing
Lightning Rod Publishers

Little Blue Works
Orchard Academy Press
Paper Frog Productions
Windstorm Creative

Windstorm Creative
7419 Ebbert Dr SE Port Orchard WA 98367
(360) 769-7174 ph • (206) 350-7963 fx
www.WindstormCreative.com

PRESS RELEASE

She's the New Girl in Town – On the Moon!

TITLE: Lunar Pioneers

AUTHOR: Robert A. Black

PUBLICATION DATE: 2008

PRICE: \$14.99

PAGE COUNT: 234

ISBN: 9781590923979

DESCRIPTION: All her life, Blair Kelly has listened to the stories of her ancestors on the American frontier. Now it's her turn to follow in their footsteps – but she'll be helping settle the new frontier of the Moon. Soon, an ordinary 22nd century Earth girl is learning how to wear a spacesuit, discovering the wonders of space flight and exploring the Moon's mysteries. But is she ready to leave everything she knew behind and face the challenge of a new world?

RELEVANCE: *Lunar Pioneers* depicts the thrill and adventure of space travel while still being grounded in scientific fact. The story gives young readers a realistic look at the wonders and challenges of the final frontier, through the eyes of someone living a life much like their own. At the same time, the story looks back to the days of an earlier frontier exploring the threads of time that connect past, present and future.

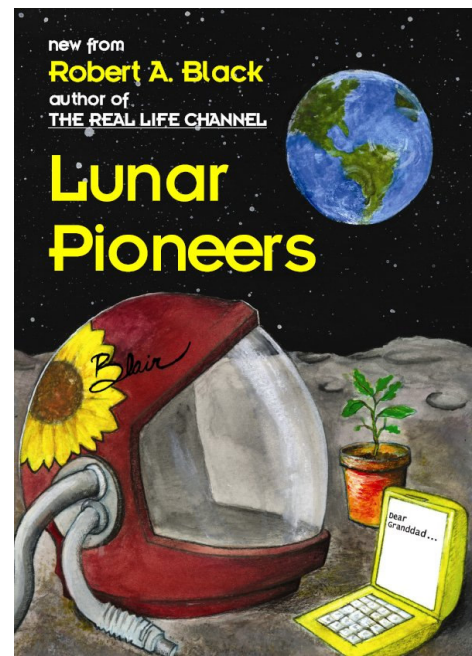
AUTHOR'S CREDENTIALS: Born and raised in Indianapolis, Robert A. Black still remembers the night in July 1969 when his parents got him out of bed to watch the first astronauts walking on the Moon. He studied mechanical engineering in college and currently works by day as a Quality Assurance Manager in Southern California. His previous work includes nine episodes of the TV series, *You Can't Do That On Television*, and the book, *The Real Life Channel*.

PRINT RUN: 10,000

GENRE: Young Adult Fiction

DISTRIBUTION: Ingram, Baker & Taylor, PartnersWest, Midwest Library Service, Brodart, and more as well as directly from the publisher.

CONTACT: Cris DiMarco (crisdimarco@windstormcreative.com) or at the address and phone above.



Jennifer DiMarco
Chief Executive Officer

Cris K.A. DiMarco
Senior Editor

All Divisions

Order Processing
orders@windstormcreative.com

Legal and Subsidiary Rights
legal@windstormcreative.com

Blue Works
Fandom Press
Immortal Day Publishing
Lightning Rod Publishers

Little Blue Works
Orchard Academy Press
Paper Frog Productions
Windstorm Creative

INTERVIEW

Peering into the Future with *Lunar Pioneers*

An interview with author Robert A. Black. This interview may be reprinted as a whole or in part. For digital copy of the interview, contact us at legal@windstormcreative.com

What made you want to write this book?

I had two main reasons – you could say they were two challenges I gave myself. First, I felt like I hadn't seen anything in recent science fiction that gave young people a future they could hope for and try to reach. If you talk to people at NASA or in the aerospace industry, a lot of them will tell you that when they were young, they read books by Isaac Asimov or Robert Heinlein, or especially that they watched *Star Trek*. But today there seems to be a lot more fantasy being written, and less science fiction that a kid can think about and say, "Yeah, I want to do that!"

And you think that's important?

Absolutely. If you want to see how much *Star Trek* has influenced our world, just take out a cell phone. What do most of them look like? Captain Kirk's communicator. The Discovery Channel did an entire two-hour special about all the inventions and developments that *Star Trek* helped inspire. Fantasy stories can be fun to read, but they can't inspire people in the same way. You're never going to see someone inventing a real magic wand or anything like that.

So what was your second reason?

I wanted to write a story that depicted space flight as realistically as possible. In some ways, the environment within the Earth-Moon system is more alien than what you typically see in science fiction. The reality of dealing with differences in gravity and atmosphere can be a lot more fantastic than a typical space battle or fight with a bug-eyed monster.

Why do think there haven't been more "realistic" space stories?

Well, first of all, most people have never had the chance to learn about what space flight is really like. The public started tuning out on NASA after the Apollo 11 landing in 1969, and despite NASA's best efforts, they've never been able to recapture the public's attention for very long. That's not their fault – NASA is a scientific organization, not part of the entertainment industry. But that means much of what it does only gets communicated to people who already want to know about it.

And second, the realities of space flight are simply too difficult for Hollywood to re-create easily or economically. Look at all the trouble Ron Howard went through to make *Apollo 13* – he had to build a set on an airplane and fly it up and down repeatedly to simulate zero gravity. A realistic depiction of life on the Moon would probably be even harder. Of course, life in space or on the Moon would be easy to show with animation, and I have seen a couple of Japanese anime series do a good job of it, but Hollywood doesn't seem to be interested.

So how did you prepare yourself to write the book?

I've been interested in the Moon ever since I watched the first Apollo landing at age four, so I already had the general knowledge I needed. To get ready for *Lunar Pioneers* in particular, I researched a lot of theories and engineering design concepts people have developed for an actual Moon colony, and I also read a lot of accounts written by actual astronauts and cosmonauts. I spent several weeks just going over the NASA records of the Apollo 17 landing site – transcripts, photographs, video clips and maps – because I wanted to get everything right when I had Blair and her family go there.

Was there anything in your research that really stood out from the rest?

One book I particularly liked was written by the first British cosmonaut, a woman named Helen Sharman. She was just a regular person – a chemist working for the Mars candy company, which the press found very amusing – and she won a competition to go to the Mir space station. Her account brought up a lot of the more mundane things about space flight that I didn't find anywhere else. That was just what I'd been looking for.

And then you named a research center after her.

Yes, I did. A lot of the people and places in the story are named after something or someone from the history of space flight. For example, the colonies are all named after space probes that studied the Moon – *Clementine*, *Ranger*, *Zond*, and so on. A few months after I finished the book, I got to meet the engineer who had been in charge of the *Lunar Prospector* mission. Fortunately, he didn't mind when I told him that in my book, Prospector Colony is the settlement that failed, and that all the kids think it's haunted.

What kind of story can you tell about life in space, if you don't have any space battles or bug-eyed monsters?

You could say that the theme of the book is, "My family is moving to the Moon – what's in it for me?" I wanted to give my audience a character they could relate to, doing things they could relate to. Blair and her friends go to class, play games, volunteer for after-school projects, and other things that kids today do as well. It's just that they do it someplace where all the rules for how things work are different. I wanted to show my readers what that kind of world has to offer.

Let's go back to what you said about watching the Moon landing at age four. Were you really that interested in space flight?

I was *obsessed*. I devoured book after book about rockets and space flight – even before I knew how to read, I still looked at all the pictures. I had a space-themed birthday party one year. I was always recruiting my little brother to go on imaginary Moon missions with me. I still remember being in kindergarten during the Apollo 13 mission – the day they made it back to Earth after their primary oxygen tank blew up, and everyone was waiting to see whether they'd splash down safely, all the kids in my class were out playing on the playground, but I was still in the classroom watching TV with my teachers.

Is that why you studied engineering in school?

That was my original plan, yes, to study engineering and then go into the space program. There were a lot of reasons why that didn't work out – the *Challenger* accident happened right in the middle of my senior year of college, for one thing, and by that time I'd discovered that I really didn't get into engineering down at the nitty-gritty, nuts-and-bolts level. I was writing for *You Can't Do That On Television* by then, and that looked more like what I wanted to do. But it's all worked out in the long run. My engineering background was a big help in writing *Lunar Pioneers*, and it's paid the bills while I've worked on getting a writing career going.

Do you think human beings will really colonize space? It looks like such a difficult and expensive thing to do.

If you asked someone at the start of the 16th century whether anyone would ever colonize the new world that Christopher Columbus had just discovered, you'd probably have gotten the same kinds of objections – and at that time, with that level of knowledge and technology, those objections would have been valid. But just as Europe eventually found ways to settle the Americas, I think humanity will eventually find ways to colonize space. And they'll do it for the same reason – because it's there. Because it has mysteries, and because it offers people a chance for adventure or a fresh start or a new opportunity. That's one reason why my book includes the ongoing conversation between Blair and her grandfather about their family's pioneer heritage. It's a reminder that human beings have always been pushing at their frontiers. I think that's something they'll always do.

FIRST-PERSON ESSAY

The Truth is Out There

Putting the Wonders of Science Fact Into Science Fiction

An essay by *Lunar Pioneers* author Robert A. Black. This essay may be reprinted as a whole or in part. For digital copy, contact us at legal@windstormcreative.com

I wanted to throw things at my TV set.

There I was, watching a children's science fiction TV movie (which shall remain nameless, to protect the offenders). The heroine was walking on the Moon, and had come across the "Moon Goddess," who had issued her an ultimatum. The Moon Goddess pointed to the Earth, which was slowly dropping toward the horizon, and told the heroine that all humans had to leave the Moon by the time the Earth set – or else.

Now, you might think I was upset by fact that this movie had a "Moon Goddess" character – but you'd be wrong. What bothered me was something a lot more basic. Something that was being presented as the truth, when anyone who looks up into the sky can see that it's not. The Moon Goddess gave the heroine until the Earth set to make everyone leave – but when you're standing on the Moon, the Earth *never* sets. It never moves in the sky! Because the Moon's orbit and its rotation are synchronized, the Earth will always appear in the same place when you look at it from the lunar surface.

That was the moment when I decided to write my book, *Lunar Pioneers*. I had already been thinking about it for a while, wondering about the challenge of writing a science fiction space adventure that was rooted in real science, without ray guns, bug-eyed monsters or any of the usual, less realistic story elements. Seeing that movie showed me that my idea could be more than just my own personal challenge – there was an important need out there that my book could help fill.

I've long believed that science fiction was capable of being more than simple escapism or entertainment. It can introduce its audience to new knowledge and new perspectives. It can give us a different look at the world we know, or a look at worlds we might never have imagined. It can educate, and it can inspire. But that can only happen if there are writers who make it happen.

In the past, authors like Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein wrote stories that introduced readers to the basics of science and spaceflight. On television, Gene Roddenberry gave us a future we could aspire to with the original *Star Trek*. The kids who read those stories and watched those shows grew up to be the scientists and engineers who are changing our world today. They grew up to be the people who really *are* exploring strange new worlds and going boldly where no one has gone before, through the probes they've sent across the solar system. But who is inspiring the kids of today? Who is giving *them* the dreams they can take into tomorrow?

It's not as if we've run out of source material. Our knowledge of the universe has expanded immensely over the years. When Robert Heinlein published the last of his "juvenile" stories, no one had even flown in space yet. Today, we've actually been to the Moon, and our robotic emissaries have visited every major planet in the solar system. It's a weird and wonderful place. Even limiting myself to the Moon in *Lunar Pioneers*, I was able to touch on these curious facts of life:

- The Earth never moves in the sky (as I said before), and on the far side of the Moon, you can never see the Earth.
- Day and night each last for two weeks at a time.
- You have to live underground.
- When you leave footprints in the lunar dust, they'll stay there for hundreds of years (assuming no one steps on them).
- The one-sixth gravity allows you to jump several feet in the air, and hang there for several seconds.

Beyond the Moon, there are wonders that science fiction writers of the past could never have imagined. Sulfur volcanoes on Io, ice geysers on Enceladus, and hydrocarbon lakes on Titan. An incredibly complex family of rings and moons orbiting Saturn. An untold number of icy dwarf planets roaming around the outer solar system. Worlds even more fantastic circling around other stars. Meanwhile, here on Earth, we're discovering new ways to use the things we can do in space, and the private sector is learning how to do things up there without government help.

The truth *is* out there, and it's a lot more interesting than yet another round of bug-eyed monsters and ray guns. Who will be the ones to write about it? The future is waiting to find out.

FIRST-PERSON ESSAY

My Lifelong Friend, the Moon

An essay by Lunar Pioneers author Robert A. Black. This essay may be reprinted as a whole or in part. For digital copy, contact us at legal@windstormcreative.com

It's one of my earliest memories, the time when my parents woke me up late one night in July 1969 and took me to watch something incredible on TV – a fuzzy black-and-white image from another world. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin were climbing out of their Lunar Module, *Eagle*, and were walking on the surface of the Moon. I may have been only four years old at the time, but I understood the significance of what was happening – and I was mesmerized by it.

After that, I was absolutely hooked. Even before I knew how to read, I looked at the pictures in spaceflight books over and over, asking my parents what they were showing me. Even before I knew how to write, I drew picture stories full of astronauts and Saturn V rockets and Lunar Modules. When Bob Keeshan broadcast *Captain Kangaroo* from the CBS News lunar mockup studio during Apollo 12, I imagined the rest of the Captain's voyage, complete with Mr. Green Jeans orbiting above the Moon in the Command Module. Furniture in our house became a Command Module, a Lunar Module or a Lunar Rover, and during the Apollo 15 mission, my (infinitely patient) grandmother played Al Worden to my Dave Scott and my brother's Jim Irwin.

(Okay, so I was a weird kid. Are you really all that surprised?)

I suppose it was inevitable that once I became a writer, my imagination would venture into space again. We didn't go to the Moon on *You Can't Do That On Television*, but I did write the "Outer Space and Space Travel" episode, for which the crew built me a set that looked like a space shuttle cockpit. My return to the Moon has finally come with my book, *Lunar Pioneers*, a story about a colonist family in the 22nd century. In some ways, writing it was like retracing all those imaginary trips I took to the Moon all those years ago – only now, I have the research material and the technical understanding to give the journey a big dose of realism.

If I had to pick a favorite scene from the book, it would be the characters' visit to the Apollo 17 landing site, in the Taurus-Littrow valley. Writing it was like going back to an old childhood playground, as I went over the old mission photos and records to capture as much of the atmosphere (so to speak) as I could. In my version of the future, Taurus-Littrow has become

the Moon's "hands-on" tourist attraction, where visitors can get an up-close look at the old Apollo equipment, so I had to make sure I got it right. Taurus-Littrow is also where astronaut Gene Cernan wrote his nine-year-old daughter's initials in the lunar dust as he was parking the Rover for the last time. I thought that would be a good way to connect my readers to the scene, and I made the most of it.

People have largely overlooked the Moon in the years since Apollo. It's had something of a "been there, done that" feel to it, as most people have gone back to their pursuits here on Earth, looking toward space only for some more distant spectacle like the *Spirit* and *Opportunity* rovers on Mars. But now that's starting to change. NASA is going back to the Moon, beginning later this year with two robotic missions. Astronauts are expected to follow by 2020. And other countries have started their own lunar programs, too. A European probe circled the Moon in 2006, Chinese and Japanese probes are there now, and an Indian probe is almost ready to launch. Who knows? The next flag planted on the lunar surface might not be an American one.

Whoever reaches the Moon next, you can be sure I'll be watching them eagerly. After all, they'll be going to visit an old friend of mine, and you can be sure my imagination will be going out there with them.

Jennifer DiMarco
Chief Executive Officer

Cris K.A. DiMarco
Senior Editor

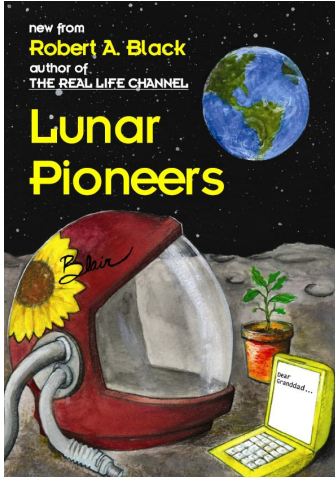
All Divisions

Order Processing
orders@windstormcreative.com

Legal and Subsidiary Rights
legal@windstormcreative.com

Blue Works
Fandom Press
Immortal Day Publishing
Lightning Rod Publishers

Little Blue Works
Orchard Academy Press
Paper Frog Productions
Windstorm Creative



Lunar Pioneers
By Robert A. Black
Brief Book Review
by Paige E.
Genre: Science Fiction

This book is about a girl named Blair who lives in the next century. She experiences a great change in her life when she moves from Nebraska (and all she knows on Earth) to the Moon. Her mom works and has lived on the Moon for a year, and she has finally gotten a pass to allow Blair and the rest of her family to come there to live. On the way, Blair makes many new friends, such as Valechka, Kyoko, Safiyyah, and even a girl named Judy who was born on the Moon.

Everything is fun and exciting on the Moon. They get to see the Apollo 17 landing and other landings, and see an "Earthrise." But then a tornado strikes her grandparents' farm in Nebraska, and Blair begins to worry. What will happen to them and the rest of her family back on Earth? Find out in *Lunar Pioneers*!

I recommend this book to 5th through 7th graders, and all who like Sci-Fi movies. All Trekkies welcome!

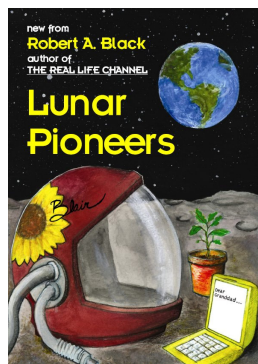
The theme is that leaving everyone and everything behind is hard to do, but when something exciting happens, it makes it much easier.

I like how the author describes in detail what the Moon is like and how Blair adjusts to the lesser gravity and new environment.

-- Paige E., age 11

Windstorm Creative
7419 Ebbert Dr SE Port Orchard WA 98367
(360) 769-7174 ph • (206) 350-7963 fx
www.WindstormCreative.com

ORDERING INFORMATION



Lunar Pioneers
ISBN 978-1-59092-397-9
\$14.99

Order from a Distributor

Lunar Pioneers can be purchased through these distribution channels:

PublishersWest
Baker & Taylor
Ingram
Brodart
Blackwells
Midwest Library Service
Book House

Order Direct from the Publisher

Bookstores and other venues may also order directly from the publisher at:

www.windstormcreative.com/orders/
or 206-350-7963 by fax or 360-769-7174 by phone

Terms:

- 50% discount
- 60 days to pay or return
- No minimum order
- Bookstore pays freight (USPS Priority Mail or UPS Ground).

Jennifer DiMarco
Chief Executive Officer

Cris K.A. DiMarco
Senior Editor

All Divisions

Order Processing
orders@windstormcreative.com

Legal and Subsidiary Rights
legal@windstormcreative.com

Blue Works
Fandom Press
Immortal Day Publishing
Lightning Rod Publishers

Little Blue Works
Orchard Academy Press
Paper Frog Productions
Windstorm Creative