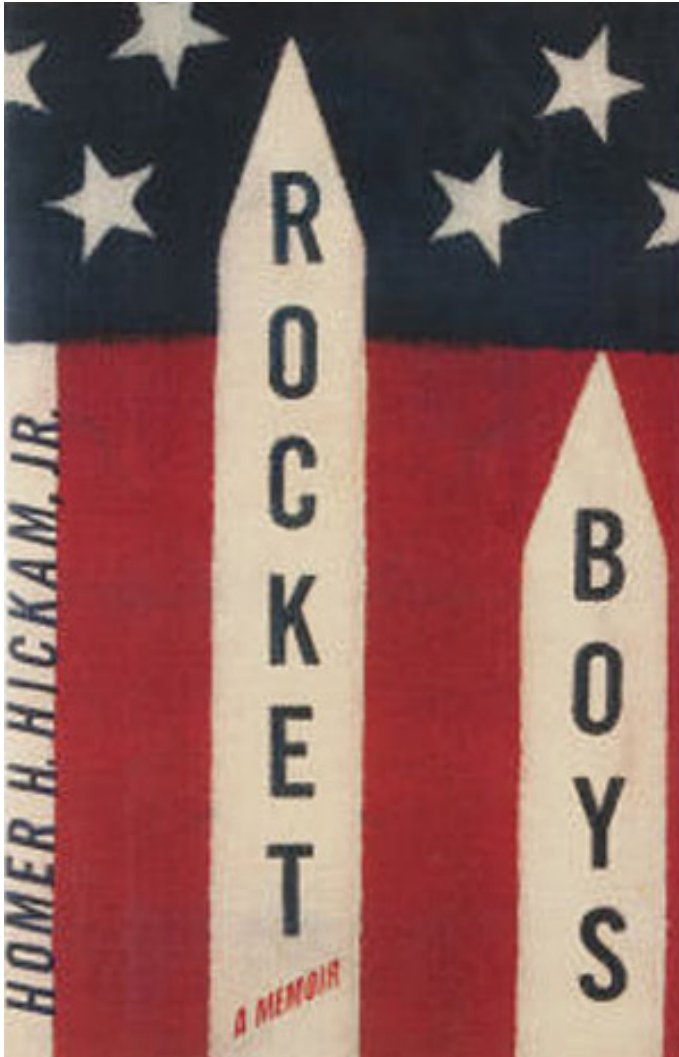


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**Homer Hickam**

**Rocket Boys (Coalwood)**



Title: Rocket Boys (Coalwood)

Author: Homer Hickam

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 368

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## Description

"Until I began to build and launch rockets, I didn't know my home town was at war with itself over its children, and that my parents were locked in a kind of bloodless combat over how my brother and I would live our lives. I didn't know that if a girl broke your heart, another girl, virtuous at least in spirit, could mend it on the same night. And I didn't know that the enthalpy decrease in a converging passage could be transformed into jet kinetic energy if a divergent passage was added. The other boys discovered their own truths when we built our rockets, but those were mine."

So begins Homer "Sonny" Hickam Jr.'s extraordinary memoir of life in Coalwood, West Virginia—a hard-scrabble little company town where the only things that mattered were coal mining and high school football. But in 1957, after the Soviet satellite Sputnik shot across the Appalachian sky, Sonny and his teenaged friends decided to do their bit for the U.S. space race by building their own rockets—and Coalwood, Sonny and A powerful story of growing up and of getting out, of a mother's love and a father's fears, Homer Hickam's memoir **Rocket Boys** proves, like *Angela's Ashes* and Russell Baker's *Growing Up* before it, that the right storyteller and the right story can touch readers' hearts and enchant their souls.

In a town where the only things that mattered were coal-mining and high-school football, where the future was regarded with more fear than hope, a young man watched the Soviet satellite *Sputnik* race across the West Virginia sky—and soon found his future in the stars. In 1957, Homer H. "Sonny" Hickam, Jr., and a handful of his friends were inspired to start designing and launching the home-made rockets that would change their lives and their town forever.

Looking back after a distinguished NASA career, Hickam shares the story of his youth, taking readers into the life of the little mining town of Coalwood and the boys who would come to embody its dreams. Step by step, with the help (and occasional hindrance) of a collection of unforgettable characters, the boys learn not only how to turn scrap into sophisticated rockets that fly miles into the sky, but how to sustain their dreams as they dared to imagine a life beyond its borders in a town that the postwar boom was passing by.

**Rocket Boys** has already caught the eye of Hollywood: The producer of *Field of Dreams* is now working to produce a major motion picture in time for next year's Academy Awards.

A uniquely endearing story with universal themes of class, family, coming of age, and the thrill of discovery, Homer Hickam's **Rocket Boys** is evocative, vivid storytelling at its most magical.

## Insightful reviews

McKenna: It's a beautiful story of perseverance and discovery. It demonstrates that you don't have to know everything to accomplish your dreams.

Shelby Kin: The American Classic, *October Sky*, was written and narrated by the well-known author, Homer Hickam Jr. His memoir was based off the life in Coalwood, West Virginia around

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the time of the launching of Sputnik, October 1957. This novel was written in first-person, describing Homer's childhood events that started his rocket career. The mining setting allowed "Sonny" to get the right materials and the space he needed to build his rockets. As Sonny's only way out of the mining business and Coalwood, he looked up to Werner von Braun and had a dream to one day be in Cape Canaveral. I would rate this memoir a 5/5, because it will keep its importance as time goes on and will continue to show people that you can do anything you want in life. Throughout the novel, Sonny proved that with a determined mind set and hard work, you can take yourself where ever you dream. I liked this book a lot because the characters all over came difficult times in their lives, like Sonny believing in himself to accomplish what he wanted to and his father coping with his health issues. I would definitely read more books written by Homer Hickam Jr. because he made me interested in the book using descriptive language, allowing the reader to feel like they were living his childhood in the book. I recommend others to read October Sky, so that everyone can find out that you can achieve your dreams.

05kayleeh: If you love to read about someones life that is really boring, the person is lame and very selfish. There are tons of science related things(that the normal person doesn't care about) and it's story line needs to be flushed down the toilet. And it would have been slightly decent if there was romance. (I know that there was a little bit, but it was only four lines and no detail so I didn't count it.) So if you are some one who likes those kind of books then you are going to love "October Sky."

Alan: enjoyed it! The sequels aren't nearly as good as he milks the tale for a growing number of books, however the unique is fantastic. i have learn this 3 or 4 instances and acquired the motion picture (October Sky). it is a nice e-book approximately coming of age and relationships and assembly your targets and is excellent for all kids.

Scott: As such a lot of others have stated within the past, the memoirs of Homer Hickam are stress-free at various levels. The rocket technology here's interesting, yet relatively serves regularly because the narrative motive force of this account of coming of age. As anyone who grew up at the edges of Appalachia (raised in York, PA and undergraduate collage in Pittsburgh, PA) the social surroundings and character forms that Homer encounters in his place of origin of Coalwood and in vast Creek highschool have been general to me. i believe this memoir is profitable as a result of Homer's vulnerability, his alternating moods of sympathy and insensitivity, and his frankness at pertaining to the lifetime of a youngster boy. His matters together with his mom and dad and friends are immediately recognizable to brand new teens, whether the situations of his existence are a lot diversified than ours. there's a for the reason that this ebook has been selected repeatedly as a "Community Read" e-book by way of public libraries; the tale of Homer Hickam is a truly compelling, American tale.

Just A. Bean: similar to the film, if you have visible it, even though missing the additional drama within the moment act. Unsurprisingly, the e-book pulls so much of its stress from Sonny's emotional state, now not from exterior threats, which, once they pop up, are handled virtually immediately. It labored within the book, and the prose is delicate and humorous. the writer pointed out altering issues round a piece for narrative flow, however it made a very good sufficient tale that it truly is tricky to mind. All of the rocket construction and explosions have been fun, and that i liked how basically defined the entire technological know-how was, however

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the middle of the tale is Sonny's relations and existence in a coal mining city simply as coal goes bust. I enjoyed the portrayal of Sonny's complex dating together with his father, and the energy of his reference to his mother. I do know there is a million coming of age tales that includes boys and hard fathers, however the stability of being a reliable or even heroic guy and nonetheless form of failing at human interplay relatively grabbed me here. I additionally cherished that the labour politics have been extra nuanced than within the film. It's greatly a boy's personal experience story, and whereas ladies aren't thoroughly excluded or unimportant, you get a gorgeous powerful concept that they weren't going to get to construct rockets any time soon. Nor have been the black humans down the way, given how seriously Sonny trusted his father's patronage and the town's support. Additionally, one has to wonder whether the dialog in regards to the ethics of hero-worshipping an ex-Nazi truly happened, or used to be extra after the worst approximately Wernher von Braun got here to light.

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