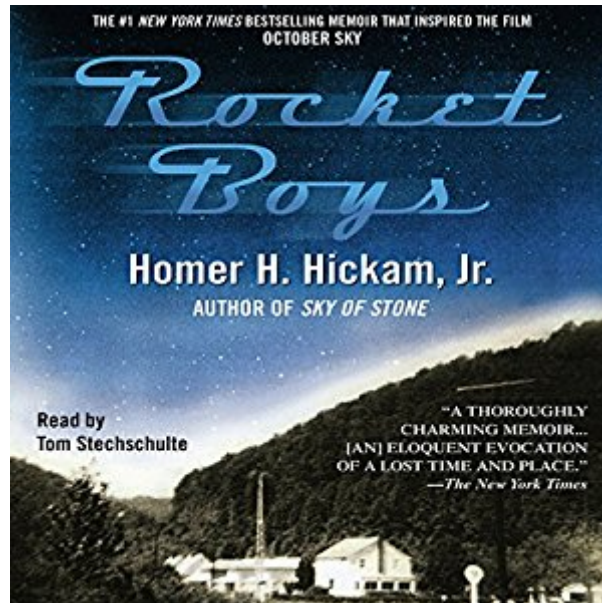# Rocket Boys: The Coalwood Series, Book 1

THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING MEMOIR THAT INSPIRED THE FILM
OCTOBER SKY

Rocket Boys

Homer H. Hickam, Jr.
AUTHOR OF *SKY OF STONE*

Read by
Tom Stechschulte

"A THOROUGHLY
CHARMING MEMOIR...
[AN] ELOQUENT EVOCATION
OF A LOST TIME AND PLACE."
—*The New York Times*

Synopsis

The New York Times best-selling memoir that inspired the film October Sky, Rocket Boys is a uniquely American memoir - a powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s, of a mother's love and a father's fears, of a group of young men who dreamed of launching rockets into outer space... and who made those dreams come true. Nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award, Homer Hickam's lush, lyrical memoir is a marvelously entertaining chronicle of triumph.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hoursÂ andÂ 38 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 6, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B004ZN7WBI

Best Sellers Rank: #78 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Aeronautics & Astronautics #85 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Aerospace #100 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Technology & Engineering

Customer Reviews

For those who loved the movie "October Sky", this book gives even more insight to the life of a teenage boy in Coalwood, West Virginia, in a time where the "outside world" was concerned with the Cold War and Dr. von Braun's team with "cashing up to the Russians in rocketry." The residents in Coalwood, however, were more concerned with what was below them rather than above, and with their dominant high school football team. 14-year-old Homer Hickam, Jr. (Sonny)is aware that only football stars (like his older brother Jim)ever get college scholarships, and the glory that he and his ragtag group of friends envy. It is common knowledge that the rest must work in or for the mine in the company-owned town. However, seeing Sputnik fly in 1957 and the attempts of Dr. von Braun's missiles, Sonny is inspired to launch his own rockets. With the support from his Mom, teacher, and friends (little from his father, the manager of the mines), Sonny, Roy Lee, and Sherman form the BCMA- Big Creek Missile Agency. They are later joined by Quentin and Billy,

becoming widely known throughout Coalwood as the "Rocket Boys". They suffer through many mishaps during their teenage years, but manage to pull through. Sprinkled with humor, romance, and sadness, this book tells of a boy growing up trying to earn the approval of his father, his town, and ultimately himself. Many parts will make you laugh- Mom's constant warning not to "blow yourself up", Roy Lee's advice to Sonny about his love, Dorothy, and the Rocket Boy's experience getting moonshine for rocket fuel- and ending up drunk! Other parts will make a shiver run down your spine- how Sonny had to face his bitterness after the mine accident, and his arguments with his father.

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