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Ron Garan

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles* (enhanced edition with video content and photos):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Learn how you can impact the world by gaining an "Orbital Perspective" By William J Kennedy Is it really possible to learn how to make a difference in the world by reading a book by an Astronaut? That was a question I had before reading a pre-release copy of "Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles" I had met with the author Ron Garan on several occasions over the past few years and heard the story of how his time in space provided an existential transformation about what it means to be human. In Ron's case (like many and not all astronauts) that was the catalyst that propelled him to a life now which is committed to personally impacting the quality of life for all of humanity. This is evidenced through the many projects he has been directly involved with. I have to admit however to having some pre-conceptions about what the book would actually be about and what I would get from it. I was expecting the story of an "existential awakening" from being exposed to views of the earth by being IN SPACE. I was expecting the tales of international collaboration (specifically US/Russian) that made the building of the ISS possible. What I had not quite expected was the bottom line. The bottom line is that Ron is saying the KEY to making a difference is never about governments. In the end it's not even about Institutions (e.g. NASA / Roscosmos). It's never about "This organization" or "That organization". In the end it is about ordinary people who through whatever means manage to lift their views of what is possible to an "Orbital Perspective". Out of that level of "Elevated Empathy" a new future becomes possible that disregards the short term gains that might otherwise be in the way of a sustainable solution to a critical issue in the world. Who are these ordinary people? You and Me. #TheKeyIsWe I hope you too can become present to what's possible if we all raise ourselves up to the level of an "Orbital Perspective" and tackled our issues from that view.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Think differently about Earth - gain an Orbital Perspective By vdrummer An illuminating and informative read, on a topic very close to my heart. Spending time in space (189 days in the author's case), orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes, causes deep and profound shifts in a person's perception of our planet; this was especially true for Ron Garan. *Orbital Perspective* begins with *Looking Skyward*: The first of three sections contains enlightening aspects of how the USSR-Russia and USA overcame deep hostilities to achieve highly successful partnerships in space-related projects, starting with Apollo-Soyuz, then Shuttle-Mir, and finally the grand achievement of the International Space Station. By using similar, smaller steps, it's possible that current deeply-rooted global problems can be overcome. The book continues with *Looking Earthward* and *Looking Forward*: Frank Whiter's brilliant book "The Overview Effect" (there's a great summary video here: <http://vimeo.com/55073825>) explains the change in thinking, a cognitive shift, that takes place when seeing the Earth from space. *Orbital Perspective* derives from that and is a call to action for worldwide collaboration (particularly among development workers) and new longer-term perceptions of global problems. Garan advocates the benefits of and need for collaborating effectively on a global scale, using examples such as Vision Zero, which explores ways to eliminate traffic accidents through vehicle sensing and smart roadways, and the Chilean mine rescue, the success of which was aided by a shift from short-term to long-term thinking by international participants. Earth is our one and only ride through space and time; we'd have a better chance at a better future by embracing the forward-looking, long term thinking outlined in this book. Ron Rosano <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/p...> Twitter: @ronrosano <https://twitter.com/ronrosano>

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This book is an amazing book on how we can change the world around ... By David This book is an amazing book on how we can change the world around us by simply working together. Ron Garan takes us on a well written journey on how "we is the key" through the "Orbital Perspective". The Orbital Perspective is the view that by working together, we can overcome obstacles that we couldn't do alone. Using the International Space Station as a primary example of the Orbital Perspective, we see how collaboration works. It took a total of 15 countries, all with multiple cultural differences to collaborate to build the largest space stations, which improves our lives every day. One of the sections of this book that stands out to me the most is a photo of the Indian-Pakistan border from space. It is a massive stretch of light that shows how divided we can be and it is disturbing that we can create physical barriers that large in this day and age. It shows that barriers that shouldn't exist do exist because we put our own interests first, even if they are harming in the long run. We are a global community, living in what Ron calls a "Fragile Oasis". Humanity is now connected in ways never before, yet we don't use the global connections to collaborate to make sure our Fragile Oasis doesn't fall apart. Ron shows us how we can use those connections to do just that, to work together to help others. In short, this book shows us that if humanity wants to improve, to make the world a better place, we have to work together because together we can achieve anything.

This enhanced edition includes over an hour of video: extraordinary footage of astronaut Ron Garan's life on the International Space Station, and vignettes of inspiring projects on Earth that show the orbital perspective in

action. For astronaut Ron Garan, living on the International Space Station was a powerful, transformative experience—one that he believes holds the key to solving our problems here on Earth. On space walks and through windows, Garan was struck by the stunning beauty of the Earth from space but sobered by knowing how much needed to be done to help this troubled planet. And yet on the International Space Station, Garan, a former fighter pilot, was working work side by side with Russians, who only a few years before were “the enemy.” If fifteen nationalities could collaborate on one of the most ambitious, technologically complicated undertakings in history, surely we can apply that kind of cooperation and innovation toward creating a better world. That spirit is what Garan calls the “orbital perspective.” Garan vividly conveys what it was like learning to work with a diverse group of people in an environment only a handful of human beings have ever known. But more importantly, he describes how he and others are working to apply the orbital perspective here at home, embracing new partnerships and processes to promote peace and combat hunger, thirst, poverty, and environmental destruction. This book is a call to action for each of us to care for the most important space station of all: planet Earth. You don't need to be an astronaut to have the orbital perspective. Garan's message of elevated empathy is an inspiration to all who seek a better world.

“Life on Earth is experienced two-dimensionally—with all of the distortion that that implies. Such a blinkered view is impossible from orbit, where you take in whole sweeps of the borderless globe in a glance. Garan's book, *The Orbital Perspective* movingly explains the impact of such a perspective shift—one that by no means occurs for every astronaut. In Garan's case—and perhaps Garan's alone—the message is how the rest of us can put his lessons to use. *The Orbital Perspective* could wind up being the most important tale ever told from space.” —Jeffrey Kluger, *Time Magazine* “His thesis that 'Earth is a small town with many neighborhoods in a very big universe' rings powerfully true, and his lessons are particularly apt for those working in the nonprofit sector.” —Publishers Weekly “*The Orbital Perspective* is an inspirational knockout. After reading this book you will refuse to accept the status quo on our planet.” —Wladimir Klitschko, PhD, Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World and founder of Klitschko Management Group “This is more than just a book; it is a call to action and a catalyst for a necessary movement. We need to look beyond what we think is possible and reimagine a world in which no one is limited by his or her circumstances. This is a defining book for a defining time in human history.” —Daniel Epstein, founder and CEO, Unreasonable Group “Written from Ron Garan's unique perspective as an astronaut, *The Orbital Perspective* reminds us of our common humanity and that the pressing challenges we face, we must face and resolve together through tolerance, dialogue, and cooperation.” —Kofi A. Annan, Nobel Peace Laureate and Chair, Kofi Annan Foundation “It is said that to understand a problem properly you need to get outside of it. Ron Garan has certainly done that. Ron's focus is on finding new connections and collaborations that cross borders of all sorts that might just allow us to transform the world for the better before we destroy this big blue ball we call home.” —Peter Gabriel, musician and a founder of WOMAD, Witness, and The Elders “Ron Garan's breakthrough book is one of a kind. Never before has a firsthand account of lessons learned in space been applied to firsthand humanitarian development work on Earth. Ron masterfully synthesizes the big-picture view of our world with the ground-level details necessary to overcome the barriers to improving life for all people.” —Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia “Astronaut Ron Garan's fabulous book will transport you from the magnificent sense of possibility in outer space to the perspective of a worm on Earth's rich soil and will reassert our fundamental connection to one another in ways that challenge and inspire. We all need more of an orbital perspective to remind us that, in the end, we only have each other.” —Jacqueline Novogratz, CEO, Acumen, and author of *The Blue Sweater* “A wonderful call to shift our point of view from local to global, from myopic to orbital. This consciousness-altering, ego-dissolving, mind-reconfiguring experience renders our common purpose clear: we are the frontal lobes of this Pale Blue Dot and we need to leverage our collective genius to overcome our challenges and unleash our potential. Bravo!” —Jason Silva, filmmaker, media artist, and host of National Geographic Channel's *Brain Games* “Put a humanitarian into a spacesuit and keep sending him into space and books like this are bound to be written. You see, global problems can have a personal solution.” —Keith Cowing, Executive Director, Space College Foundation
About the Author
Col. Ron Garan (USAF ret.) is a decorated fighter pilot, astronaut, aquanaut, and entrepreneur. He has logged 178 days in space and 71 million miles in orbit. He is the founder of the nonprofit social enterprise incubator Manna Energy Foundation and has worked with the US Agency for International Development. Col. Garan is also the founder of Fragile Oasis (FragileOasis.org), an effort to use the orbital perspective to inspire positive social and environmental action.