



MEET BRUCE McCANDLESS III

CONNECT WITH BRUCE:



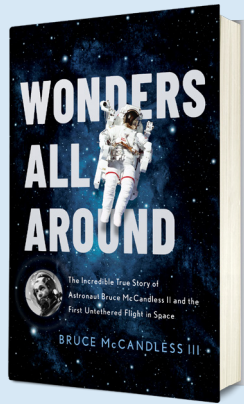
BRUCE McCANDLESS III grew up in the shadow of Houston's Johnson Space Center during the Apollo and Skylab eras, watching Batman and Buzz Aldrin with equal enthusiasm. He graduated from the Plan II Honors Program of the University of Texas and went on to earn an M.A. from the University of Reading in England and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. After teaching at Saint David's School in New York City, he returned to Austin to practice law and retired in 2019 as general counsel of Superior HealthPlan, the Texas affiliate of Fortune 100 company Centene. In addition to *Wonders All Around: The Incredible True Story of Astronaut Bruce McCandless II* and *The First Untethered Flight in Space*, Bruce is also the author of the science fiction novel *Sour Lake* (2011), the modern fairy tale *Beatrice and the Basilisk* (2014), and, with his daughter Carson, a book of light verse for middle schoolers titled *Carson Clare's Trail Guide to Avoiding Death (And Other Unpleasant Consequences)* (2017). He has published poems, stories, and essays in a variety of journals, including the *Texas Observer*, *The Seattle Review*, *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Pleiades*, and *Consequence*, and his book of poems, *All of This is Ours*, will be published in the summer of 2021 by Kelsay Books. Bruce is an avid runner and mountain biker who spends most of his free time on Central Texas trails. He is also a board member of the Worthy Garden Club—an Oregon-based environmental organization working to plant a million trees in the Pacific Northwest—and the Austin Library Foundation. Bruce and his wife, Pati McCandless, live in Austin.



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WONDERS ALL AROUND

The Incredible True Story of
Astronaut Bruce McCandless II and
the First Untethered Flight in Space



AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE

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THE MAN YOU NEVER KNEW YOU KNEW

It's one of the most powerful and popular images in the history of space exploration: an astronaut in a snow-white spacesuit, floating untethered and alone in an expanse of blue. Bruce McCandless II is the man in that spacesuit, and *Wonders All Around* is the thoroughly engrossing, extensively researched story of his inspiring life and groundbreaking accomplishments, as told by his son, a gifted writer and storyteller.

McCandless, a Navy fighter pilot, joined NASA in 1966. He was Houston's capsule communicator—the person talking to the astronauts—as Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong made his giant leap for mankind in 1969. McCandless developed technology his fellow astronauts used until he himself rode *Challenger* into space on the tenth shuttle mission. But the road to that incredible feat was not the sure bet it should have been for such a gifted man.

Bruce McCandless II was an astronaut for 24 years, and his career reflects the accomplishments and accolades, the brilliance and broken hearts, of the men and women of the American space program from the mid-sixties through 1990. But *Wonders All Around* is more than a catalog of McCandless's extraordinary achievements, which included work on the design, deployment, and repair of the Hubble Space Telescope. It is also a human tale of perseverance and devotion, disappointment and redemption.

Recounted with insight and humor, this book explores the relationship between a father and a son, men of two very different generations. And finally, it is an exploration of the character of one unique individual, and the courage, imagination, and tenacity that propelled him and his country to their place in the forefront of space history.

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INTERVIEW BRUCE McCANDLESS III

CONNECT WITH BRUCE:



There are lots of space experts and astronaut books. But with *Wonders All Around*, Bruce McCandless III has created a literary tribute to a man, a father, and a space program that many hold dear. More concerned with cultural history and personal relationships, Bruce can discuss not only what happened, but how it felt when it did.

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BRUCE MCCANDLESS III

1. Why did you write *Wonders All Around*?
2. What was it like growing up in Space City during the Apollo era?
3. When did Bruce McCandless II join the astronaut program and what was his background?
4. Why did it take Bruce McCandless II so long to get a spaceflight?
5. What was Bruce McCandless II's most notable accomplishment as an astronaut?
6. How did your mother deal with the pressures of your father's career with NASA?
7. How did your father's accomplishments and/or interests influence your life ambitions?
8. What's the most interesting thing you learned in writing *Wonders All Around*?
9. What is something most people don't know about Bruce McCandless II?
10. What are you most looking forward to seeing in the next ten years of space exploration?



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