Space Program

by Gary Hardaway

Mercury and Gemini disappointed. Where were the sleek silver ships capable of launching and landing as they flew to Mars and Venus in hours? What did I know of orbital mechanics, thrust, escape velocities, and life support?

The actual craft- ungainly and slownever measured up to a boy's dreams. The logistics of space and our survival there are daunting, more fully understood. Understanding, though, cannot assuage the boy's abiding sense of loss.

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