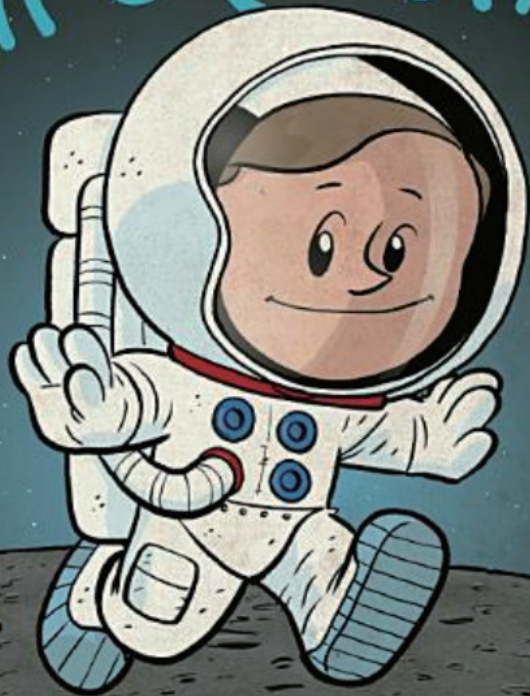


ORDINARY  
PEOPLE  
CHANGE  
the  
WORLD

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# I am Neil Armstrong



BRAD MELTZER

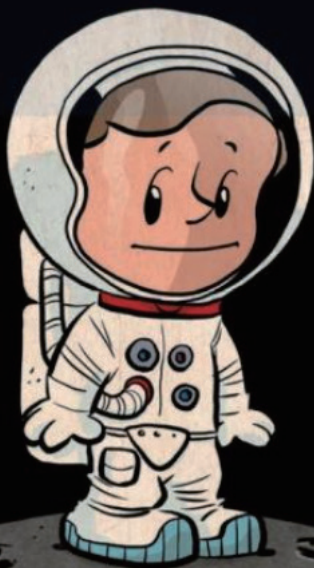
illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos

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I am

Neil Armstrong



BRAD MELTZER

illustrated by **Christopher Eliopoulos**



DIAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

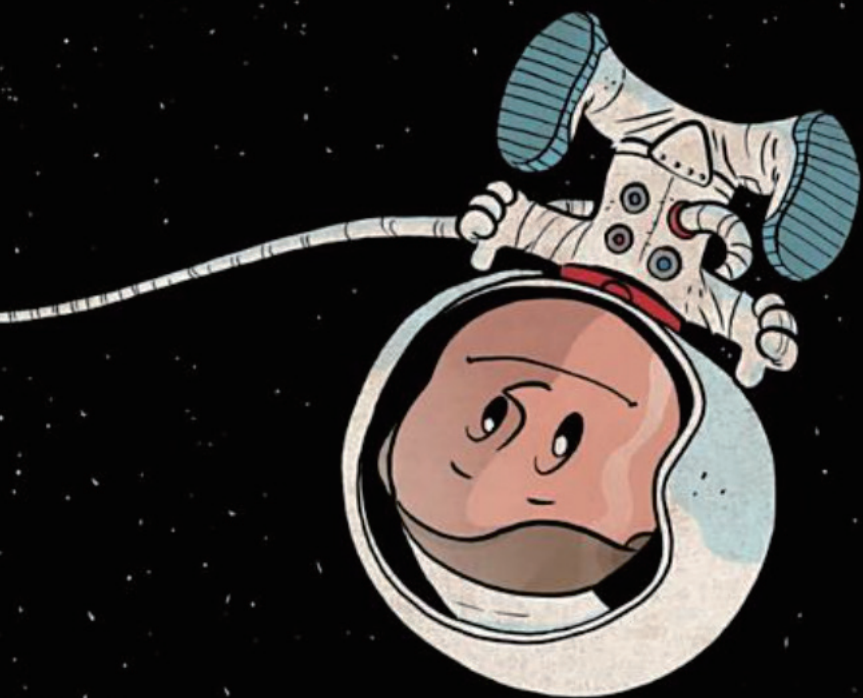
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I am Neil Armstrong.

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I grew up on a farm with no electricity.  
When I was eight years old, my goal was to climb  
this silver maple tree—the biggest one in my backyard.



It seemed impossible.  
The tree was so big and I was so small.  
How would I do it?

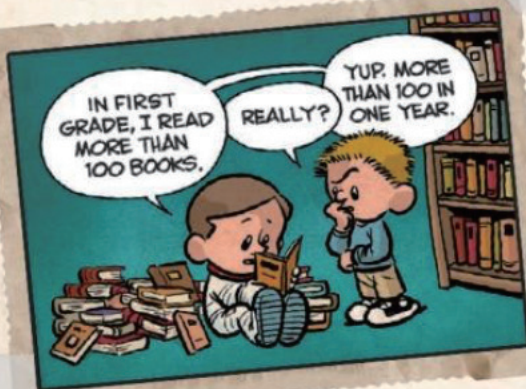
I'd need to be brave. I wasn't a brave kid, though.

Back in Ohio, when I was three years old, I got scared when we went to see Santa Claus.



I'd also need to be smart.

As a kid, I loved to read.



Finally, I'd need to be patient.



Yet to climb that huge tree, the only way to get to the top was this:

I had to take that first step.

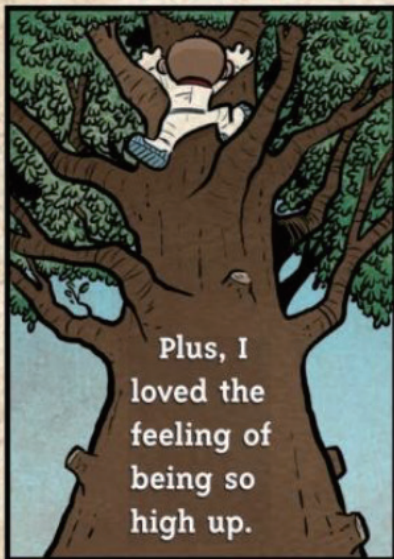
UP WE GO.



Climbing the tree was like a puzzle.

I needed to pick the right branches in the right order.

I had to engineer—or figure out—a solution.

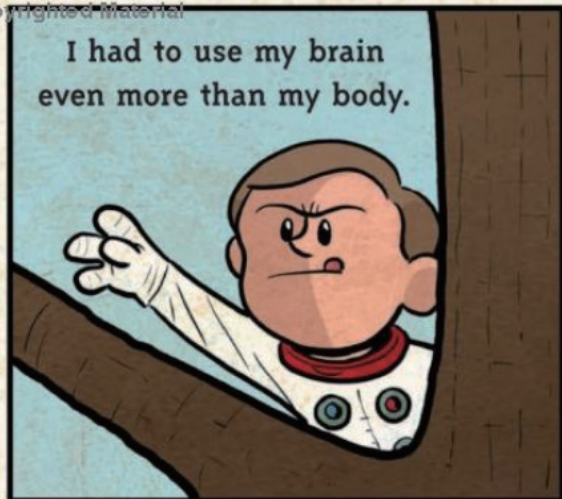
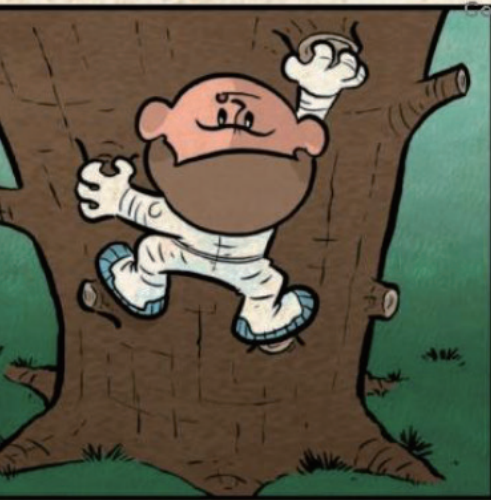


Plus, I loved the feeling of being so high up.

But then, I grabbed a dead branch and—

**KRAKK**



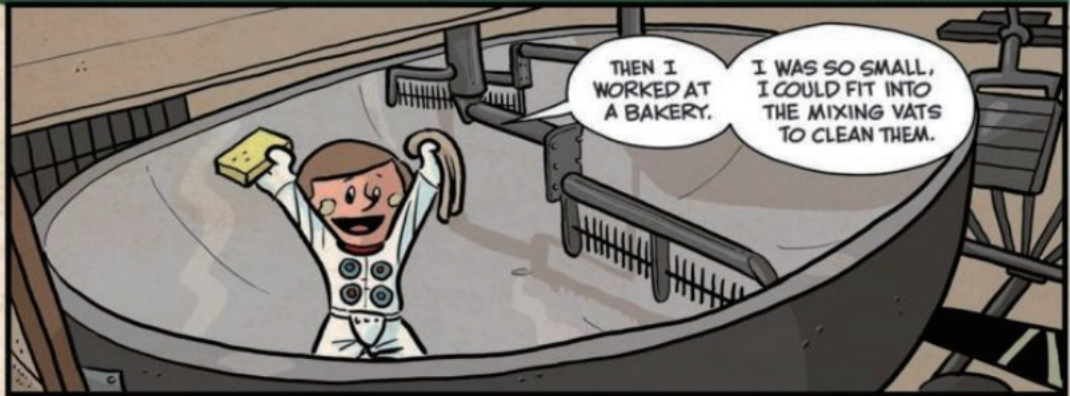




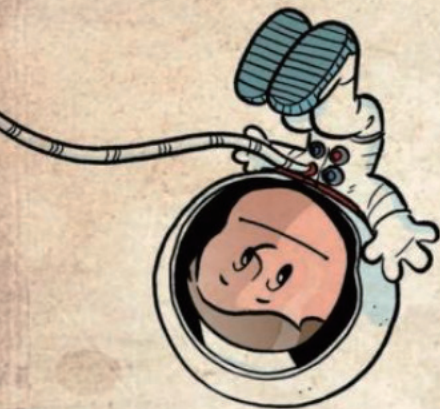
...was get back up again.

Success never comes easily. It takes hard work.

And when it came to hard work, I was really good at that.



Those jobs helped pay for the one thing I loved more than anything else.



*"We're going to the moon because it's in the nature of the human being to face challenges."*

**—Neil Armstrong**

Timeline

AUGUST 5, 1930

Born in Wapakoneta, Ohio

1951–1952

Flies 76 fighter missions during Korean War

OCTOBER 4, 1957

Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first satellite in space

JANUARY 31, 1958

U.S. launches its first satellite, Explorer 1

AUGUST 19, 1960

Dogs Strelka and Belka survive space travel

APRIL 12, 1961

Yuri Gagarin becomes first human in space





.....  
Neil as  
a child



.....  
Neil (far left) with  
Michael and Buzz, 1969



.....  
Strelka and  
Belka



.....  
Neil standing on  
the surface of  
the moon



.....  
Apollo 11  
launch

MAY 5, 1961

Alan Shepard  
becomes first  
American in space

MAY 25, 1961

President John F.  
Kennedy's space  
challenge

MARCH 16, 1966

Performs first successful  
docking of two spacecraft  
(Gemini VIII mission)

DECEMBER 21, 1968

Apollo 8 mission: first  
humans to orbit the  
moon

JULY 20, 1969

Along with Buzz Aldrin,  
becomes first human to land  
and walk on the moon

AUGUST 25, 1912

Lives during heart surgery in  
Cincinnati, Ohio, at age 86