



The Cosmonaut Who Couldnt Stop Smiling The Life and Legend of Yuri Gagarin

By Andrew L. Jenks

Northern Illinois University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 323 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 5.9in. x 0.8in.Lets go! With that, the boyish, grinning Yuri Gagarin launched into space on April 12, 1961, becoming the first human being to exit Earths orbit. The twenty-seven-year-old lieutenant colonel departed for the stars from within the shadowy world of the Soviet military-industrial complex. Barbed wires, no-entry placards, armed guards, false identities, mendacious maps, and a myriad of secret signs had hidden Gagarin from prying outsidersnot even his friends or family knew what he had been up to. Coming less than four years after the Russians launched Sputnik into orbit, Gagarins voyage was cause for another round of capitalist shock and Soviet rejoicing. The Cosmonaut Who Couldnt Stop Smiling relates this twentieth-century icons remarkable life while exploring the fascinating world of Soviet culture. Gagarins flight brought him massive international famein the early 1960s, he was possibly the most photographed person in the world, flashing his trademark smile while rubbing elbows with the varied likes of Nehru, Castro, Queen Elizabeth II, and Italian sex symbol Gina Lollobrigida. Outside of the spotlight, Andrew L. Jenks reveals, his tragic and mysterious death in a jet crash became fodder for morality...



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