



# **The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles**

*Ron Garan*

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## **The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles Ron Garan**

Ron Garan experienced something unique and extraordinary living in orbit on the International Space Station (ISS) for six months. The ISS is arguably the most ambitious, technologically complicated undertaking in human history, and no one nation constructed it alone. Garan delves into the origins and global importance of the ISS, and then digs deeper to reveal the very personal impact his time on the ISS had for him. Now active in global projects to promote peace, combat hunger, thirst, and poverty, Ron is determined to use the audacity of the ISS as a model for cooperation to solve our greatest problems. We have all the technology and resources we need to overcome our greatest barriers to living in peace and prosperity. We only need to step outside our comfort zones, the way we've always done things, and have the courage to embrace new collaborative partnerships and processes. Much more than a memoir or travelogue, Ron's book is a call to action for each of us to care for the most important space station of all, planet Earth."

## **The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles Details**

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Author : Ron Garan

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# **From Reader Review The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles for online ebook**

## **Vi says**

Ron Garan is clearly an idealist, which I imagine rubs some readers the wrong way in The Orbital Perspective, but I'm probably a closeted version of this astronaut.

Even at my age, I ponder where I fit in finding solutions to big problems facing humanity and I ask myself repeatedly to not get jaded and forget the mission I've set for myself when I was quite young. This book ignites the hope in me, which is timely as I wonder what my next steps are and prepare for a graduate program in international affairs.

This book has left an indelible mark on me.

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## **David Marshall says**

This inspiring book profiles Astronaut Ron Garan's experience in space and it expanded his global worldview. He is now working hard to bring people from all over the globe to the same table to collaborate and care for our one common earth. The enhanced edition on the Apple iBookstore and Google Play includes over an hour of video and almost 60 color photos. Definitely worth the extra \$2 over the text-only version if you are reading the e-book instead of the hardcover.

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## **Sara Chardin says**

Having a growing fascination with space, dating back to the first ever shuttle launch, I found astronaut Ron Garan's firsthand accounts of his missions into space truly insightful.

But I discovered this book is much more than an astronaut's memoirs. It is a call to action.

His views of Earth from 240 miles above, led Garan to see the world as a whole, without the dividing lines of nations, peoples or religions. Yet he also knew at ground level, deep conflicts and poverty exist.

He saw the need for global collaboration, rather than division. The complex emotions he felt, gave him, what he describes as, "The Orbital Perspective". This has led him to reject our planet's current status quo, and embark on a quest to help eliminate suffering and conflict.

Garan's future hopes for the planet are not unfounded. In the book, he reflects on examples of successful collaboration. One of these showed how nations joined together to build the most complex structure ever built, the International Space Station (ISS), previously unthinkable against the backdrop of the Cold War.

Garan makes it clear that it's not a prerequisite to travel into space to gain an Orbital Perspective. He says it is gained from an acknowledgment that we are all travelling together on our fragile planet. An Orbital Perspective should lead us to empathize with our fellow human beings, no matter what race or religion.

Garan's call to action is to share the Orbital Perspective and spread the message of cooperation around the world. He hopes individuals and organisations will work together to find long-term sustainable solutions to help improve life on Earth for the whole of global society.

The message from this book is profound and inspiring: "Nothing is impossible." #TheKeyIsWe

A longer review can be found on my blog: <https://sarachardin.wordpress.com/201...>

Join the Orbital Perspective Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OrbitalPersp...>

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## **Ron says**

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 White'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

Twitter: @ronrosano <https://twitter.com/ronrosano>

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## **Kelly Schwark says**

Ron Garan's The Orbital Perspective is not just for space enthusiasts. It is for leaders, for dreamers, for innovators and for those searching for ways to have a positive impact in our world.

As I read through the book, I found myself nodding in constant agreement. I couldn't help but beam with enthusiasm, knowing that there are others who shared the same hopeful aspirations for society, and who believe that we can and must do better for future generations. It is our responsibility to dream bigger, to challenge the status quo and to nurture empathy in ourselves as well as others. I finally have a name for the view that I have always had of our world: Orbital Perspective!

Even better than having a name to call this way of thought, is having the ability to share with others how they too can switch gears to obtain this profound perspective. This book offers its readers insight on how to achieve an Orbital Perspective without ever leaving the earth. Ron Garan's book relays a message of hOPe, and that is a message well worth sharing.

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### **Annie says**

Be prepared to see the world differently, and to feel compelled to change it!

I have been fascinated with space exploration for quite some time, but I am by no means a specialist when it comes to the subject. When I learned that Ron Garan, an astronaut who spent 178 days on the International Space Station (ISS), was releasing a book, I jumped on the occasion to read it. I am more than happy to have done so.

The message it conveys resonated with me more than I could have imagined. I can honestly say that it changed my perspective of the world and gave me hope -- hope that stayed present once the last page was turned, hope that made me reevaluate a part of my existence, but most importantly, hope that motivated me to get out there and do something for the greater good.

The book is written in a clear and concise language, which makes it accessible to everyone regardless of background, knowledge or interests. It is also written very humbly. The author does not pretend to have all the answers, nor does he make the reader feel inferior in any way. You can tell that he really cares about his fellow humans; he has faith in humanity and believes that with global cooperation/collaboration, elevated empathy and a few other ingredients, we can make our fragile oasis a better place for each and for all. Mr. Garan gives many interesting examples of successful collaboration stories over the years (Russia and the United States in space during the cold era; the Chilean miners' rescue, and numerous other mass collaboration projects) to illustrate how powerful each and every single one of us can be if we rally our efforts. The key really is we.

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### **JPMajor says**

I'll begin by saying what this book is not. This is not a "space book." It is not a coffee-table collection of glossy photos taken from low-Earth orbit, nor is it a breathless account of what it feels like to ride a rocket into space or live and work for months on end in weightlessness. While the author Ron Garan has indeed experienced all of these things and more during his time as a NASA astronaut, what he shares in *The Orbital Perspective* is how our global society can improve the future of everyone on the planet if we could just learn to work together and see the big picture... not unlike the privileged view that astronauts get every hour of

every day in orbit.

The collaborative process has been of utmost importance to the success of our nation's space program, whether it be working between astronauts in space and their ground crew or cooperation between entire nations to develop a permanent Space Station. These same collaborative skills could be used in many endeavors, anywhere that teams of people must work together to achieve a common goal. Entrepreneurs, policymakers, team leaders and members, humanitarians, visionaries of all kinds... this book is for each and all of them. Because after all, this planet we call home – our Fragile Oasis – it really is just one world and we're all along for the ride.

So no, this is not a space book. This is a life book, about how we can make lives better around the world *with* the lessons we've learned by going to space.

As Ron reminds us, #TheKeyIsWe.

Interested? Read more of my review on [LightsInTheDark.com](http://LightsInTheDark.com).

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### **Eico Neumann says**

Ron Garan's book is nothing short of an advisory for life.

It should be mandatory for political decisionmakers and faculties teaching the leaders and strategists of tomorrow around the world.

While aiming at solving the big problems we as the 7 billion crew of spaceship Earth face, it enables through carefully chosen examples to zoom in into your own direct cosmos of daily decisions.

And while you enjoy the beautiful pictures of his 71-million mile journey at the end of the book, if you not already inherit it, you will have the Orbital Perspective and you will see: "There are more things that we share in common than things that separate us. We may be born in different countries, belong to different generations, speak different languages, but we are one species, with the same hopes and dreams for our children, for our communities, and for our planet."

A longer review can be found on my blog: <http://spacetraveller.me>

Or why don't you join the OP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OrbitalPersp...>

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### **C. A. Vulliamy says**

If you could journey into orbit and look upon humanity's entire sphere of existence, how would your mindset about life on Earth be altered?

When Astronaut Ron Garan embarked on his second mission to ISS in 2011, he succeeded in taking a great many people with him. His desire to share the amazing experiences of his first mission to ISS led to a ground-breaking initiative that succeeded in elevating people from being mere spectators to becoming active participants. To me, this outreach was several orders of magnitude more impactful than anything that had gone before and when I heard about this book, it quickly became clear that its content would be hugely important to anyone wanting to make a positive and significant impact on the world.

The book is, at its heart, a call to action: It challenges the reader to find ways of using the principles illustrated throughout its pages to take collaborative action toward addressing the most significant challenges facing our global society.

Supporting this call to action is a message of hope. The book threads together a rich tapestry of insights gleaned from exposure to some of the most remarkable events of our age. The greatest feats of international cooperation aptly serve as examples of the potential for humanity's new-found ability to solve many of the world's most pressing challenges.

In the light of these endeavours, people's tendency to think that because something has never been done before it must therefore be 'impossible' is shown to be a flawed and very limiting mindset. This book succeeds in liberating us from such restrictive ways of thinking by visiting examples of success in collaborative efforts which had previously been deemed by many to be impossible to accomplish. From these examples, several principles that can be usefully applied to future collaborative efforts are identified.

Part 1 of the book presents an excellent case in point: illustrating the challenges faced by the early Cosmonauts, Astronauts, Roscosmos and NASA staff in working together and how they managed to overcome issues that threatened to derail their collaborative efforts.

Anyone who experienced the Cold War would agree that back then, the very concept of the two superpowers actually sharing hard-won military technology, setting aside the idea of space as the new military high ground and agreeing to explore it together would be an abstract dream... A virtual impossibility.

And yet, that which many had deemed 'impossible' to accomplish has become a celebrated reality, yielding a modern wonder of the world.

While these lessons in cross-cultural cooperation will be of special interest to anyone who has experienced the detrimental impact of poor collaboration or the pointlessness of destructive competition, there are many takeaways from the insights into US / Russian cooperation in space that can be of great value to everybody who is willing to weigh them against their own experiences, providing valuable guidance and new approaches to future collaborative ventures.

Moving through the frame of this great achievement, the reader is brought forward to 2008 by which time US / Russian collaboration in space exploration had blossomed into the fifteen-nation ISS partnership.

Beginning with the visceral experience of being launched into space aboard STS-124 on the mission to integrate the ISS's Kibo module, moments of reflection punctuate the demanding work schedule. When seen through the eyes of a humanitarian, the sublime beauty of our Planet belies the difficulties that many of its inhabitants face.

At several points, the author is struck by the sobering juxtaposition between the tranquil beauty of our Planet and the harsh discord that exists between many of its peoples.

Although this dichotomy is rarely visible from low earth orbit, one such instance is the India-Pakistan border - floodlit at night and visible from orbit - standing as a pertinent symptom of humanity's dire need to focus on global collaboration and find ways to put disagreements aside.

The book promotes the adoption of an Orbital Perspective in applying ourselves to the challenges we face - it is a perspective that everyone should become familiar with... I would summarise the concept of an Orbital Perspective here, but my attempt to do so would detract from the overall message so eloquently presented

throughout this book - the only way gain a proper understanding of it is to read the book, digest its content and then take action! ...Suffice to say that it synthesises an all-encompassing overview with a full understanding and consideration of the intricate details of how things operate at ground-level.

It engenders respect, compassion, elevated empathy, creativity, a sense of gratitude, of interconnectedness and - most significantly - Unity among all people.

The phrase 'unity among all people' may at first sound cliché, but to those who have crossed into the great cosmic void of space and looked back at Earth, they come to see humanity as a collective whole - as crewmates aboard Spaceship Earth.

Most significantly, readers are reminded that they don't need to have seen the Earth from orbit in order to integrate an Orbital Perspective into reappraising their goals and lives - another of the book's strengths is the manner in which it relates this message of hope by taking the reader on a progressive process of insight and realisation bolstered by many examples which reinforce the core message - this is important because when it comes to truly formidable goals such as eradicating poverty globally, people may naturally feel that they can't make any real impact on such vital global issues because the efforts of individuals seem insignificant when compared to the sheer size of the challenge. Therefore good intentions often remain mere intentions and don't precipitate into decisive action due to this 'conventional thinking'. This book proves by example that individuals *can* have a significant positive impact if their effort is scalable and they collaborate well - initiatives that start as small-scale collaborative efforts can grow, giving rise to exponentially positive impact which can lead to significant advances being made toward solving major challenges.

I hope that you too will heed the call to action presented in this book.

I'm mindful of the adage that reminds us 'When a wise man points to the sky, it would be foolish to only look at the finger'. Just as when reading this book, it is important to remember that it resolutely points toward a far better future for the human family and our Planet. We have merely to follow the trajectory it defines.

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## **Liam Kennedy says**

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 - but 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

Read the book for the full scoop.

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.

note: As part of the "OP Crew" I was given early access to the book for the purposes of being able to write this review.

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## **Johnathan says**

*The Orbital Perspective: Lessons in Seeing the Big Picture from a Journey of 71 Million Miles* by Ron Garan is a thoughtful, inspiring, and earnest reflection on humanity's ability to stimulate meaningful change and tackle global challenges through large-scale, purpose-driven collaboration.

As author, humanitarian, entrepreneur, and accomplished NASA astronaut, Ron offers a compelling vision of hope, progress, and possibility when confronting many of the issues that burden our world today.

Ron shares real stories of incredible teamwork and impressive accomplishments at the community, national, and international levels that vividly demonstrate the type of ingenuity, resourcefulness, and compassion critical for success.

He takes the reader on a journey highlighting the U.S.-Russian partnership in the aftermath of the Cold War that eventually spawned the International Space Station; the contribution of NASA toward an urgent international effort to rescue Chilean miners trapped under extreme conditions; the strides of young children escaping and transcending violent conflict in Sudan to spread messages of peace; the sustainable development of and large impact on indigent communities in Rwanda and Kenya; and several other heartening experiences and movements that emerge despite significant hardship.

What I appreciated the most about this book was Ron's knack for instilling pragmatic optimism while acknowledging there is no panacea to solving the world's problems. He distills concrete, insightful anecdotes into workable foundational principles. He outlines the core characteristics and structured frameworks necessary to facilitate broader societal change. He also dissects important lessons learned about group

dynamics that undoubtedly influence outcomes, such as how to build trust, encourage empathy, nurture positive mindsets, strengthen communication skills, bridge cultural divides, and reach beyond perceived differences to attain shared goals -- objectives that could not otherwise be achieved alone.

Ultimately, Ron solicits a call to action for a nuanced, unassuming, and long-term integrated approach to work together to preserve the world for future generations and to improve our collective well-being.

I recommend this book to anyone who seeks inspiration, values collaboration, envisions a greater purpose, aspires to be a global citizen, and believes that smart, persistent efforts can make a substantial difference.

*"Adopting an orbital perspective simply involves incorporation of a big picture and long-term awareness of the full effects of the decisions we make, and an ability to put yourself in another's shoes. It requires that we develop empathy for the struggles that our crewmates on Spaceship Earth endure."*

*"Pulling back to the orbital perspective helps us to realize...we're all riding through the universe together. There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth, only crewmates, and we all have a responsibility to mind the ship and take care of [each other]."*

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## **Lavanya says**

"A collection of individuals is more likely than a collection of nations to make real progress toward solving our biggest challenges."

Astronaut Ron Garan's book, *The Orbital Perspective* is truly a beacon of hope in an otherwise challenging world. The message is clear: in order to ensure our survival, we must collaborate with one another and join hands across states, nations and continents to help solve the world's most pressing issues. We are one. We are interconnected. We are capable of rising above borders and across seas. We NEED to collaborate. Humanity has had great success in technology and in medicine. So why are we unable to eradicate conditions such as poverty, war and hunger that continue to ravage our planet? In this book, Ron Garan acknowledges the enormity of the task, yet beautifully explains why it shouldn't be overwhelming or unimaginable to improve these conditions. He presents lessons learned from the construction of the International Space Station and applies them to current issues that we face on Earth. Ron has flown in space twice and spent over five months orbiting our Fragile Oasis. These experiences have given him a unique outlook, aptly termed an orbital perspective. He explains how the orbital perspective isn't merely a unique view of the Earth from space, but that it is a call to action. It is the ability to zoom out, consider all the ways in which we are interconnected on Earth; it is the ability to have an elevated empathy for our fellow humans and to come together in such a way that we better the lives of all of humanity. In this book, Ron explains how a worm's-eye view of an issue, coupled with an orbital perspective is key to ensure success.

My biggest takeaway from this book was that we CAN change the world by working WITH each other. We don't necessarily need to look to governments or to major bureaucratic organizations. We need to have the willingness to shed egos, the desire to place global priorities above our personal wishes, and the ability to expand our web of trust to our fellow humans so that true progress can take place.

Ron's words are thought-provoking and insightful. It is evident that writing this book has been a labour of love for him. I can truly say that *The Orbital Perspective* has given me a restless energy: it has enriched my

knowledge, but more so, it has made me want to find ways in which I can make a difference in this world and uplift humankind. As Ron eloquently puts it, "It doesn't require going into space to realize that we are all living on a precious, fragile planet, that we are all in this together, and that together we have a great number of challenges to overcome."

The Orbital Perspective is a must-read for everyone who is interested in leaving this planet a better place than one into which they entered. It is an engaging read that will prompt you to take action. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I look forward to extending my hand to Ron and the rest of the OP Crew as we look towards ensuring a better future for our co-passengers on spaceship Earth. #TheKeyIsWe

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## **Blanca says**

Ron Garan, author of *The Orbital Perspective*, reminds us that nothing is impossible. His story takes us through his life as an American astronaut, as a humanitarian through his work with the Manna Energy Foundation and Engineers Without Borders, and includes stories of others' work that have inspired him. It is the historical account, however, of the Russian-US collaboration to save the space program, that helps to highlight that relationships matter and that in order to make something great happen, you must establish trust.

This story is a fascinating look at the barriers faced today as we all try and fail at solving the world's biggest problems - clean water for all, creating self-sustaining communities, eradicating poverty. Ron takes us through the successful launch of the International Space Shuttle (ISS), a collaboration of 15 countries across the world and shares his viewpoint on why it worked. His experiences at, and incredible views from, the ISS, help him develop a shift in mind-set, a realization that nothing is impossible. What happens once we realize that as human beings "our sphere of influence is in fact global"? That is, "the orbital perspective". The *Orbital Perspective* is a wake up call to all of us whose efforts and intents are to make life better for others.

How do we find the balance between making a living, living to work, and demonstrating social responsibility to our fragile oasis? You may find the inspiration you need in this book. *The Orbital Perspective* is Ron Garan's call to us with concrete examples of "democracy in action" showcasing ordinary citizens with passion and talent pushing the limits of their creativity with others, in a shared global space, to solve Earth's problems.

Garan succeeds at conveying the image of the world as a fragile oasis. He includes practical ideas about collaborating and co-laboring globally, using social media to expand efforts - all that can be applied to our own lives. He also has some interesting nuggets about DuoLingo, Uber, and AirBnB.

I highly recommend reading this book and delving deeper into the work that Garan and others are involved with and if you can, try it from the comfort of a window seat, 36K miles up, with a view of the sun setting on the horizon. It is nothing short of spectacular.

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## **DenFYM says**

My home is earth. Along with many others, I probably take my 'home' for granted, but I've read enough by various astronauts to know that, once you've seen our planet from way above - the 'orbital perspective' - you

see it differently.

Garan's book starts out in a similar vein to other books by astronauts. As a space fan, I was highly entertained by the space stories and some previously unheard snippets of information - complemented in the enhanced ebook by the sometimes hilarious (obviously a good sense of humour is important for astronaut selection) videos between chapters. But this book explores more than just space. This book makes you THINK. As a human being, I couldn't help but be inspired by Garan's enthusiasm to improve life for everyone in our 'home'. Like many others, I have long been frustrated by the injustices in this world, but ... how could I do anything? Simple - 'the key is WE'.

'The Orbital Perspective' tells that, by working together, we can improve things both off and on the earth. By using examples of highly successful collaboration between, shall we say 'competitors', Garan explains how better progress can be made towards a shared goal. The international space programme exists because the many partners recognised, understood and accepted their cultural differences, learned to trust each other and pooled their individual expertise to run, arguably, the biggest successful project of our generation. If we can cooperate in this way to achieve amazing feats off the planet, why can't we do it ON earth too?

It's a simple message, but sometimes we don't see the obvious when it's right in front of us. Every astronaut mentions how beautiful and fragile our earth looks from space. How there are no visible borders. How small and isolated we really are. Garan wants us all to think of it this way and outlines ideas to make a difference. OK, so we're not going to change the ways of the world overnight but, if everyone who reads this book - and I'm sure millions will - passes on the message, our earth WILL become a better place for it.

And I will never again listen to Led Zeppelin's 'Kashmir' in the same way!

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## **Duncan Mackenzie says**

This book is fabulous. The Orbital Perspective is about seeing the glory of Earth from space and how that affects our view of Earth in our daily lives. Astronauts report that when seeing the Earth from space, they have a changed sense of humanity and the planet. When our home planet is viewed from a distance, it can be seen that there are no political boundaries and that all of humanity shares the same fragile ecosystem that supports all life. In this book, astronaut Ron Garan describes his revelations from orbiting the Earth while living onboard the International Space Station. The space station orbits the Earth 16 times a day and Ron has lived on board for months at a time. While observing the visual beauty of the planet from this privileged perspective, yet understanding the disparities of life on the ground, he and many other astronauts have discovered that they become personally moved, even called to action to do something with their expanded perspective. Upon returning the Earth, Ron started the aptly named organization, Fragile Oasis, as a grassroots initiative that connects the orbital perspective of astronauts who live and work in space with people who want to make a difference on Earth.

In this book, Ron Garan also elaborates on the metaphor to humanity that the International Space Station represents. The ISS is the pinnacle of humanities' collective technological genius and cooperative effort of 15 nations, some of which were previous enemies. He postulates that if these nations and their people can put aside their differences to achieve a common goal and even transcend to create a bond, then is it possible to embrace this example with our relationships on Earth? He grounds this metaphor with real examples of how

earthly problems, like the Chilean mine crisis, have been solved with shared information from the internet and our ability to communicate instantly and globally. While previous models of existence relied on hoarding and guarding information, the new global "family" benefits from the knowledge of the collective, often saving lives and our precious environment. When we strive to see a bigger picture of a more inclusive interconnected world, we can see the context of our differences and embrace an elevated empathy that builds bridges where, previously, there were only chasms. Evolution happens in gradual stages, and this book is a mandate and guide to expand ourselves, our minds and our actions to a more holistic view of our daily life within the macro system of modern life on Earth. While we may not all be able to travel into space, we can all benefit from adopting the Orbital Perspective.

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