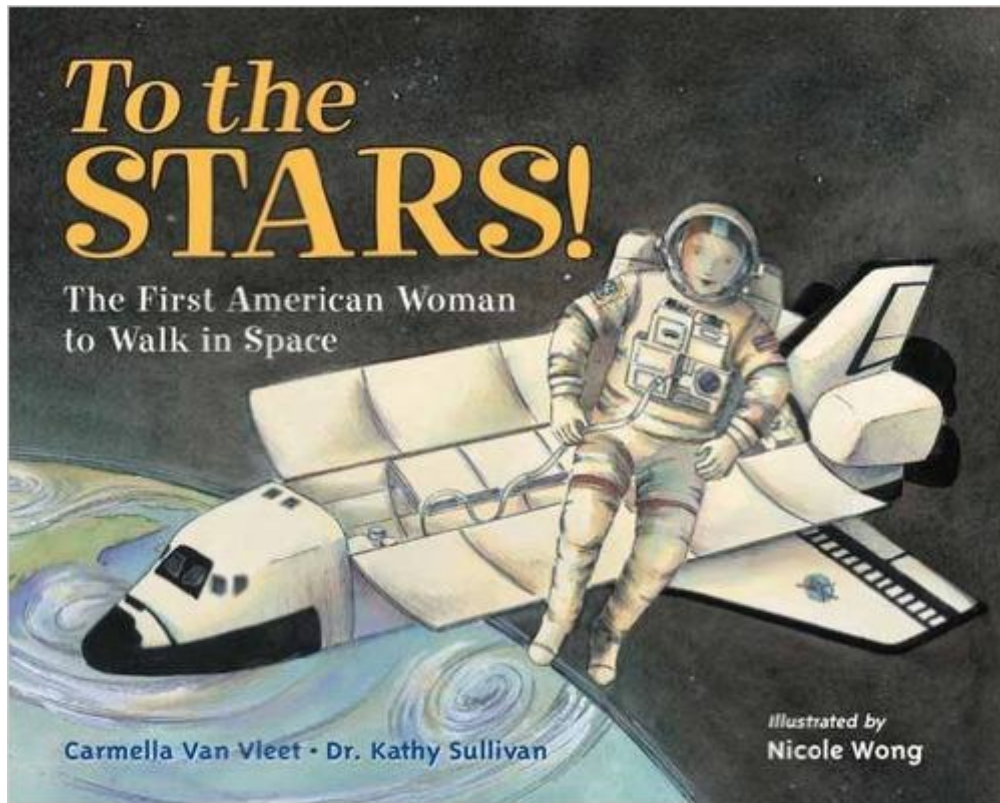


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# To The Stars! The First American Woman To Walk In Space



## Synopsis

Kathy Sullivan wanted to go everywhere. She loved blueprints and maps. She loved languages and the ocean. She didn't like the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She wanted to explore and do exciting things that girls weren't supposed to be able to do. Only men had the exciting jobs. Kathy liked fishing and swimming; flying planes and studying science. That's what she liked and that's what she decided to do with her life. She followed her heart and eventually became a NASA astronaut and the first woman to walk in space. Kathy wanted to see the whole world and so she did: from space! Backmatter includes further information about Dr. Sullivan and her career, as well as other famous firsts made by women astronauts.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

I have FOUR daughters who are young and I am always on the lookout for books they will love that feature strong, smart, determined, female role models. This book is FANTASTIC! Kids will love the story and inspiration and it's one parents will love reading to their daughters to help them see past barriers that society puts into place. My 11 year old daughter loves this book and is inspired to expand her view of women in roles commonly dominated by men.

My five-year-old has some excellent female role-models, not to mention Doc McStuffins. At this stage in her life, she is well aware that gender should not be a barrier for her doing what she wants to do with life. Still, I always like to show her women who do great things (without telling her that is what we are doing). *TO THE STARS* is a wonderful book for that purpose. It is also a wonderful book for any kid interested in space exploration, science, etc. The book describes the life of Kathy Sullivan, former astronaut and the first woman to walk in space. The book tells the story of how Kathy became interested in flying and how she refused to listen to those who told her that girls cannot do certain jobs. The authors did a fantastic job of illustrating how the things Kathy did when she was younger prepared her for her work at NASA. The illustrations are detailed and well done. They tie the entire book together. I am fairly new to children's nonfiction, though nonfiction books comprise the majority of my personal reading. I also write for academic markets. Reading this book, I am in awe of how well the authors told the story of Dr. Sullivan at a child's level (in fewer than 50 total pages). This is a superb work of nonfiction for any child. I also appreciated the back material of the book that went into a bit more detail on Dr. Sullivan. *TO THE STARS* tells a wonderful story, the writing is superb, and the illustrations are outstanding. This Christmas, my daughter asked for one gift: a toy rocket. She got it. Guess I need to start saving for space camp. In the interest of full disclosure, I received a complimentary electronic copy of *TO THE STARS* from the publisher (via Netgalley) for review purposes.

It seems like another age, and, truly it was. When Kathy Sullivan was a little girl, people expected her to aim at being a mother, a nurse, or a teacher. Kathy had other ideas. She wanted to see the world, to fly, to do something exciting. Thankfully, she had boldness and support of people around her to pursue her dreams. *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space* introduces kids to Kathy. Her dreams were always bigger than the world around her. She decided she wouldn't let gender roles determine her career and life choices. Against the odds, she ended up flying in three space shuttle missions, including one in which she became the first woman to walk in space! *To the Stars* has lovely illustrations by Nicole Wong which capture Dr. Sullivan's love of life, even from an early age. Girls and boys alike can draw inspiration from Dr. Sullivan's determination and, most of all, the enthusiasm with which she pursued her dreams. Mothers, nurses, and teachers are vital roles, and I hope little girls everywhere will continue to pursue these occupations and be the best they can be. But I am glad that women like Dr. Sullivan have paved the way to broaden opportunities for women, giving girls more to aim for. Kathy always wanted to see the world . . . And one day, she really did. . . . Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic

review copy!

I enjoyed this children's book about Kathy Sullivan. The story was interesting and I liked reading about Kathy's adventure heart as a child and as an adult. I really appreciated the more personal information about Kathy at the back of the book as well as a brief description of other women in space history. What great role models they are for children. One aspect of the book that I didn't love was in the way it was told. I felt that it was a little disjointed in the way that it bounced back and forth between Kathy's life as a young girl and her adulthood. Other people may feel that it flows just fine but it didn't work very well for me. The illustrations fit nicely with the overall story and added a great feel to the book. I look forward to reading more by this author. Thank you to NetGalley and Charlesbridge for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

TO THE STARS! by Carmella Van Vleet and Kathy Sullivan tells the true story of the first American woman to walk in space. This fascinating, picture book biography features Sullivan's childhood dream of becoming a world traveler and her teenaged ambition to become a pilot. Woven into the story are flashes to the future showing the outcome of Sullivan's childhood aspirations. The book concludes with a note from Sullivan and a more detailed biography. Short descriptions of other famous women involved with the space program are also provided. Nicole Wong's accurate and appealing illustrations add interest to the story. The large, easy-to-read font will appeal to both students and teachers. Librarians will find this inspirational biography a welcome addition to their nonfiction, picture book collections. To learn more about the author, go to [...] To learn more about Kathryn Sullivan, go to [...] Published by Charlesbridge on January 5, 2016. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

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