



THE SPACE RACE

THE BOOK AND FILM *Hidden Figures* tells the story of the unsung women who helped put man on the moon.

PRECISION ENGINEERING

There's nothing more human than the impulse to travel. It was the driving force behind the American space program, one of our country's greatest adventures. It's also what brought four African American women trained as mathematicians to the Langley Memorial

Aeronautical Laboratory in the 1960s. These women inspired me to write my book *Hidden Figures*, detailing their untold contributions to American aeronautics and the space program.

There, at the kernel of what would become NASA, those pioneers were charged with doing the critical work of processing and analyzing aeronautical research data. With sharp pencils and minds, they helped engineer America's path to the heavens. "Accuracy" and "precision" were their watchwords. Sending an astronaut into space was one thing—but the journey wasn't complete until he had returned home safely.

Precision engineering—every part with a purpose, everything moving forward together—was a philosophy that these women took to heart,

not just in their work, but in every aspect of their lives. The mathematicians of *Hidden Figures* knew that they were not only contributing to the advance of science and engineering, but to the progress of people who looked like them.

These women offered their talents to our country in the greatest American tradition. It is my hope that my book and the movie will open our eyes to the possibility that the potential inside of each of us—regardless of our background—might be as endless as the universe.



Margot Lee Shetterly
Author, Hidden Figures