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COLUM McCANN

NORMAN MAILER **MOONFIRE**

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Page 1: A view of the moon, taken on the return portion of the Apollo 11 mission, reveals part of the far side of the moon. *Photo, NASA.*

We felt Apollo 11 was no ordinary flight, and we wanted no ordinary design... —*Michael Collins*, Carrying the Fire *Page 3:* Following a military tradition of heraldic emblems, each Apollo crew designed a mission patch, usually a symbolic image encircled by crewmembers' names. Collins's initial concept had an olive branch in the eagle's beak. Eventually the branch was moved to

the talons to emphasize the mission's theme of peace. *Photo, NASA.*

Page 5: The Apollo 11 vehicle and its 400-foot-tall Launch Umbilical Tower were rolled out on May 20. Lit up with floodlights so preflight checks could continue around the clock, it was also a draw for thousands of visitors who would come to witness the sight. *Photo, NASA.*

Page 6: The distinctive white mass of Greenland dominates the North Atlantic Ocean in this view of Earth, photographed once the crew

had left Earth's orbit for the three-day trip to the moon. *Photo, NASA.*

Page 11: From Planet Earth, July 1969 Among the items left behind at Tranquillity Base was this 1-1/2-inch (4 cm) silicon disk, which was etched with messages from four U.S. presidents and the leaders of 73 nations on Earth. The disc was produced using processes similar to those used to make microchips; reduced 200 times, the individual letters were smaller than the head of a pin. *Photo, NASA.*