

# [PDF] The Human Experiment: Two Years And Twenty Minutes Inside Biosphere 2

Jane Poynter - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Human Experiment: Two Yea

Author: Jane Poynter

Released: 2006-08-18

Language:

Pages: 384

ISBN: 156025775X

ISBN13: 978-1560257752

ASIN: 156025775X

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pdf, mobi, epub, azw, kindle

**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** On September 26, 1991, Poynter, along with seven others, entered Biosphere 2, a three-acre, hermetically sealed environment, for a two-year stay. Their goal was two-fold: to demonstrate that humans could live under the necessary conditions for survival in bases on the Moon or Mars, and to conduct experiments to improve our understanding of ecosystems. In her first-hand account, Poynter describes all aspects of the much-debated project, from crew selection to

life on the inside, while addressing the nature of the scientific undertaking and the politics that embroiled everyone associated with it. She is at her best recounting how the eight "biospherians" devolved into a dysfunctional family and commenting on the import such patterns will undoubtedly have on long-distance space travel. Her analysis of the science is weaker, more congratulatory than incisive. She provides only a brief discussion, for example, on the addition of thousands of pounds of oxygen into the structure on two occasions despite the goal to make the artificial biosphere completely self-contained. While the writing is sometimes overly precious ("So, with as much emotional energy as the space shuttle has rocket power on liftoff, I launched myself into a life of adventure and discovery"), Poynter's story makes for instructive reading. (*Sept. 12*)  
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**From** On September 26, 1991, eight bold-spirited adventurers entered the 3.15-acre, hermetically sealed, ecologically engineered environment in the Arizona desert known as Biosphere 2. Two years later, they emerged, thinner and wiser, proud of their accomplishment, yet devastated by the psychological and emotional tolls the experiment exacted. From her earliest days as one of the hand-picked candidates for admission into the Biosphere program, Poynter exhibited a fervent belief in the revolutionary scientific goals of the mission and an idealistic faith in the ecumenical brotherhood such an isolated atmosphere could engender. When climatic and other life-support systems began to malfunction, however, the biospherians' utopian vision soon devolved into a dystopian nightmare as paranoia, jealousy, and mistrust became a greater threat than any loss of oxygen. As an electrifying testament to the strength of their commitment and an indictment of the self-defeating power of ego, Poynter's explicit insider's account of the creation and completion of the controversial mission exposes both the successes that were ignored by the media and the failures that received excessive attention. *Carol Haggas*  
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