

For Immediate Release

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YES, THEY PEE ON THE TIRES!

*Soyuz Blue, a near-future science fiction graphic novel released at Small Press Expo (SPX) in September, features real-life space launch superstitions and rituals!*

A typical launch day for Russian cosmonauts starts with a champagne toast, progresses to a soaking holy water blessing by a Russian Orthodox Priest, pauses for a press conference, and is punctuated by stopping the bus transporting the crew to the launchpad to allow male Soyuz crew members to urinate on the tires.

“While doing research for my space thriller I came across this amazing list of Russian rituals and customs. They were more peculiar than anything I could have made up, and including them really help set an exotic and international tone for the novel.” said Steven John Fuchs, artist/author of *Soyuz Blue, Volume One*, now available in print on Amazon, and digitally on Kindle.

The 82-page illustrated space adventure straddles genres and geography; from action adventure to science fiction; and from the steppes of Kazakhstan to the International Space Station.

“Human beings reaching for the stars are, in the final analysis, still human beings. I love the contradictions of cutting edge technology, rigorous science, and lucky charms. These paradoxes lend humor and realism to a two-fisted adventure. Add to the mix: corporate politics, scientific fraud, international terrorism, a love triangle, and you have a supercharged stage on which to tell a tale of suspense.”

*Soyuz Blue* is a three volume series. Volume Three is due for release this September at the Small Press Expo in Bethesda, Maryland.

Steven John Fuchs is a specialist in design and international user experience. A fine artist as well as a graphic designer, Mr. Fuchs' drawings and paintings have been displayed in numerous galleries and institutions in the Washington D.C. area. Fuchs is a cinema and comics buff. *Soyuz Blue* grew out of his fascination with space and technology. This is his first graphic novel.

Blog post with more details on launch rituals (the US has them too!)

<http://stevenjohnfuchs.com/soyuzblue/yes-they-pee-on-the-tires/>

Website:

[www.soyuzblue.com](http://www.soyuzblue.com)

The entire novel, remixed without dialogue, and uploaded a panel a day at:

<https://instagram.com/soyuzblue/>

#soyuzblue

Samples here:

<http://stevenjohnfuchs.com/soyuzblue/press-kit/>

The novel summarized in three sentences:

After sunspot activity threatens the orbit of the International Space Station, Corporate Cosmonaut Elizabeth Floyd is assigned to the Russian mission to save the outpost. But terrorists, a crippling solar storm, and scientific fraud all serve to turn her rescue flight into a journey of intrigue and mystery. This vividly illustrated tale puts you into the cockpit of the venerable Soyuz spacecraft as it lifts off on an odyssey of discovery and adventure.