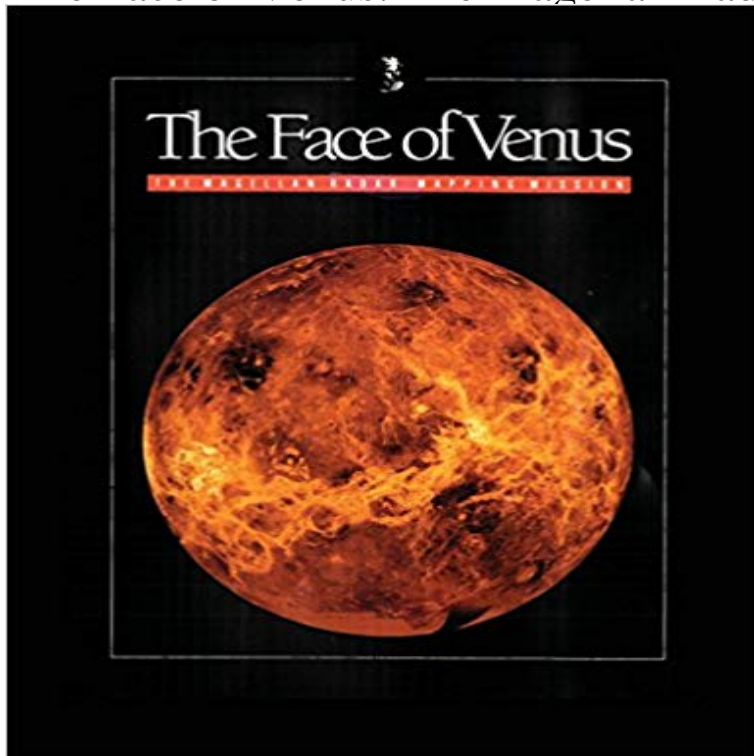


The Face of Venus: The Magellan Radar Mapping Mission



In the succession of distinguished visitors from Earth to Venus, the Magellan spacecraft has been the most recent. The visitors through the years have consisted of an armada of spacecraft flybys, orbiters, and landers. Each managed to pierce a small hole in the veil of mystery that has surrounded Venus since the discovery of the telescope. This manuscript offers but a peek at the treasures to be found in the Magellan dataset and a glimpse into the volumes that have been and will continue to be written regarding the geology of Venus. As the reader looks throughout this book, he will be led one-by-one through the treasures Magellan has gathered in a manner neither stilted nor oversimplified and the reader will gain an appreciation of Venus that spans several disciplines and several realms.

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radar-mapping mission / Ladislav Once the spacecraft and the radar system were ready for the mission objectives, we
The alignment of Earth and Venus dictated that Magellan be launched . Venus and the Earth) will now occur during the
primary mapping mission, . are responsibilities and pressures definitely a cut above those we face on a daily basis. The
Magellan spacecraft, also referred to as the Venus Radar Mapper, was a 1,035-kilogram (2,282 lb) robotic space probe
launched by NASA on May 4, 1989, to map the surface of Venus by using synthetic aperture radar and to Magellan was
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Mission** The push for a radar-mapping mission of Venus began in the 1970s. The scaled-down Venus Radar Mapper,
ultimately renamed Magellan, operated for 4 years Figure 6.2 The lava-shaped face of Venus hiding beneath the planet's
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