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Flying Upside Down: True Tales of an Antarctic Pilot

Mark Hinebaugh

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Mark Hinebaugh : Flying Upside Down: True Tales of an Antarctic Pilot before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flying Upside Down: True Tales of an Antarctic Pilot:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great flightBy wdcartfor work, i flew with the author from McMurdo Station to Christchurch New Zealand. much of what he describes is right on. most OAEs would enjoy the book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! Now I know what its like being in the coldestBy A

Customerplace on the planet as only an incredibly brave Naval Pilot could. Thanks Mark for getting us there and bringing us back home again safely!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This is an accurate presentation of Antarctic flying.By A CustomerI was also an Antarctic piolt in the same squadron (VXE-6) a few years before the author. His descriptions of the continent of Antarctica, and the operations that the squadron performed, brought back many memories of my 3 years in VXE-6. He also expanded on my understanding of the history of Antarctic exploration. Anyone who is interested in a good description of a unique area of the world (that very few people ever get to see) would enjoy this book. Antarctica is a beautiful, but very unforgiving place, and the author describes it well. I would also recommend this book to anyone who has flight experience because the flying in Antarctica is unique and the Antarctic pilot's instrument flying skill is tested on a daily basis. The squadron's mission was to support science and exploration and "to boldly go where no man has gone before". How many places on earth can you think of that fit that description?

It won't take the reader of this book long to realize that Antarctica is not the place for the faint of heart. A single mistake can kill you, and pilots in particular are vulnerable. Author Mark Hinebaugh should know. As an LC-130 pilot with the U.S. Navy's VXE-6 squadron, he put his life on the line countless times to carry scientists and their supplies in and out of this enigmatic continent. And in this engaging memoir he puts the reader in the seat next to him to experience the adventure of flying over the coldest, driest, highest, windiest, and most godforsaken place on earth.Cloudless, sunny days mutate into maelstroms of snow in a matter of minutes. A whiteout landing where crews land without ever seeing the ground is unforgettably described in a chapter called "Flying in a Milk Bottle." Hinebaugh also makes it perfectly clear that when the weather breaks, the views are awe-inspiring. He brilliantly conveys the exhilaration of flying down low through rugged glacial valleys and the thrill of seeing the sites where such giants of Antarctic exploration as Amundsen, Byrd, Scott, and Shackleton began their journeys. The author's formula for survival is steely nerves and a healthy dose of optimism, along with an ability to adapt to constantly changing situations and an uncompromising adherence to a personal code of safety. He warns that this is a place where skill, teamwork, flexibility, and a keen sense of humor are paramount. Hinebaugh's rich, vivid voice is so descriptive that opening the pages of his book are almost as exciting as taking the trip yourselfand a lot more comfortable.