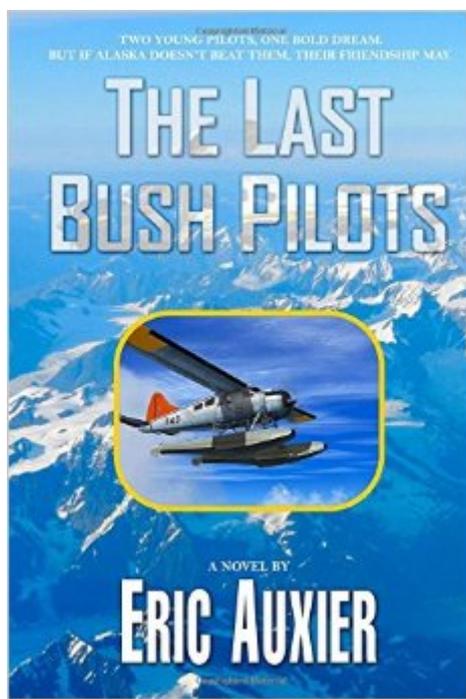


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The Last Bush Pilots



Synopsis

"You won't want to put down THE LAST BUSH PILOTS while the midnight sun still shines!"--Airways Magazine TOP 100 - MAINSTREAM FICTION - BREAKTHROUGH NOVELS 2013!"Mayday, Mayday! I'm going down, I'm going Do--"Author, airline captain and popular blogger (capnaux.com) Eric Auxier brings his former Alaska bush flying to life in his second novel, The Last Bush Pilots. Exhilarating flying, tall tales and larger-than-life characters abound in a wild land that truly is America's Last Frontier. Two young pilots, Daniel "DC" Alva and Allen David Foley, take on the world's most dangerous flying: the Alaska bush. But Mother Nature--and a sexy Native Alaskan--stand in their way. Southeast Alaska Seaplanes, Juneau. Retired airline captain, Chief Pilot Dusty Tucker pilots a renegade band of flying misfits. Meet legendary bush pilot Jake "Crash" Whitaker, equally adept at landing planes and ladies--and "crashin' 'em" as well; prankster pilot Ralph Olaphsen, who once set an extinct volcano ablaze on April Fool's Day; and no-nonsense Check Airman Holly Innes, trying to cut a respectable niche in the notoriously macho bush pilot world--while escaping a dangerous past. Amid Alaska's soggy skies, DC and Allen face escalating challenges in and out of the cockpit. The two cheechackos, or greenhorns, are roped into Crash and Ralph's hare-brained scheme, Operation Dirty Harry. Under the suspicious nose of Draconian FAA Inspector Frederick Bruner, the pilots hatch a plot to hijack and rescue a planeload of orphaned bear cubs. Moreover, mischievous Tlingit Indian Tonya Hunter, as wild and unpredictable as the land in which she lives, plays the two lovestruck cheechackos against each other. But the true villain of the story is Mother Nature herself. Alaska's notoriously fickle weather and rugged terrain take on a life of its own. Can the two cheechackos survive Her relentless onslaught and launch their fledgeling airline careers?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For anyone who has ever had a dream fueled by passion, and sacrificed a life they had once known to make that dream come true, will appreciate the journey that DC embarks upon. Not many people have seen the wilderness called the Alaska Bush. But for those who have, they will relive the most vivid memories of their lives. For those who haven't, you are ready for an adventure of a lifetime. Cap'n Aux takes you into another world--one that he has lived. His writing is crisp, and he's found a voice all his own. His characters are well developed, and I found myself cheering them on, and felt pain in their darkest hours. I became part of the story that I could not put down. When DC takes to the air the reader gets more than great flying scenes, they get to learn lessons from the bush. The place where pilots are born, and many have died. Who will love this book? Anybody wanting a great adventure story. Future pilots reaching for a dream. And any pilot who wants to remember the passion of what drove them to their career. Excellent job!

This is excellent work on so many levels. Alaska is a haven for all sorts of end-of-the-road types, and Auxier's presentations of the young pilots DC and Allen, the former airline pilot Dusty Tucker, hillbilly prankster Ralph Olafsen, the complex Veronica Redding/Holly Innes, and all the rest are as complete as the flesh and blood Alaskans in John McPhee's "Coming Into the Country." The plot is beautifully crafted, without any signs of tricks or a formula. Auxier's use of dialogue is skillful, so the method never gets in the way of the story. Most impressive to me is his technical credibility, no matter whether the subject is rock climbing, weather, or aircraft. Auxier has keen powers of observation, and has clearly been collecting and cataloguing vignettes for most of his life. Still, he is not limited by his own experiences, as varied as they are. He is not old enough to have flown in the Vietnam war, for instance, but his portrayal of A7 combat is as believable as his Cessna 207 bush flying. This is not a genre that I often read, and I am much more familiar with Conrad, Faulkner and O'Connor than Clancy, Grisham and Koontz. I do know good writing when I see it, and this is not what I expected in a breakthrough novel.

Never been to Alaska and can't imagine living there, but, for what it's worth, this story could change a person's overall outlook on Alaska. From start to finish, this is a book that is hard to put down. The character, while not many, created a certain air about them. These were seasoned Bush Pilots,

sourdough, and a couple of Churchill (?) = New kids on the block. Dusty Tucker, the Boss, who shared various pearls of wisdom with DC. Next came Jake Whittaker, another knowledgeable person in all things to do with the Alaskan Bush. There are others, each that add their own quirks to the group. Mr Auxier is a pilot also, so much of what he has written comes from his own knowledge.

"Mayday...Mayday". Those two words were the bait. As twisted as this might sound in the looming possibility of someone's demise I needed to find out what happened next, and so I kept reading. I was then completely hooked and reeled in. Author, Eric Auxier knows how to deliver a heart thumping beginning that shaped the foundation of this fictional story of two young aspiring pilots, Daniel C Alva "DC", and his best friend Allen D Foley. Working the skies towards getting into the big leagues, they both take on the Alaskan Bush, and whatever else "SHE" decides to dish out. This heart thumping adrenalin rush continues throughout the whole novel making it such a worthwhile purchase. Throughout you will find characters that you'll either love or hate. This tale spins the lives of "as tough as you can get & the cheechacko (greenhorn)" Alaskan bush pilots, aviation, the beauty of the land, the unforgiving weather, and the meeting of friends new and old, all woven together into one great novel. Each chapter brings on new adventures and for anyone that loves life's mystery, history, geography, humor, a little romance, danger, twists and turns that you never expected then you will highly enjoy this novel. (I must say the romance is not sappy, but has a certain edge to it). What I greatly appreciated was the author's wit, humor, and style of personal touches (as a pilot himself), that he painted throughout the book for the reader. This novel left me satisfied, entertained, and surprisingly enough gave me a new found admiration and knowledge of aviation, and the wild beautiful land known as Alaska or more appropriately "The Last Bush Pilots" of The Last Frontier. With that said, do I highly recommend this book? YES...completely captivating.

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