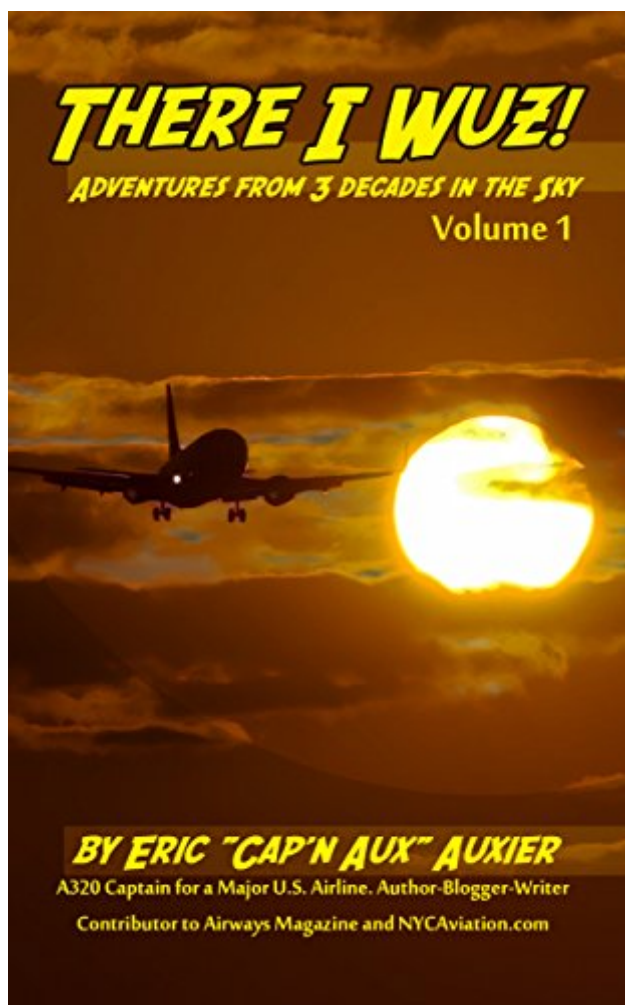


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There I Wuz!: Adventures From 3 Decades In The Sky



Synopsis

"The altimeter spins backwards in a blur, like a mad scientist's time travel clock." So many of you have asked for more of my adventures in the sky, and I've found a cool way to do it! — For the first time, here's a collection of aeronautical adventures from such publications as Airways Magazine, NYC Aviation.com, Plane & Pilot magazine and my blog (capnaux.com). Also included are several unpublished works, guest stories from fellow pilot-authors, photos, links to videos and other gems. Inside you'll find stories all the way back to when my feet first left terra firma in a hang glider as a daring (uh, make that foolish) young teen. From my extreme initiation as a young bush pilot in Alaska to fighting off hurricanes in the Caribbean, to an explosive decompression in a heavy airliner, I invite you to join me in the cockpit on an adventure spanning over three decades! Eric Auxier is a captain with a major U.S. airline, with over 20,000 hours of flying in a career spanning well over three decades. He is the author of the 2013 Top 100 Breakthrough Novel, "The Last Bush Pilots," as well as the Young Adult spy series, "Code Name: Dodger." Mr. Auxier's popular blog, "Adventures of Cap'n Aux" (capnaux.com) is read by thousands worldwide.

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Customer Reviews

If you are a fan of Cap'n Aux, are an aviation enthusiast, or just enjoy good stories, then this book is definitely for you! Filled with tales from his 30 year career, "There I Wuz! Adventures From 3 Decades in the Sky" takes you along for the ride on some of Cap'n Aux's most entertaining adventures. For those familiar with Captain Auxier's body of work, some of the stories will be old favorites. However, they stand up well to re-telling and you will find yourself just as absorbed as you were the first time you read them. Additionally, there are several guest stories from other aviator-authors, including Mark Berry and Brent Owens. If you are like me and quickly devour good books from cover to cover, this will provide an entertaining afternoon. If you prefer to read in smaller doses, each chapter stands alone and allows the reader to skip around with no loss of continuity. Whatever your reading style, I highly recommend this book as a fun, engaging read!

Here we have a collection of flying tales compiled by a fellow who says of himself that he's, 'a pilot by day, writer by night, kid by choice.' This book proves the assertion on all counts. Not only does it contain flying stories by various aviator/writers that will prove the authors' creds as pilots, they'll curl the hair on your neck like a good late-night, Stephen-King-ish mystery, while solidifying the common belief that all pilots are just big kids in charge of very costly toys that leave the ground and (most often but not always) return to the earth again in usable condition. Auxier is a left-seater, a Captain for 'a major U.S. airline.' The author's other work includes two previous books: 'The Last Bush Pilots,' and 'Code Name Dodger.' This collection of tales from the cockpit includes gems with titles taken from pop culture: 'Denali Mountain High'; 'Zen and the Art of Aircraft Maintenance'; 'The Loon is a Harsh Mistress,' you get the idea. These are satisfying, instructive, often inspiring tales, all with an undercurrent of some kind. Most of the time that subtle theme lurking below the text concerns the vagaries of the aviation game, not the dangers of it that the public focuses on but the 'flyin' biz' chatter that only a pilot can relate to, but the public 'inquiring minds' love to know. Indeed, one of the most telling essays in the book is titled 'Top 10 downers of an airline pilot career.' As a former commercial pilot, I found myself nodding in full agreement at all ten, from the restrictions to family time, to subsistence pay, to the reality of commercial aviation's utter lack of job security. Yet, at the end of this particular piece, the childlike wonder reemerges. Auxier--speaking for all pilots, at all times, everywhere--writes at the books beginning, "Ask any pilot how they started flying and you'll hear a love story" and then he returns to this sentiment after itemizing ten reasons he hates it, with

this: "You're sitting in a chair...in the sky! And getting paid for it!" The writing is strong, with many of the pieces taken from capnaux.com, Auxier's flying blog, and articles of his written for NYCAviation.com and Airways Magazine. Some of the pieces in There I Wuz! lack any real flying advice and/or narrative, though the context is flying life and its blandishments. Certain essays reinforce certain stereotypes of pilots in various occupations who, it appears, have earned their reputations quite honestly. Alaskan bush pilots, for example, take chances and flout regulations that can only be read with a degree of awe that those pilots fly as they do, and live to retirement age, despite the exploits depicted herein. All in all a fun, satisfying grouping of tales from the cockpit, some riveting--like Auxier's own about the carriage home of a fallen hero--to the mundane if still enjoyable 'Inflight Undercover Sting Op,' by Brent Owens. If you like short, engaging flying tales, and enjoy reading insights and the human side of technical careers, you'll like There I Wuz! Byron Edgington, author of *Â The Sky Behind Me: A Memoir of Flying & Life*

I finished this book in one sitting, minus the time I spent boarding my deadhead flight. This book will make you laugh (I did), but will also hit you in your heart (I teared up). As a fellow airline pilot I would have struggled to make one of the announcements he made and for the same reason. The book does an excellent job of portraying the nice sides as well as the "warts" of aviation, and in particular being an airline pilot. Even the bits of fiction throw you into the action and unless it was specifically stated you would never know that it is fiction. Though I have been flying for far less time than Cap'n Aux and haven't had the broad range of experiences, I can relate to the stories. And yes, if you ask a pilot, you will get a love story. Mine started when I was 9, and I remember as it was yesterday. As well as my first solo flight.

As many other reviewers have said, Eric Auxier shares a literary talent and style similar to Tom Clancy. I had the privilege of picking up this book prior to an eight hour flight to Jamaica and read it virtual cover to virtual cover between two flights and a layover. It's presented in a way that you can easily pick it up and put it down (although you won't want to) without losing your place. Taking a collection of stories (both his and others) and melding them into a single novel is no simple task. Although all of the passages center around aviation, Eric takes the time to curate his collection into something that has variety without jumping all over the place. The end result is the perfect flow of excitement, learning and sharing from page to page. If you haven't read "There I Wuz!", then you're really missing out. I'm personally an aviation nerd, but even my family enjoyed reading passages and they sparked a conversation about aviation in a way nothing really has before. So cheers, Eric,

for helping to expand my knowledge, save me from boredom, and allow me to share our aviation passions with family and friends more easily!

It will make you laugh, cry, laugh-cry (yes, there is such a thing!) and gape in awe till you are well over and done with the book. You'll find yourself talking about it, remembering stories and claiming them to be your very own. And that's ok. While it's a book about adventures in the sky, it truly is a book that tells tales about yourself—your dreams, loves, laughs, and Yes, heartbreaks. No need to be a pilot. All you need is a love for adventure..up there in the skies and on the ground. An easy read that you would love to share but would surely want it back.

I was okay but not great.

As someone who isn't much into aviation, I still found this book easy to read. The stories were interesting and some very humorous!! This is truly a book that anyone from any background can read and enjoy! Looking forward to hearing more harrowing stories from Cap'n Aux!!!

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