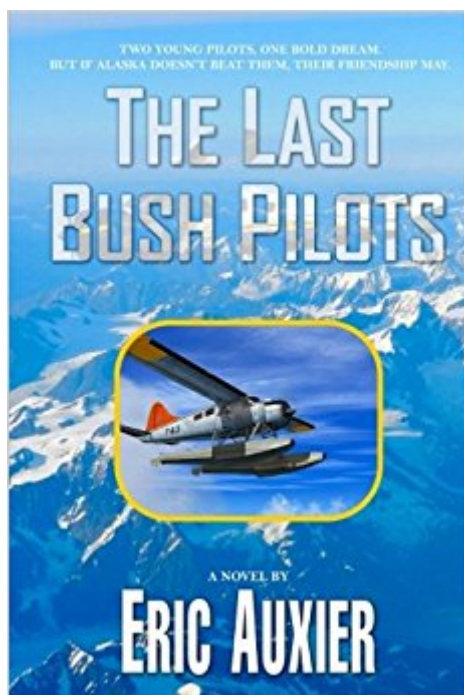


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The Last Bush Pilots



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?

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Customer Reviews

"Eric Auxier is the next Tom Clancy of aviation."--Tawni Waters, author, *Beauty of the Broken*; *Siren Song*; 1st Place, Top Travel Writers of 2010 "With 12,000+ hours of arctic Alaskan bush flying to my credit during the 1970's and 80's, reading *The Last Bush Pilots* was like a glance in a forty year old mirror. Nice work, Eric."--CloudDancer, author, "CloudDancer's Alaskan Chronicles." "I flew through *The Last Bush Pilots* in one sitting, keeping my seatbelt securely fastened. A fast-paced tale, thoroughly enjoyed." --John Wegg, Editor *Airways Magazine* "As a page-turning adventure novel, you won't want to put down *THE LAST BUSH PILOTS* while the midnight sun still shines." --*Airways Magazine* "The author paints a pictures with words that are every bit as beautiful and moving as anything ever drawn or photographed." --Aviationguy.com

Readers are always asking me just how much of this book is true. While this novel is entirely fictional, many larger-than-life characters and "tall tales" are inspired by real people and events I encountered while flying the Alaska bush in the summer of '87. For example, in Chapter 3, *Eagle & Salmon*, the scene where an eagle with a salmon in its talons flies inches over the boys' heads while they're chatting on the Juneau Airport ramp, happened to me. It remains one of the most breathtaking scenes in my life. And in Chapter 22, *The Sky Fell*, DC faces the bush pilot's ultimate fear. That experience also happened to me, and proved to be a watershed moment in my flying career. Readers of my blog at capnaux.com will recall the true story in my post, *The Sky Fell*. Moreover, the way both pilots handle their emergency landings come from hours plying the Southeast Alaska skies, contemplating exactly just what I would do if faced with those situations. In another incident that inspired a subplot for this book, I did indeed fly three orphaned bear cubs. As in the novel, a poacher killed their momma sow. While those real-life cubs found homes in zoos in the Lower Forty-Eight, I wanted to spin a fun yarn exacting poetic justice on said poacher; hence, the Doyle brothers in the book. And, by the way, bear cubs really do stink to high heaven! Some minor facts have been altered to serve the story. For example, Etolin Island, not Pleasant Island, contains the Roosevelt Elk herd. I also have to confess that real-life credit for character Ralph Olaphsen's genius "volcanic" April First hoax goes to one Oliver "Porky" Bickar. A major theme that shapes this book is Alaska; the land, the people, their way of life. But Alaska's dominating trait, in this book and in real life, is the weather. In *The Last Bush Pilots*, Mother Nature is personified as

the Ultimate Adversary, and modern day bush pilots would do well to think of Her as such. She dominates every decision we make, from how much fuel to take, what route to fly, even whether to launch or not. To that end, the most accurate scenes in this book, I believe, are the ones that take place in the air.* I may have only spent a scant summer season in that magical land called Alaska, but the lessons and impressions stuck with me for life. And inspired this novel. Enjoy!

I was looking to buy this book to get a feel of what the bush pilot lifestyle was like. I enjoyed this book about 90% of the time because it scratched that itch for adventures about pilots living in the last frontier. I even liked the characters and the non flying related antics that went on (as a person that stays away from fiction, this is saying a lot) but there is one character I didn't like. It frustrated me that every time this character was mentioned, they caused so much unneeded drama and they weren't even that well developed. Why would anyone like this person or go out of their way to please them. Overall good book but you could skip every mention of this character and it would enhance the experience.

"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. I am no aviation buff, but what I do love is adventure, and being immersed into the characters and storyline that took me away into a unique journey I'd never imagined. 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.

I really didn't expect to be pulled in like that. It's a really good book and you will find yourself emotionally vested in the characters. I wish everyone had the ability to take experiences like these and turn them into a readable novel instead of just a bunch of stories.

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.

So as a pilot and lover of Alaska I found this book and thus began my adventure. I cannot say how impressed I was with this book or how well it is written. I can truly tell this book was written by a pilot for pilots, but with a storyline anyone will love. If you love aviation and love Alaska this is the book for you! I loved it so much I emailed the author and within the day he replied with very gracious words and insight to his upcoming writings. I just ordered my next Eric Auxier book!

An excellent read! As a professional pilot I identified with many of the hard choices the characters had to make and how challenging those early jobs can be. I grew up in Alaska, and Auxier's narrative took me back to my days living on the southern coast of the state; I can almost smell the pine trees and fish, and feel the light summer rain and mist from low ceilings on my skin. It takes just a few pages to realize he's someone whose writing is based on actual experience. I had a trip to Alaska shortly after reading this book and it only reinforced how perfectly he captured life in a small town up there!

I love Alaska and read just about any stories I can find about it. This was an interesting read - made me wonder why anyone would be so crazy to be a bush pilot, but also gives such good insight into the reasons why, that by the end of the book, I understood better. It had good twists, some sad parts, which weren't unexpected, given it's about bush pilots and some funny parts. Worth reading.

The author writes about flying small planes in Alaska in summer, southeastern Alaska at that. It becomes obvious in the first chapter that the author knows his stuff, and by the end of the book, you know more than you ever thought you would, or should, about Alaskan weather and how to fly in it. Or crash, as the case may be. I loved the in-depth character descriptions of the key players in this novel. I also loved how everything played out.

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