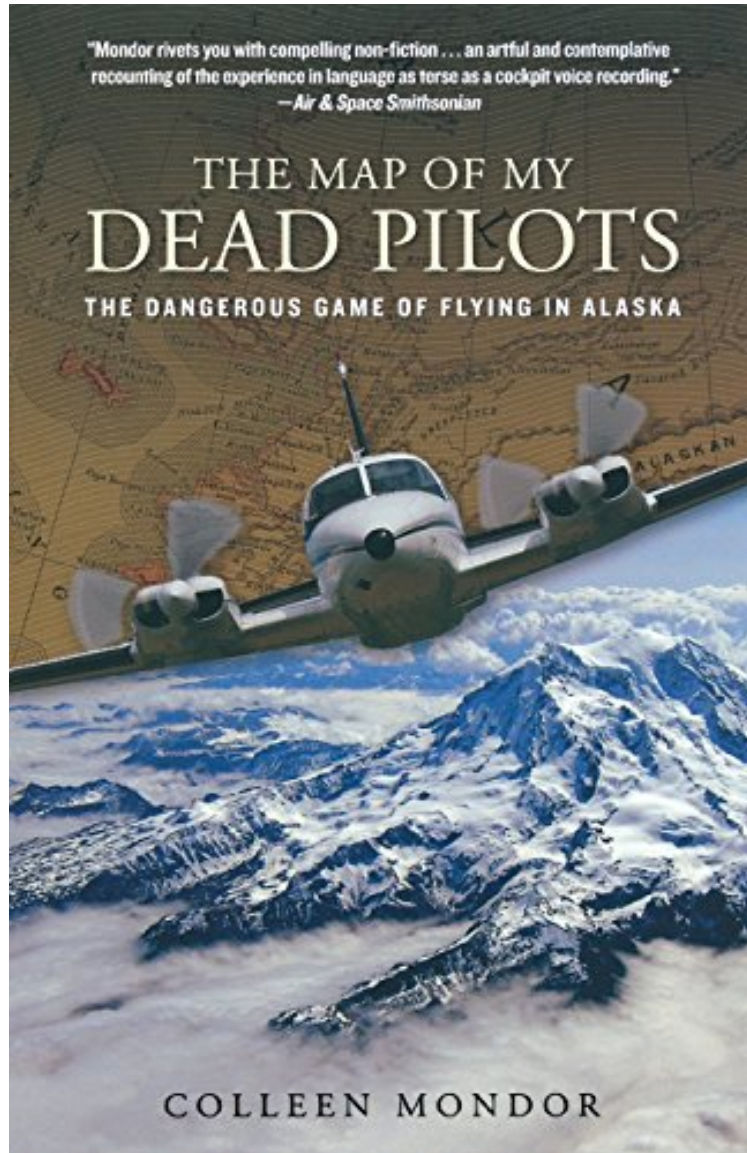


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Map of My Dead Pilots: The Dangerous Game of Flying In Alaska

Colleen Mondor

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Colleen Mondor : Map of My Dead Pilots: The Dangerous Game of Flying In Alaska before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Map of My Dead Pilots: The Dangerous Game of Flying In Alaska:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A gripping exposition of what it means to be a pilot By Walter

KingsboroughMy father was a pilot from the age of 17 until he had retinal trouble at 83, and after the vision issue cleared, even though he did not renew his license, he remained a pilot until his death from mesotheliosis. Both my older and younger brothers became pilots, as would I have, circumstance aside, and as I am in spirit, nonetheless. The Map of My Dead Pilots lays out, in meticulous detail, what it means to be a pilot in the deepest core of one's spirit. Set against the stark reality of commercial bush air transport in some the harshest flight conditions in the world, that reality is gripping, and nearly soul crushing. As a quasi-pilot, myself, and the son of man of true pilot spirit, Map of My Dead Pilots rings closer to the pure spirit of flight than anything I have ever read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought Provoking Alaskan Aviation MemoriesBy RiverrunnerThe book started out slow for me but picked up speed later. In the end it was a great thoughtful discussion of the mental forces effecting pilots in Alaskan flying. Most pilots in this type of aviation are in the start of their career, invincible, and vulnerable to the "get it done" culture that has existed in the past.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A slightly repetitive memoir of Alaskan pilots who pushed the ...By Charles R. GarciaA slightly repetitive memoir of Alaskan pilots who pushed the limits of their own skills and abilities to the breaking point. The deaths soon become either Legends or memories of mistakes caused by arrogance or fear.

The Map of My Dead Pilots is about flying, pilots, and Alaska, the beautiful and deadly Last Frontier. Author Colleen Mondor spent four years running dispatch operations for a Fairbanks-based commuter and charter airline, and she knows all too well the gap between the romance and reality of small plane piloting in the wildest territory of the United States. From overloaded aircraft to wings covered in ice, from flying sled dogs and dead bodies, piloting in Alaska is about living hard and working even harder. What Mondor witnessed day to day would make anyones hair stand on end. Ultimately, it is the pilots themselveslaced with ice and whiskey, death and camaraderie, silence and engine roarand their harrowing tales who capture her imagination. In fine detail, this series of stories reveals the technical side of flying, the history of Alaskan aviation, and a world that demands a close communion with extreme physical danger and emotional toughness.

"I know that the first two letters of 'memoir' spell 'me,' but the kind of memoir I like best is one that goes beyond being simply a personal account and instead tells a larger story. The Map of My Dead Pilots by Colleen Mondor does exactly that. . . . This isn't a neatly narrated, chronological account with a clean beginning and a clear end. Rather, in lyrical, impressionistic prose she relates the stories she tells of the pilots she knewsome still living and some now deadto the myth and the reality of Alaska.It's a story of danger, of loss, of courage, of unsavory landing strips and forbidding mountains, of delivering mail and making mercy flights, of adrenaline and prayer, of unpredictably changeable winds and oncoming storms, of snow, of difficult decisions, of good fortune and bad luck, and, always, of the unbelievable cold. But it's also about why we choose the lives we do, how we rewrite our pasts to make sense of ourselves to the person we've become, what we choose to remember, and how and why we forget what we do: It's about myth-making, storytelling and memory. . . ." --Nancy Pearl, NPR's Morning Edition