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The Sound Of Wings: The Life Of Amelia Earhart



Synopsis

When Amelia Earhart mysteriously disappeared in 1937 during her attempted flight around the world, she was already known as America's most famous female aviator. Her sense of daring and determination, rare for women of her time, brought her insurmountable fame from the day she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an airplane. In this definitive biography, Mary S. Lovell delivers a brilliantly researched account on Earhart's life using the original documents, letters, the logbooks of Earhart and her contemporaries, and personal interviews with members of Amelia's family, friends and rival aviators. The Sound of Wings vividly captures the drama and mystery behind the most influential woman in "The Golden Age of Flight" - from her tomboy days at the turn of the century and her early fascinations with flying, to the unique relationship she shared with G.P. Putnam, the flamboyant publisher and public relations agent who became both her husband and her business manager. It is a revealing biography of an uncommonly brave woman, and the man who both aided and took advantage of her dreams.

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Customer Reviews

This book holds the reader's interest on almost every page and gives a convincing understanding of Amelia Earhart's temperament as well as of her husband's. For the first time, I really got a clear understanding of the ambitious people they were and of the commercial background of their projects. I had learned from other books that Amelia was not a born aviator and did not have the skill to really master a plane, especially such a large one as was used in her last flight. But this book

made her deficiencies all too clear and they were considerable. She was careless about important facets such as navigation and communication, all of which played a part in her last terrible ordeal in the search for Howland Island. She could not shake her habit of pressing the wrong foot pedals when the plane pivots suddenly during a landing. Even to the end, her instructors could not break her of the habit. This no doubt accounts for some the crackups she experienced. She was intrepid despite the fear she experienced during various accidents. Her courage is incontestable. But perhaps it went too far, into careless risk taking and an excess of ambition for title after title. However, that was her career. She made her living from adventure stories to be told on the lecture tours. And her husband George Putnam facilitated her increasingly ambitious efforts. I had never heard much good about Putnam and his pushing of his wife into risky endeavors. This book, though, is extremely favorable to him, often reiterating that he was simply facilitating what Amelia was determined to do. I came away with a dislike of Putnam and his volatile temperament despite the virtues insisted upon by the author. As a minor point, I had not realized that he married again a year or two after Amelia's death.

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