



Fire Flight

John J. Nance

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When forest wildfires threaten two American national parks and countless homes, retired fire bomber Clark Maxwell joins his former teammates despite the unreliability of their air tankers, which are breaking apart with fatal consequences, a situation that Maxwell suspects may be linked to a sinister cover up.

Fire Flight Details

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From Reader Review Fire Flight for online ebook

Nolan says

This is one of the most action-packed suspense-filled books I've read in quite a while. My great fear is that in my exuberance, I'll inadvertently give far too much of this away, and I would far prefer that you read it for yourself. That said, let me try this:

Fire season in the American west is never boring and all too often very nearly apocalyptic. The people who fly the air tankers and other craft in defense of homes and life as they strive to defeat the merciless monster that is fire are a special breed indeed. They need planes that are absolutely in top shape. They need planes that have been checked and rechecked-machines where corners aren't cut in their repair, and that doesn't appear to be what's happening.

Clark Maxwell is a veteran flyer. He left off flying over fires because of his concerns about the aging nature of the fleet and the dangers those aging planes posed for the men and women who flew them. So concerned was he that, while on hiatus, he wrote an article that was widely read among his still-active firefighting colleagues warning the American public about the dangers of the aging fleets and the inherent problems the current contract system created.

But he's been asked to come back and fly one more summer; they're shorthanded, and his experience and level head are exactly what the group needs in order to beat back a menacing fire that looks to be worse than the Yellow Stone debacle of 1988.

But not long after he returns to work, wings inexplicably rip off planes, which, in turn, plummet to the ground, killing everyone on board. One crash is distressing enough, but when other problems arise, Clark knows he has to do something.

There is one scene in here that involves a distressed plane that is so nail-biting real you'll find your guts clenched while it plays out. I won't say how it ends, because you now really want to read this book for yourself, and well you should! It is clearly well researched, vividly written, and with as many twists and turns as . as a plane tossed about in turbulence or something like that.

Rob1109 says

I read 'Pandora's Clock' a couple years back and still remember it well. It was a true thrill ride from beginning to end. I also read 'The Last Hostage' and like Pandora's Clock, John Nance crafted another great book. No, it wasn't as good as 'Pandora's Clock' but still a great novel.

I just completed 'Fire Flight.' Or tried to. I think this was a huge disappointment. It takes a lot for me to start a book and not finish reading it. It REALLY takes a lot for me to read 2/3 of a book and not finish it. I got to page 255 of this 350 page novel and sadly had to give up.

While I am a fan of Mr. Nance—or at least of his 2 other superb novels—I found nothing interesting in this

book. Even getting through 250 pages was a real struggle. This is a fiction novel. But yet, the book frequently read more like a boring technical manual.

Mr. Nance's 'thing' is airplanes, as he proved in the other 2 novels I've read. He also was a fighter pilot in Viet Nam. I thank him for his service. I, however, never served. I have never piloted a plane. Yet, this novel relied and much lingo, jargon and terminology that was over my head. Words and expressions were used that left me scratching my head.

I found Mr. Nance's writing style in this book to be over-the-top wordiness. Even the so-called 'action' scenes were boring due to his wordy style and overly verbose descriptions. Scenes that should have had my heart beating quicker were boring. This entire novel—or at least for the 250 pages I got through—was a difficult, tedious and draining read.

I found the story itself somewhat boring. True, I've never been too interested in pilots who fight fires from the air by dumping fire retardants from the sky. But I was willing to learn, to be pulled in. Mr. Nance didn't do it.

I've always liked characters I could identify with. All of the characters in 'Fire Flight' was utterly boring, cardboard and stereotypically one dimensional. There's Jerry Stein, the penny pinching CEO who puts his people's lives at stake for the bottom line. Trent is the chief maintenance guy with a short temper who always yells. Sam Littlefox is the tough-as-nails pilot who will NOT be kept out of the cockpit. Judy is the damsel-in—distress, the abused woman who gets knocked around by her husband while struggling to leave him. Larry Black is the typically inept bumbling mayor of a small town. Jimmy Wolfe is the smug arrogant millionaire British Rock God who, as he sleeps with 2 women at a time, doesn't think the rules apply to him. And of course, our hero, Clark Maxwell. He is so perfect, so smart, so handsome, so wonderful, so intelligent, so principled, so well-respected—it's annoying. As he tries to fight fires and save both Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons, he's also trying to deal with saving a woman from an abusive relationship. And when his co-pilot teases him about feelings for this woman, this middle-aged man blushes like a school boy.

I'm rating this 2 stars. I loved the 2 other novels by Mr. Nance and had hoped to enjoy this one. But, to me, it was simply unreadable.

D. E. says

An Aviation mystery with grace consequences for the surrounding area where the dangerous event was planned. Twin fires were started and what started as a planned event soon became a life disturbing event. A local air fire brigade attempt to do their best to thwart the catastrophic event. They are forced to use aircraft their last legs to evacuate people. This is an excellent read for the genre.....DEHS

Sherrie says

This is a new author to me. This book is filled with intrigue, romance and mystery. When a retired pilot Clark Maxwell gets a call from his friend for help with a forest fire, he jumps right in. But some of the older

planes start having "accidents" and Clark is suspicious about what's going on. Clark starts investigating, but this could lead him down a one way street with his death or the death of someone he loves. Filled with lots of info about Forest Fires and the brave people who work to put them out.

Dave Hoff says

Aviation Fiction at it's best. John Nance, military and commercial pilot has written many exciting books on flying, mostly props like DC 6s. He & Ernest Gann (Fate is the Hunter,etc.) put you right in the left hand seat. Nance more the technical stuff. This book teaches alot on fire fighting, both the jumpers & the retard droppers.

Susan Moore says

A GRIPPING TALE OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH FIGHTING FOREST FIRES

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EACH CHARACTER WAS FULLY DEVELOPED AND ARTFULLY DESCRIBED. IT WAS HARD TO PUT DOWN. MY FIRST-TIME READ ON THE SUBJECT MATTER. I ENJOYED THE INTERWOVEN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHARACTERS AND THEIR SPECIFIC DUTIES, AS WELL AS ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND AIRCRAFT NEEDED TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES. MANY SUBPLOTS WERE INCLUDED WITH THE MAIN TOPIC AND MADE THE OVERALL STORY VERY ENTERTAINING.

David says

I have yet to be disappointed in John J. Nance's ability to find a way to build a thriller around aviation and Fire Flight is not an exception. Once again, the author builds the drama around airplanes and those airplanes are at risk of falling to the ground.

This time, however, Nance manages to add some interesting details about using aircraft to augment ground crews (smnokejumpers) to fight raging forest fires. Nance educates the reader about the various mindsets regarding wildfires and forest conservation as well as the attitude of the pilots and firefighters. Into the midst of this setting, Nance introduces a mystery-- is someone crashing airplanes? If so, why? Is the owner of an aging fleet of tankers simply trying to get off as cheap as he can-- or is he involved in something shadier. Or are the airplanes simply making dives and pullouts that the they were never really designed to withstand?

Not only does Nance manage to write solid thrillers-- he doesn't feel the need to fluff them up with an inordinate amount of obscene or vulgar speech-- oh-- it's there in places-- used in a realistic manner-- but it isn't there just to increase the word count and it isn't used superfluously-- but in an honest, and direct manner.

Nance's ability to build a thriller around flying airplanes is more than just "will this plane crash or land safely?" but the characters are all different in one way or another-- and the comeuppance some of them get is almost comical. The personal problems of the people are there to make them a little bit more than cardboard cutouts peopling the novel. I won't say he is really rich on characterization, but the characters are real and the

reader likes those that are likable and despises those that aren't. We get the feeling that Nance may know these characters, though I'm sure that resemblance of people living or dead is entirely co-incidental.. What I mean is that the characters are fairly real. However, the owner of the tanker fleet's main characteristic is that he is cheap and boisterous! His chief mechanic is a mean, jealous, abusive husband, perhaps pushed to the limits of the job creating the extra tension with his wife. The "hero" is simply a pilot, a knight in shining armor who would always do the right thing about secrets, checking things out, and in the way he treats women.

The STAR of this adventure, however, is the fire.. the fast growing and rapidly threatening fire, and the manner in which all of these people come together to deal with even in the face of a terrible crash and other dangers.

Kudos, Mr. Nance, on yet another aeronautical thriller that had me desperate to reach the conclusion. After all, I had to find out if Yellowstone actually burned to the ground or not.

David R says

I am a big fan of all of the "smoke eaters" who work to keep us safe from wilderness fires. I read this book a couple of years ago and while I can only guess how technically accurate the information is, the legal battle between private contractors and the Government takeover added an interesting twist.

As always, Mr. Nance's book is a tightly written page turner that I may just pick up again to reread.

Terrie says

I mostly enjoyed this book because it takes place in two of my favorite places--The Tetons and Yellowstone. The book is the story of those who valiantly fight forest fires--with outdated airplanes and too few people. Some of the events seemed a little far fetched, but made for an exciting read. There's even a mystery to be solved.

Andrea says

Another John J. Nance thriller.

Okay, maybe not a thriller. Nance is a veteran Air Force pilot and a prolific author.

Ena Mann says

Hot reading

One can almost feel the heat of the flames and the adrenalin rush of the pilots. A non stop exciting read with

a satisfactory ending. The firefighters, smoke jumpers, rescue helicopters and all the action involved in trying to stop the unstoppable flames was action enough
The added mystery of wings dropping off added extra fission!

Eileen Moss says

John J Nance has a way of hooking the reader in with the first chapter. I was on the edge of my seat throughout this book. He makes you feel like you are really flying those airplanes and experiencing everything the pilot is going through. I recommend this read to anyone who likes excitement. You won't fall asleep reading this book..in fact, it might keep you awake!

Linda Munro says

This book was not only a page turner, it was also enlightenment for me. The plot centers around pilots who fly into burning forests dousing the area with fire retardant and the fire's with water; it also concerns smoke jumpers, who literally skydive into burning forests to fight smaller spot fires before they have a chance to spread further. Not being from an area where wildfires are abundant, I held very little knowledge concerning the operations of controlling such fires. After reading the book, I did a bit of research to learn that the author had done a fabulous job of researching and portraying the dangers of the professional wild fire - fighter.

This book is far more than a novel about fire fighters; it's a suspense novel concerning the old equipment far too often used; and the mysterious equipment failure that cost the lives of age-old friends. Solving the mystery and dealing with the problem before more people die during a raging forest fire keeps the reader on the edge of their seats.

Andrea Kepner says

As with Saving Cascadia, Nance should stick to true aviation thrillers. Fire fighting planes just aren't that interesting.

Bonnie S. says

I enjoyed this book because it kept me on the edge of my seat with the suspense!! I now have a better insight into the lives of Airtanker firefighting and Smokejumpers. There is a tough, dangerous and little known about field of work!! I liked the style of John J. Nance's writing. There was more detail to absorb which slowed me down so I absorbed more information. I would recommend it to anyone fond of the outdoors!
