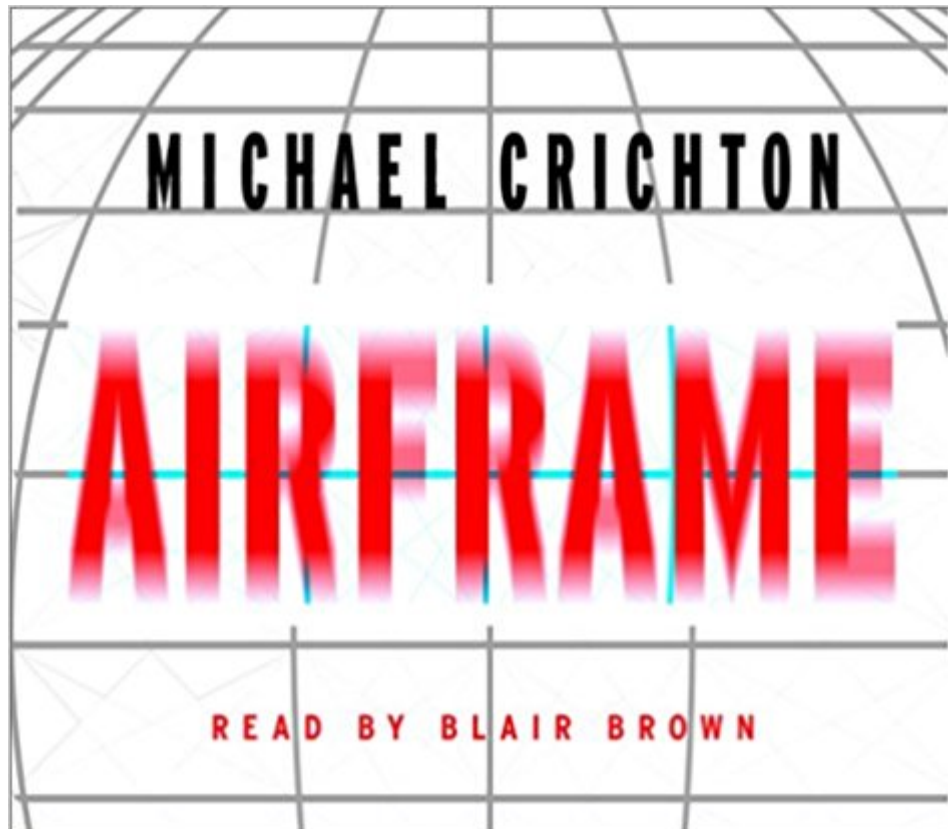




The book was found

Airframe



Synopsis

3 cassettes / 4 hours
Read by Blair Brown
Airframe is also available abridged on cassette, and unabridged on cassette. Three passengers are dead. Fifty-six are injured. The interior cabin virtually destroyed. But the pilot manages to land the plane. . . . At a moment when the issue of safety and death in the skies is paramount in the public mind, a lethal midair disaster aboard a commercial twin-jet airliner bound from Hong Kong to Denver triggers a pressured and frantic investigation. AIRFRAME is nonstop listening: the extraordinary mixture of super suspense and authentic information on a subject of compelling interest that has been a Crichton landmark since The Andromeda Strain.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Cruising 35,000 feet above the earth, a twin-engine commercial jet encounters an accident that leaves 3 dead, 56 wounded, and the cabin in shambles. What happened? With a multi-billion-dollar company-saving deal on the line, Casey Singleton is sent by her hard-driving boss to uncover the mysterious circumstances that led to the disaster before more people die. But someone doesn't want her to find the truth. Airframe bristles with authentic information, technical jargon, and the command of detail Crichton's readers have come to expect. Check out .com's Airframe feature and read an excerpt from the book! --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Like his role model, H.G. Wells, Crichton likes to moralize in his novels. In this slight, enjoyable thriller, the moral is the superficiality of TV, especially of its simplistic news coverage. Readers

willing to overlook the irony of this message being broadcast by the man who created TV's top-rated drama (E.R.) will marvel again at Crichton's uncanny commercial instincts. The event that launches the story, conceived long before TWA Flight 800's last takeoff, is an airline disaster. Why did a passenger plane "porpoise"-pitch and dive repeatedly-enroute from Hong Kong to Denver, killing four and injuring 56? That's what Casey Singleton, v-p for quality assurance for Norton Aircraft, has to find out fast. If Norton's design is to blame, its imminent deal with China may collapse, and the huge company along with it. With Casey as his unsubtle focus-she's one of the few Crichton heroines, an all-American gal who's more plot device than character-Crichton works readers through a brisk course in airline mechanics and safety. The accretion of technical detail, though fascinating, makes for initially slow reading that speeds up only fitfully when Casey is menaced by what seem to be union men angry over the Chinese deal. But as she uncovers numerous anomalies about the accident, and as high corporate intrigue and a ratings-hungry TV news team enter the picture, the plot complicates and suspense rises, peaking high above the earth in an exciting re-creation of the flight. It's possible that Crichton has invented a new subgenre here-the industrial thriller-despite elements (video-generated clues, for one) recycled from his earlier work. It's certain that, while this is no Jurassic Park, he's concocted another slick, bestselling, cinema-ready entertainment. 2,000,000 first printing; Literary Guild main selection; film rights sold to Disney for a reported \$8-\$10 million; simultaneous large-print edition and Random House audio and CD editions. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

This was long, drawn out and sort of boring. Not at all what I expected of Crichton. The plot left me sort of cold and the characters weren't that believable. While I usually like technical information, this was way over the top.

Great book. As all Michael chrichton, well written and a great story. Second time reading and not so much intrigue. Still worth readying. It's well done.

Michael Crichton does it again, making technical topics interesting and accessible all in the context of a thriller.

Crichton wrote this tale in the pre-9/11 era, and it was also written before the ubiquitous 24/7 news cycle -- before Americans made the collective national assumption that what one reads on the Internet is always assumed to be true, fact-checked and honest. Crichton's works strike me as

highly prescient; and quite informative and entertaining now that so many of his "what-if" futuristic scenarios seem to be coming true. Bravo, Michael Crichton!

Airframe was recommended to me by a friend, and this friend suggested I wait to read it until I was in the airport awaiting my flight. Since I am moderately afraid of flying, I thought that reading an airplane-disaster novel as I was starting a flight would be a bad idea, but did so anyway. As I turned that pages, however, I found myself less and less worried about the flight, as I was reading not a airline horror story, but a technical thriller about aircraft(frame) design, corporate and union politics, and the state of investigative reporting, ala 1996. Not much has seemingly changed in the latter two topics over the last 15 years, as television news continues to deliver bit or bite-sized glances at stories that have the best visual aids, and unions continue to clash with private businesses over concerns of job fairness and availability. However, I was very surprised to learn about the detail that Crichton was delivering on the airplanes themselves, and of the safety procedures that kept the designs in check. I left the book feeling much more confident about my flight than I started. Crichton delivers all of the detail necessary to convey the importance of every small, relevant part on the aircraft, and does so without leaving the reader behind. I never had to worry about new acronyms or terms, as Crichton would blessedly explain them to me in short order. This readiness to make clear the technical, along with the fast pace and short chapters made Airframe a quick read. At the end, I felt both smarter and safer about the concept of shooting through the air in a metal frame (at least in the US), and experienced an excellent thriller about the search for truth that follows a disastrous airline incident. Recommended.

In "Airframe", the late Michael Crichton weaves deep science, fast-paced action, and characters that we both empathize with and loathe into a gripping novel. His "false documentation" technique is used to great effect here, and he is able to give some characters and plot devices an air of mystery that leaves the reader furiously turning pages in anticipation. Yes, there are healthy doses of engineering, physics, and aerodynamics - but who wouldn't be curious to find out how an airplane works (especially the wings)? If you liked "Andromeda Strain", you are sure to find something to enjoy in "Airframe" as well.

I love all the techy details in Crichton book. Fun to read.

You will think of this every time you fly

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