



## Flight of Passage: A True Story

*Rinker Buck*

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## Flight of Passage: A True Story Rinker Buck

Writer Rinker Buck looks back more than 30 years to a summer when he and his brother, at ages 15 and 17 respectively, became the youngest duo to fly across America, from New Jersey to California. Having grown up in an aviation family, the two boys bought an old Piper Cub, restored it themselves, and set out on the grand journey. Buck is a great storyteller, and once you get airborne with the boys you find yourself absorbed in a story of adventure and family drama. And *Flight of Passage* is also an affecting look back to the summer of 1966, when the times seemed much less cynical and adventures much more enjoyable.

## Flight of Passage: A True Story Details

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Author : Rinker Buck

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# From Reader Review Flight of Passage: A True Story for online ebook

## Alycia says

I absolutely loved this book. I hated the swearing and bad language, but I still give this book a 5. It is written well and is adventurous. It is a page turner. It had some really funny stories in it too.

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## Bill Riddell says

Terrific read, depicting the small details of this exciting trip and the preparation for it.

For pilots of small airplanes it is especially fun to feel the experience of past trips and the nuances of flight.

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## Jay Schutt says

This was a very enjoyable read for me. The author, who was one of the participants in the actual true account story, wrote the book with a great flow that made it a fun and easy read.

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## William Liggett says

Sometimes you read a book of nonfiction that is as exciting as any thriller. This is such a book. Imagine flying from coast to coast of the United States in a single engine airplane with all the effects of weather, terrain, and pilot fatigue. Then imagine you did this at age 15 and 16 as Rinker Buck and his brother did. Even though, or maybe because, I'm a private pilot, some of the experiences they describe made me nervous. Their successful flight revealed their courage, skill, and youthful bravado. I recommend this book for anyone wanting to read a true adventure—safer than trying it yourself.

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## Hermann Gucinski says

Rinker Buck's memoir tells the story of growing up and breaking free from a strong Dad in a large catholic family in the early sixties, using a unique approach--he and his then 17-year old brother Kern totally re-build a plane, a Piper Cub bought for \$300, and then fly it across the US from New Jersey to California and back--no radio, seat-of-the-pants flying. This could be a serious story for a specialized audience, but it is not--the humor--page after page of it--the adventures, the timeless theme make for a page-turning read.

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## toxygen says

Thoroughly enjoyable book. Originally, I expected only flying story, but the book offered much more to me -- view into psychology of different types of relationships, i.e. between siblings, son and father or person and general public. Amazingly written description of terrific journey with lots of funny and dead-serious anecdotes. Highly recommended for every aviation fan or anybody who likes good memoirs

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### **Kelly says**

I don't usually do autobiographical stuff--but I really liked this book. It's the story of Rinker Buck and his brother Kernahan (P.S. love the names) and their flight across the country in a Piper Cub airplane. They were the youngest people to ever do so and this story is heartwarming and hilarious.

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### **Rose says**

I started out loving the narrative of Rinker Buck, until he and his brother, Kern, reach Texas on their cross-country odyssey in a small Cub plane. The story lost its authenticity for me at that point. The reason is because earlier in the memoir, Rinker, emphasized the summers spent with the family on vacations riding in a converted school bus and other odd adventures their father made for the family of 11 children. But he never mentioned a corral their father built for them to learn to handle calves, and he only brings it up as a memory at a very convenient time (when they fly over the cattle lands). It just seems too coincidental to be true. Right after this, their experience of flying through Guadalupe Pass was not believable, either. And like some of the other reviewers, the episode with running a bus off the road was disconcerting to me.

Rinker Buck writes wonderful prose, he is able to tap into the complex emotions of a father-son-brother relationship. For readers that have experience flying or just love the romance of barnstorming and the history of aviation, this is probably a wonderful book.

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### **Courtney Crane says**

This is a great coming of age book for anyone interested in aviation. I savored each new challenge the young aviators faced and conquered. Highly recommend!

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### **Cheryl says**

Well boys I got one hell of a humdinger of a book for you. A book about a cross-country trip in a Piper Cub, about brothers, about father & son relationships, about a time when America was fighting to maintain innocent exuberant optimism in the face of challenges only a mature nation would be able to handle well... paralleling the lives of these two teens over the course of a critical few months in 1966.

It's got thrilling adventure, larger-than-life characters, laugh out loud humor, sex & alcohol & swearwords, hardly any girls or women, and, best of all, it's intelligent & wise. In fact, your women won't tsk at you for reading it, and might even want to do so themselves.

My mother recommended it to me, and I'm grateful. Now I'm passing it to my husband, confident that he'll enjoy it, too. 4.5 stars rounded down because no epilogue referring to his daughters (you'll know why that matters after meeting them in the beginning of the book). Highly recommended to boys, men, and people who love them. Or who are interested in the purported subject.

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## **Bob says**

I thought this book was hilarious! If you like flying, or just like a good real-life coming-of-age adventure story (2 teen/young-adults fly cross country in a small plane), this is a great book!

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## **Christian D. Orr says**

"FLIGHT OF PASSAGE" by Rinker Buck

Very engaging. A wonderful aviation adventure and coming-of-age story (a real-life Bildungsroman if you will) and family bonding tale all rolled into one.

RANDOM STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS:

--pp. 30-32: "moon my ass to traffic" story...."highly individualistic statement of my own"...."Fuck up, be a hero"....hilarious

--pp. 42-44: The author's dad's ballsy, daredevil landing reminds me of two proverbs of the aviation community: 1. "A good landing is any landing you walk away from." 2. "There are many old pilots, and there are many bold pilots, but there are few old bold pilots." The pilots' metaphorical phrase "Pushing the envelope" also comes to mind.

--p. 48: "mythic Texas," heh heh

--p. 52: The T-6 Texan had "these immense, clunky dials that looked like they belonged in a Soviet spacecraft." Heh heh, da tovarish!

Cousin Brucie!!

--p. 54: Heh heh, gotta love fleecing those silly rich Protestant ladies out of extra money--nice work there, Rink! ;-)

--p. 57: "Rink, everybody cheats!" Or to quote legendary pro wrestler "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair, "Win if you can, lose if you must, but always cheat." Heh heh heh.

--p. 60: "I suffered the common affliction of boys who aren't naturally adept at mechanics." I can relate all too well (having traumatic flashbacks to 9th grade Wood Shop class)!

--p. 75: Catholic "doctrine of silence," haha, Dominus Vobiscum!

--p. 120: "Pittsburgh, you know what they call it? "Hell with the lid taken off." Ha!

--p. 188: Aahh, good ol' prairie dogs, or as we called 'em in North Dakota, "DakRats."

--p. 200: Throwing away the rattler meat?!?! Aw damn, Rink, what a waste!

--p. 226: "El Paso was very slow-paced and twangy, and we were starting to relax." You wouldn't hear the city described that way nowadays!

--p. 253: "I disliked bus drivers on principle and now this jackass was flashing his lights." Haha!

--p. 266: "What I would have been happy with, right then, was a wing-rack full of air-to-air missiles." Hear, hear! Friggin' journalists, disrespecting people's personal space (or in this case, airspace)!

--p. 267: "one of those white, Mexican-style shirts than hung down over his waist." As in guayaberas?

--p. 280: "To me, she looked like Winston Churchill in drag." Haha!

--p. 305: "It's a hard thing to admit, but sickness like that in someone you love does drive you away." As the son of a bipolar father (who passed away 8 years ago this month), I can relate.

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### **Coco says**

I never would have read this one if we had not chosen it for my book club. What a great find, though. Rinker Buck and his brother take a cross-country trip in a Piper Cub. Doesn't sound like much, I know, but their adventures, along with some unforgettable characters they meet along the way, make for a memorable read. Their dad is quite a guy and I really enjoyed looking at their family photos. Even if you don't care about aviation, give this one a try.

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### **Janet says**

This was given to me by a friend who knew that my daughter had soloed on her 16th birthday and is just marking time until she is 17 to get her private pilot's license! While those interested in aviation may find this a good read for that information alone, it is a great book on another level as well. As the author heads west, his relationship with his father is explored and that makes for interesting reading even for those of us who are timid flyers!

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### **Sophia says**

Took me forever to read, but I enjoyed the story and especially the writing.

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