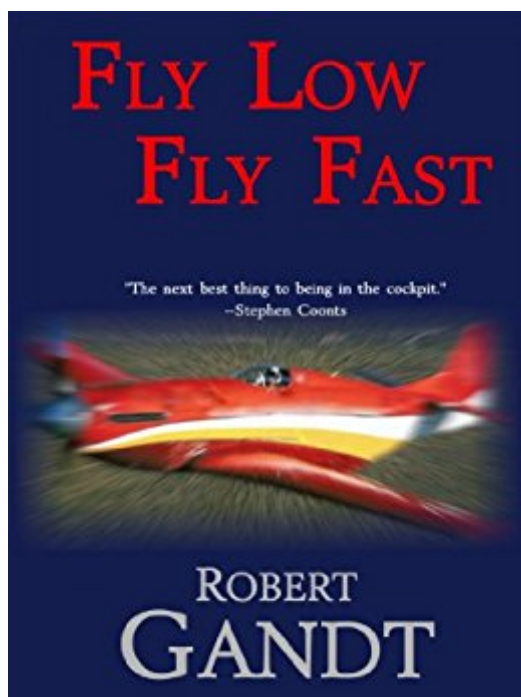


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Fly Low Fly Fast: Inside The Reno Air Races



Synopsis

This first-ever insider foray into the world's fastest and most dangerous aviation sport is as thrilling as Ernest Gann's classic *Fate Is the Hunter* or Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff*. In *Fly Low, Fly Fast*, Robert Gandt takes us into the high-risk world of airplane racing, chronicling the Unlimited championships at the Reno Air Races, attended every year by more than 100,000 spectators and featured on scores of web sites. Flying wingtip to wingtip around pylons at 500 mph, just feet above the sagebrush, Reno's killing machines are piloted by an adrenaline-addicted, type-A elite whose big talent and big egos spawn a hundred stories. With the same vivid reportage of his *Bogeys and Bandits* -- "about as close as you can get (to the cockpit) without arming the ejection seat," said the San Diego Union-Tribune -- Gandt traces the history of this exhilarating but often deadly sport. He follows the evolution of competition planes from the 1930s custom exotics to today's big, throaty warbirds like the Mustang and Bearcat, still the fastest piston-engine planes ever built. Gandt also looks at the evolution of the pilots from famous laconic old-time air cowboys to the younger, slicker hot shots, the jet-fighter-trained "top guns." *Fly Low, Fly Fast* ignites with fierce rivalries, the struggles to keep the vintage warbirds flying, the heart-stopping drama of the races themselves...with winners, losers, close calls, spectacular crashes, and glorious victories. It's a book for aviation buffs, armchair adventurers and anyone fascinated by the passions that drive men and women to test their limits--and risk their lives--in the quest for speed.

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Customer Reviews

I have thoroughly enjoyed all five of Robert Gandt's books and, once again, it seems that each has been more exciting than the one before. In FLY LOW FLY FAST, the author transports you into the pits and into the very heart and soul of those daring aviators and their cutting-edge flying machines that make the Reno Unlimited Air Races the most dangerous and thrilling sport in the world. Nothing, in my years of watching from the sidelines, had prepared me for the mano-a-mano action behind the scenes that few are privileged to know. Rare Bear, Dago Red, Strega, Tsunami, Tiger Distefani, Bob Hoover, Burt Rutan... All are vividly brought to life by a truly masterful craftsman in a drama of life and death that is certain to keep you spell-bound. If you liked Gandt's BOGEYS AND BANDITS: THE MAKING OF A FIGHTER PILOT, you're sure to love FLY LOW FLY FAST. An easy 5 Stars! Lookin forward to his next adventure.

For an airplane nut, this is an interesting read with a lot of unusual details and perspectives. The author's sometimes hysterical, often repetitious style gets very old very fast. But if you are an air racing fan, its still a keeper. For example, i did not know the detailed history of Rare Bear, or the litany of problems which plagued the Pond Racer. Enjoy the material, ignore the babble.

A long time Air Racing Fan....I was at the Cleveland Air Races when the crash happened that killed the race being held in Cleveland, a much too much populated area for the dangerous sport. But Reno is fabulous and Robert Gandt is one of my favorite authors, telling it like it is. I couldn't put it down until the end.

In-the-cockpit action is played out vividly, which only further seats my lifetime quest of owning a P-51D. The book was enjoyable enough that I'm about to read it again. Unfortunately there are a few inexcusable technical mistakes (that only an aviation junky like myself would ever catch) along with a few humorous context errors that confirm the book was only proof-read by a software spell-checker. Still an outstanding read, and I highly recommend it! If you're headed to the 2000 Reno Air Races, this book is invaluable advance reading.

I found this book to be the perfect balance of information about the aircraft and the men who fly

them. You learn enough about the planes to understand the dangers involved and also get a good feel for the kind of person it takes to strap into one of these machines. Good insight into the behind the scenes stuff that are all the makings of a pilot soap opera. I only wish it included more discussion of the other race classes at Reno as it focused primarily on the Unlimited Class. But definitely worth the ride.

I read this under the stars at the 50th Reno Air Races this year. First, I would LOVE to see a followup to this with recent history. The publish date for the Kindle version is misleading insofar as how recent this is (as always). As such it does predate the 2010 and 2011 accidents by quite a bit, but I digress...You get the history of the races. The history of what came before. It also covers many of the issues that are inherent in air racing and have prevented it from taking off, a la NASCAR. Many of these points will seem obvious, yet hadn't occurred to me before. It places you in the cockpits of some of the most famous unlimited racers for triumphs and tribulations (one of which was disturbingly similar to the 2011 Galloping Ghost crash). The one thing it doesn't do much of is give do much mention of the other classes of racers (particularly sad since one of the long time biplane racers is a family friend). While granted the Unlimited's are the star attraction, there are many other classes out there (F-1, Biplane, Sport, T-6, Jet). If you've been to the air races, are interested in what air racing is like for the pilots and crews, or have any affinity at all for aircraft, READ THIS. It will give you a far greater appreciation of the event. This is REAL racing. Eight aircraft all in the sky at once, some far exceeding 500mph, racing for home pylon and the checkered flag.

As Bob and I were both PanAm "Berliners", I might be a little prejudiced- but he is a great pilot, fantastic writer, and terrific guy. I recommend all his books, especial Sky Gods - I lived thru that ordeal as did Bob and you can take all he wrote to the bank. PS: We both lost a good friend and fellow PanAm'er at Reno.

Just what I wanted. It's got a lot of pages and was worth the money. For some reason, instead of receiving 1, I got 2 as I thought I had cancelled the first one. It showed ebooks which I didn't want and hoped that I had actually cancelled it. The book is great.

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