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13,760 Feet - My Personal Hole In The Sky



Synopsis

"The 747 that went up whole and came down in 876 pieces invaded every part of my life. My only consolation is that, without being able to turn around, she never saw behind her the giant hole where the rest of the aircraft should have been-an oblong oval opening to the tumbling sky, bordered by torn cables, shredded aluminum aircraft skin, sheared beams and spars, and accented with sparking severed wires. And I hope she couldn't comprehend what was actually happening if she lived long enough to ride this nearly three mile high, free-falling hell-ivator all the way down to the ocean's surface, and then sink to 140 feet below, where her body would wait to be recovered." This is a TWA Flight 800 memoir told by Mark L. Berry, a TWA pilot whose fianc e Susanne was one of the 230 passengers and crew who died when that flight exploded. 34 companion songs are developed within this book.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars   See all reviews   (81 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

We see them all the time. Markers alongside the road, denoting where someone perished.

Someone who was important enough to someone else for them to leave a sign, to show anyone who passed by that this was someone who meant the world to someone else. That the person was loved, and missed. Sometimes we drive by, barely noticing the memento. Sometimes, for perhaps a second or two, we think about the person the marker represented. Someone kissed their loved ones goodbye and went off to work, or to the store, whatever, and never returned. This book is actually three stories. One is this story of the horrific crash of TWA Flight 800. Those of us old enough will

never forget where we were when JFK was shot. For those of us in Aviation, TWA 800 and, later, 911, are like that. They are events seared into our memories. We lost friends, we grieved, but our lives moved on. For Mark Berry, life didn't move on. He lost the love of his life. Throughout the book, we revisit the crash, uncovering a little more with each telling. It's like the recurring scene in the movie Catch-22, where we see the same scene replayed over and over, seeing a little more with each version. Another story is the memoir of a pilot who, from a young age, wanted to be an airline pilot. And, in the vernacular of the trade, he "paid his dues". He really paid them, flying in the Caribbean for food-stamp wages in dismal living conditions, and working his way up to the controls of an airliner for one of the premier airlines in the world. This story culminates with the heart-pounding account of the author at the controls of a crippled airplane on takeoff from a high-altitude airport, in the weather, at night, with over a hundred souls depending on his skill and abilities to get them safely on the ground.

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