

Airframe

Michael Crichton

Reviewed by: Ryan Eng, 15

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“Airframe” by Michael Crichton is a realistic fiction novel written about the company Norton Aircraft and their internal investigation into an incident involving one of their planes that resulted in three deaths and fifty-six injuries. The story mainly follows one of Norton’s executives that is extremely involved in the investigation: Casey Singelton. Singelton’s task is to find out what caused the accident, and arguably even more importantly, to save Norton Aircraft from the potential wrath of the press latching onto an issue with the aircraft to take down the company as a whole.

Casey’s investigation involves many hiccups, such as violence on the plant floor that even endangers her. Other bumps include things like dead-end leads at every turn and lack of necessary data that could solve the whole investigation. All of these bumps added into the story along the way allow Crichton to keep the suspense level up throughout nearly the whole story, with the only relatively slow parts being when the reader is presented with background knowledge and information in order to enable the reader to understand what is being discussed in the novel. For example, plane systems are explained at certain points so that the reader has context and insight into the conversations and processes happening throughout the investigation.

Overall, the novel is very engrossing and was therefore an enjoyable read for me (which is evidenced even more clearly in the fact that I have read the novel multiple times now). If you do not find technical details to be interesting as I do however, the book may slow down a tad too much for your liking, although the fact that most everyone has flown in an airplane adds an element of universal applicability of the novel. I would recommend the book to many people, with an age range of 12 and up (due to occasional use of profanity and sexual topics).

Recommended Titles

“Congo” by Michael Crichton

“Jurassic Park” by Michael Crichton

“Andromeda Strain” by Michael Crichton