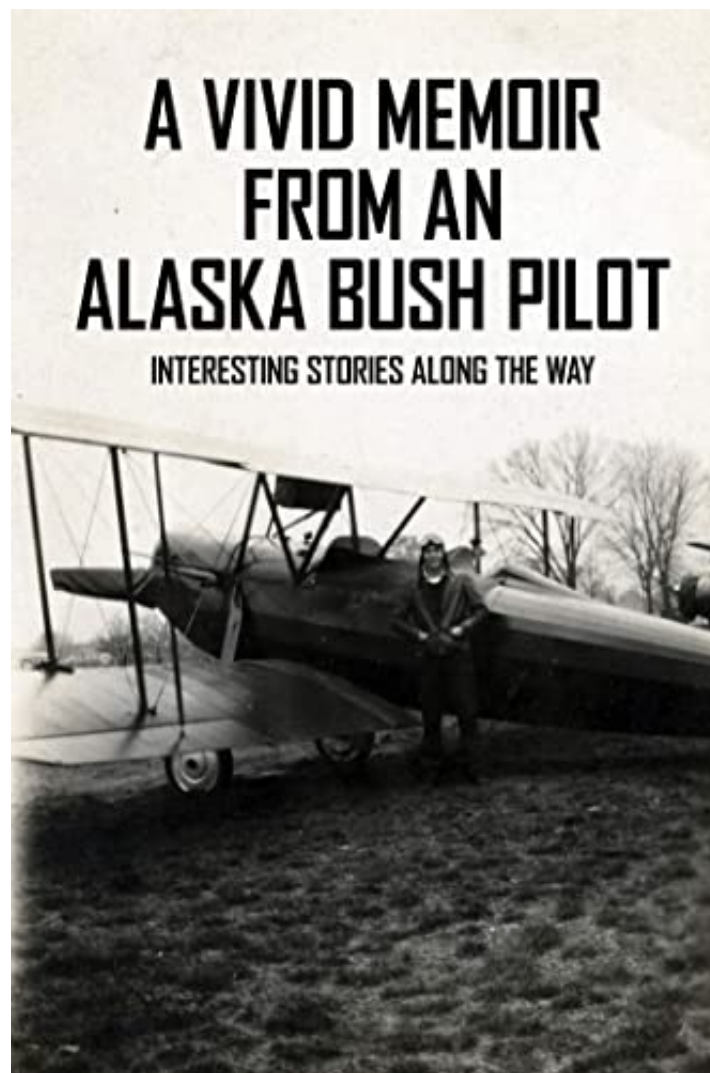


A Vivid Memoir From An Alaska Bush Pilot: Interesting Stories Along The Way

by

Jay Artale



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Synopsis

This Pilot Novel is a remarkable story of the courage and dedication of a push pilot! Arriving in Alaska, the author began his job in Cantwell, where he ferried mining equipment and supplies from the railroad to the placer mining operation. On many trips, he had to make use of painfully short landing fields, with one measuring less than 700 feet. He spent one year in Cantwell, learning much about flying in Alaska. The author's next job was even more challenging. He was the first pilot to fly a winter airmail route from Anchorage to Bristol Bay, flying for McGee Airways. Until 1935, mail to remote villages had been delivered by a dog team... With a dozen friends, he started Bering Sea Airways. He was chief - and only - a pilot for the small outfit, flying a brand new Waco he purchased in Seattle. He describes the thrills and horrors of flying without the benefit of radio, weather reports, or flight instruments, relying on his knowledge of landmarks and the lay of the land. Often the villages were hard to spot because they were so covered with drifting snow. He encountered the famous woolies of the Aleutians - winds he claimed, that rivaled small tornadoes - which were a danger to his small plane even if it was grounded, when they would hit us with a bang and lift us off the ground and drop us with a thud... The author was one of the first pilots in Alaska to install radio equipment on his plane. The radio came in handy the first time he had it long - before it had even been installed - when he was able to radio for help after his plane went down on an island lake in Prince William Sound. Those interested in aviation history and the challenges faced by native and early settlers in Alaska will find this book extremely useful and enjoyable reading.

Sort review

"Suspenseful and deeply felt, *The Last Story of Mina Lee* begins when Margot Lee discovers her mother's death before reeling back in time to explore the secrets that divided Mina and Margot-- as well as those that bound them together. Nancy Jooyoun Kim's debut artfully explores a diverse range of immigrant experiences, the meaning of family and home, and the nature of language--how it can be an ocean that divides, or a bridge that connects. In the process, *The Last Story of Mina Lee* raises questions about the reality of the American dream and illuminates stories that often go untold, in life as well as fiction." -- Chloe Benjamin, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Immortalists* "*The Last Story of Mina Lee* is a fierce, gripping call to love and memory. Nancy Jooyoun Kim has written a beautiful debut novel that is unafraid to delve into the scary, deeply vulnerable places of our hearts. It's a riveting dance between mother and daughter, moving fluidly back and forth through time, documenting the quiet traumas that can divide generations. Tremendously readable, *The Last Story of Mina Lee* is a real page-turner and Nancy Jooyoun Kim is a knockout." -- Kristen Arnett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mostly Dead Things* "Haunting and heartbreaking, troubled threads between a mother and daughter blend together in a delicate and rich weave... With both sadness and beauty, [Kim]

describes grief, regret, loss, and the feeling of being left behind. Fans of Amy Tan and Kristin Hannah will love Kim's brilliant debut." -- Booklist, STARRED review "In her stunning debut, Nancy Jooyoun Kim weaves together two poignant story lines: Mina Lee, an immigrant flees tragedy in Korea for a new start in Southern California. When she mysteriously dies, her American-born daughter, Margot, seeks out the truth of what happened. Gripping and gritty, The Last Story of Mina Lee is a story of their yearning, their struggle, and the enduring mystery of family. Unforgettable." -- Vanessa Hua, author of A River of Stars and Deceit and Other Possibilities "Nancy Jooyoun Kim writes with brilliant exactitude about the anxious topographies of being a mother and a daughter, and the choices that lead to migration. The Last Story of Mina Lee is a confident and gripping account of where families bury secrets and what happens when you dig." -- Ingrid Rojas Contreras, author of Fruit of the Drunken Tree

About the Author Born and raised in Los Angeles, Nancy Jooyoun Kim is a graduate of UCLA and the University of Washington, Seattle. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in the Los Angeles Review of Books, Guernica, NPR/PRI's Selected Shorts, The Rumpus, Electric Literature, Asian American Writers Workshops The Margins, The Offing, and elsewhere. The Last Story of Mina Lee is her first novel.--This text refers to the audioCD edition.

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