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The pilot. A politician. A cop—  
and the criminal he was shackled to...



# INTO THE ABYSS

AN EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY

CAROL SHABEN

"Gripping and emotionally affirming... a deep and satisfying book."

—WASHINGTON POST

Carol Shaben

## Into the Abyss: An Extraordinary True Story



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Only 4 men survived the plane crash. The pilot. A politician. Four survived: the rookie pilot, a prominent politician, a cop, and the criminal he was escorting to face fees... and the criminal he was shackled to. Against regulations, Archambault's handcuffs were removed-a decision that could profoundly influence the men's survival. A cop. Despite the bad weather, Erik Vogel, the 24-year-old pilot, was under intense pressure to fly. Larry Shaben, the author's father and Canada's first Muslim Cabinet Minister, was commuting home after a long week at the Alberta Legislature. As the men fight during the night to stay alive, the dividing lines of power, prosperity, and status are erased, and each guy is pressured to confront the precious and limited nature of his existence. On an icy night in October 1984, a commuter plane carrying nine passengers crashed in the remote wilderness of northern Alberta, killing six people. Constable Scott Deschamps was escorting Paul Archambault, a drifter needed on a superb warrant.



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My review in Aviation History magazine In October 1984, a Piper Navajo Chieftain commuter flight, loaded to the gunwales with 9 passengers and an excessive amount of baggage plus one young and thoroughly in-over-his-head pilot, crashed onto a snowy mountain slope in northern Canada. Six of the passengers died, some gradually and in agony. companies, rescue operations and the aftermath made an interesting and engaging read. All four held their wits about them despite having injuries ranging from banged up to serious. It was an odd quartet. One was an important Canadian politician. Another was the pilot, who understood he had screwed up badly by attempting to make a solo night instrument approach to an airport terminal that was below minimums and acquired an ADF beacon as its single navaid. And the various other two had been a Mountie and a hardcore young ex-con he'd been escorting to court. The teaser is preferable to the book I've enjoyed the reserve, but really expected it to be more of a page turner. This book was very real for me because of her great involvement in the story, her desire to learn the truth, and her deep care for the characters about whom she wrote. An amazing true story. That is their tale. As anyone who has both piloted Piper Navajo Chieftains and flown in the Canadian north nation, I also find it extraordinary that Shaben, a nonpilot, offers gotten every aviation detail right. There are "aviation specialists" writing and reporting for major media outlets who couldn't perform half as well as Shaben does. The reserve in fact is approximately long-term survival far beyond a cold evening in the bush. There are the struggles of an overworked young pilot trying to build hours therefore he can get a genuine airline job, along with the marginal living of the small, family-operate commuterline that hires him. The tale is definitely captivating; Each handles the crash experience in a different way, and their lives are thereafter shaped by it.

Compelling Accounts of Plane Crash Survivors The details of the events leading up to the tragedy, background of participants, air safety regulations & She tells a fascinating story of lives which were changed forever by a dreadful night that ordinary people can barely imagine. The prisoner was the strongest, bravest and most resourceful of them all. I opened it, expecting the fast pace of survival in the wilderness. I'm a devoted outdoors (wo)man, and I'm fully aware the chance of the mountains at night. The details of emotions are scarce, and I know the emotion of being dropped in a wilderness going to freeze to loss of life. The publication tells a nice story, and good insider information on the plane crash, but, alas, moves too slowly and spares a lot of detail in the informing of its story. How about the fear of the elements? It's been shown previous in the publication, where he uses clothing of the deceased to clothe those clinging alive, but I neglect to see its regards to the rest of the story. The likelihood of animals close by? At one stage, Erik and Paul will work beneath the plane, and out of nowhere comes the accusation that Paul has been stealing from the luggage and the deceased. The icy conditions? Why was this important? Of program it mattered, because normally the four clinging to life were likely to have frozen to death, but the accusation of petty theft? Not what I expected. Compassionate This book touched me very deeply. I enjoyed a few of the smaller information that may have usually been overlooked, but Ms. Shaben's father may be the center of her focus. Others had to end up being thinking about their own lives. Once again, details in this section is definitely sketchy. Oh, and the first section of the publication is incredibly dull, and all about Erik's flight experience, not in reference to the rest of the book, or so I felt. Four Stars A page-turner and fine pick out for a book club I'd recommend you obtain it from a library or a pal, though, if you thus desire. There are better tales out there. Tells how a plane crash impacted the subsequent lives of the survivors. I love the side by side evaluation as time marched on. Carol Shaben's encounter as a reporter, coupled with her excellent abilities as a storyteller, provided birth to a fantastic book. Not merely did she relate the real experiences of the survivors of a little plane crash in the

wilds of Canada, she also gave me an in depth look into their lives both before and following the crash. Without him, some might have died. I stayed associated with the book because it showed me not merely the experiences of the main character types but also the lives of several of the minor people on the night of the crash. Because of the treatment and compassion with which the story was related, it evoked my care and compassion. I therefore wanted Paul to pull the rabbit from the hat for himself, and I appreciated each person's struggles and triumphs because they were and are true individuals who were greatly affected by becoming in a plane crash. Many thanks so much, Carol, for posting this with myself. This book makes you appreciate life. Moving, Meaningful, & This book describes the crash of a commuter flight in northern Canada - the events leading up to it, the struggle of the survivors to avoid freezing to death before rescue, the organization and activities of the rescuers, and lastly how the crash affected the next lives of the survivors. One is kept in suspense about how the rescue can proceed, in spite of the inclement weather and the accidental injuries resulting from the crash. The subsequent lives of a few of the survivors were in some instances changed profoundly however in other cases reverted to their previous patterns. With the author's in-depth research, interviews and analysis, it is also the story of how these four continuing to live their lives, how the incident affected them, how they discovered and moved on from these tragic conditions. Shaben follows all of them through their psychological and physical struggles. Three, in addition to the pilot, survived and spent a bitter-cold night time and part of the next day time in their street clothes, without shelter, before being saved by a substantial search-and-rescue operation installed by the RCAF, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and civilian pilots and snowmobilers. We thought it was well crafted, and the survivors' .. or who have simply enjoys great tales of human interest "Into the Abyss" by Carol Shaben is definitely a fantastic true story, very well written and expertly researched. showing how folks from different backgrounds bond together to remain alive. Our only criticism was that people didn't really learn anything about the people who passed away in the crash. Very engaging! Perfectly written and engaging. I liked that the book included pictures at the end. I must say i enjoyed it. This was plane reading for me and ironic reading about a plane crash on a plane. The section of later life tale had not been as interesting as the first section. Loved this! The crash bonds the four survivors, who become friends thereafter--especially the Mountie and his former prisoner. We thought it was well crafted, and the survivors' personalities came through in the tale. The author exposes the hazards of flights over wilderness, and the pressures placed on pilots to meet up schedules. The author, Carol Shaben, had unusual access to the four. As you go through, you don't just find out about the flight, but you feel like you understand all of the people. God's Blessings for you.. The authors stated intention in writing this story is getting to light "underrated people, who through their courage, heroism and conviction, deeply move and inspire us to be our best selves. It will fully resonate with any reader thinking about nonfiction, Alberta background, politics, aviation, or who just enjoys great stories of human curiosity." She most definitely meets her objective with this reserve. In October of 1984, a twin-engine Piper Navajo aircraft crashed on approach to High Prairie, a little remote city in Northern Alberta. Six of the passengers had been killed. Four people, like the pilot, survived and spent the night time in the bush, beside the wreck, trying to continue to survive and procedure what had just happened. Her father was the pol, and she's utilized that happenstance to tell a survival tale in a manner and with a style that the deservedly lauded Jon Krakauer would appreciate. The author, herself the daughter using one of the survivors, do a great work of telling the tale and displaying how, although we generally hear that some people may have survived a terrible event, we generally hear nothing about how the function may have changed their lives. As a pilot who also

offers significant “single-pilot IFR” experience, it resonated deeply with me and can with all pilots. Both sadness and elation Accurate story with both fast paced story lines and some slow drugery sections. Good adventure A well crafted true tale of survival. Usually do not highly recommend this publication.It's alright.



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