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The Devil Dragon Pilot



Synopsis

How do you capture the fastest airplane in the world without anyone finding out? Concealed deep within China's inland borders is one of the most secret airplanes ever flown, known as Devil Dragon. She's sleek, unbelievably fast, and mysterious—her test pilots have one mission in mind: make her test flights successful for operational use as soon as possible. Or sooner. But when strange transmissions of pilots are recorded without an aircraft appearing on radar, and bizarre cell phone signals are detected at towers hundreds of miles apart, the intelligence community team is set in motion, and U.S. Air Force Reserve pilot Ford Stevens is asked to take on the most dangerous assignment of his life. What begins as a friend helping a friend explodes into a globe-trotting action packed military-aviation adventure. Against an atmosphere of Washington, DC government red tape, an intimidating Chinese General, DIA leadership, and carrier aviation, all airways lead to a stunning international plot. Crammed with deceitful government employees, smoke and mirrors tradecraft, and the blackest, most secretive aviation flight ever undertaken, you will be unable to put it down.

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Customer Reviews

In his first novel, *The Devil Dragon Pilot*, former U.S. Marine Corps attack helicopter pilot and ROA member Lawrence "Cheese" Colby, has produced a fast-reading and clinching military thriller that would earn a place alongside any Clancy novel. Placed somewhere around the contemporary scenario of U.S.-China tensions, *Devil Dragon* is a story of two friends who ought to be foes; both consumed by love of home, family, and flying their nations' most technologically advanced warplanes. Using his impressive command of subject, Colby keeps the reader turning pages, as the novel's plot unfolds within an absorbing web of nicely done character development, superb technical and compelling national security detail (all cleared by DoD reviewers by the way "no one is going to jail"), and old-fashioned cliffhanging drama. It is fun to go "behind the text" and imagine this new writer joyously and compulsively scribing his drama. Colby, now a colonel in the Air Force Reserve who has apparently flown just about everything, teaches strategy at the National Defense University; he wrote us, "I looked around some of the current aviation and military themed books and movies, and could not find a fictional story that focused on the Air Force Reserve. With that in mind, I wrote an outline for *The Devil Dragon Pilot* that prominently featured an Air Force Reserve pilot. "There was no way I could write a book with my Washington, DC, based schedule, so I got up at 4 AM every day for a year and wrote one or two pages every morning. Air Force Reserve Captain Ford Stevens was born as the main character! "Ford is a B-1 pilot who is recruited by his best friend, a Chinese Air Force pilot, to [dear reader, you'll have to pick up *Devil Dragon* to learn just what Ford's friend has in mind]. It features Washington DC politics, bureaucratic red-tape, espionage, and high-speed flight. My goal was to put Air Force Reservists in the spotlight. "Book 2 comes out this summer, titled *The Black Scorpion Pilot*. We will once again see Ford Stevens test his aviation skills, human endurance, and his ability to survive an almost insurmountable situation. "Among *The Devil Dragon Pilot*'s overwhelmingly positive reviews, this one is typical: "A great first novel! Riveting story line and very well researched. The author nails many facets of the US intelligence apparatus, military doctrine and the reality of military service, especially Air Force and Naval Aviation. He does a great job building the characters and relationships. Pick this book up now, you won't be disappointed!"

An impressive first novel by Lawrence Colby. The characters are well developed and he does a good job at keeping up the pace of the action throughout. This is a good twist on the 'we need to get our hands on the enemies tech' genre because of the relationships that he builds between the characters. There's good tech in the story and a host of interesting characters (some you like, some you dislike). I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series and seeing where the stories go.

Terrific book, could not put it down! Great characters in the story, starts off in China years ago with two young kids, an American young man, and a native Chinese, both around the same age, never apart, did everything together. They later become adults, both in their own countries, the American, a B-1 pilot, his best friend, a test pilot in the Chinese Air Force. A must read, for those who like a well written adventure story, you will not be sorry!

The issues with editing have been corrected in this outstanding first effort military thriller. Lawrence Colby clearly has a future in this genre. The way the story developed and intertwined kept me engaged and wanting to see what happened next. I particularly enjoyed a smart, tough woman as one of the main characters as well. The story could not be more timely or relevant. It highlights the struggles we face (as the U.S.) staying ahead of the technology bow wave. I am looking forward to the next book.

Wow, I loved the bonding of family and friends throughout the story. The author's military experiences shines as he describes both terminology and technology. I especially loved the challenges China is facing in regards to smog and healthcare. I can't wait for book #2.

Thoughtfully developed and exciting covert aviation thriller that builds to a riveting and suspenseful climax. L.A. Colby's extensive military and civilian experience is manifested in his story line, character development, and government/civilian interface. Military aviation enthusiasts will be drawn by his ability to place reader in center of action, coupled with unpredictable twists and turns building to a riveting crescendo. The book is a thoroughly enjoyable read, and he wisely finishes Book One with a prelude of Book Two.

At first I thought it might be another clunker but I was wrong. A great story. Maybe implausible but who cares! I liked the story, the characters and the fast moving plot. Nicely done!!!

A great thriller to read from end to end . I did find one thing hard to fathom and that is Chinese test pilot and air force officer would be so freely allowed to travel to the US.but maybe that does happen. Other than that it is well worth the read

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