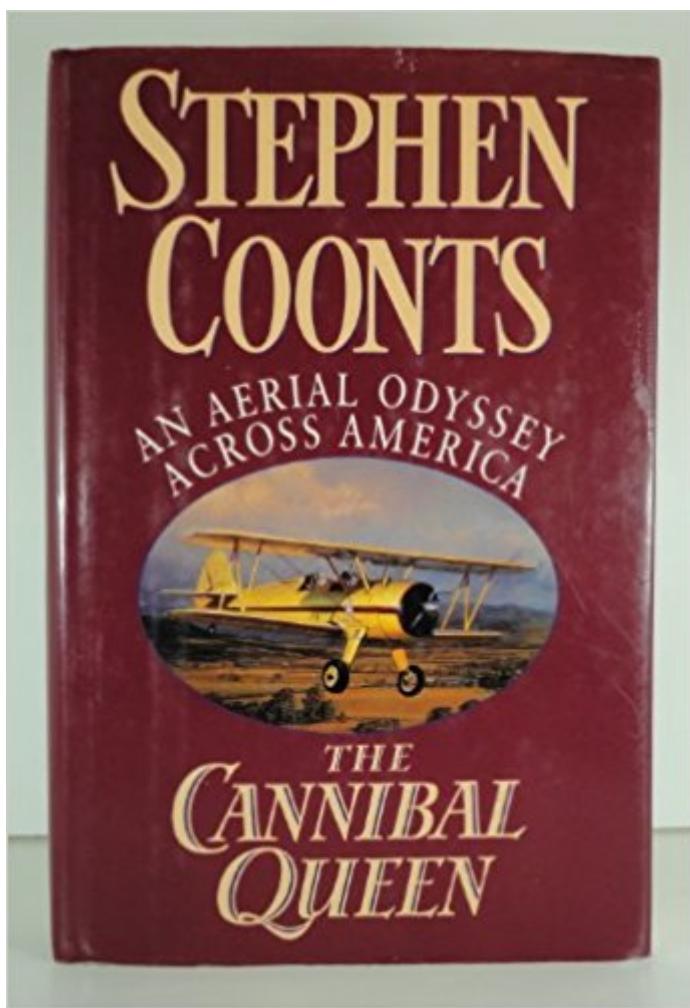


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# The Cannibal Queen: An Aerial Odyssey Across America



## Synopsis

The author of *Flight of the Intruder* recounts his three-month, forty-eight-state flight into the heart of America in a 1942 Stearman bi-plane, describing the panorama of forests, mountains, rivers, and valleys beneath him.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Coonts ( *Flight of the Intruder* ), in this departure from fiction, describes how he spent the summer of 1991 flying a 50-year-old wood-and-canvas open-cockpit biplane over the contiguous United States. This experience was the fulfillment of a dream for the author, who communicates his love of aviation and adventure in a warm, chatty style that will delight both his fans and aviation aficionados.

Although he spent the first two weeks flying with his 14-year-old son, for the rest of the trip Coonts flew solo, feeling joy and facing ? 'experience' used above; also, 'experienced' is especially clumsy as verb, i think danger in Cannibal Queen as the plane hit bad weather, forcing him to tap every one of his considerable piloting skills. He landed frequently to see the country, meet people and visit friends. Lively anecdotes about his experiences add flavor, but readers may wish to skim his rambling political lectures. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The record of a flight, in the summer of 1991, to each of the contiguous 48 states in a WW II-vintage biplane trainer, by bestselling novelist Coonts (*Flight of the Intruder*, etc.). Though the subtitle seems to beg the book's comparison with John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* or William Least Heat-Moon's *Blue Highways*, Coonts's gee-whiz tone soon places his book into a kind of upbeat

appreciation of America rather than into a dour, midlife odyssey. You'll recall that Steinbeck was at the end of a long, somewhat soured career, while Heat-Moon had lost in love and seemed to be at the end of his career. Coonts, however, is divorced but riding a crest of popularity, and to pursue his chief passion, old airplanes, with the book already bankrolled is a wonderful lark. Even to include his 14-year-old son, David, on part of the journey seems calculated, although the father-son takes are appealing, particularly when David, high above the earth, folds his arms and announces, ``I'm bored.'' Coonts makes pilgrimages to such shopworn shrines as Disneyland, Hannibal, and even Mt. Rushmore, but he hasn't here much fresh to say about them; he's just a tourist. On the other hand, the culture of the private plane comes delightfully to life as Coonts marvels at a country where every little town has its strip, its laconic air controller, its cheap, clean motel just down the road. His observations on world politics seem pedestrian, but his insight into general aviation is clear and noteworthy: ``The general aviation industry is dying. Federal regulation and the legal system have driven it to the lip of the grave where it is waiting to expire and fall in.'' Middle-class, upbeat to a fault, and unmeditative. Yet the descriptions of flight and the portrait of an America seemingly trapped in a time-warp are arresting. (Eight page photo-insert--not seen.) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

If you're a pilot and/or you enjoy old airplanes, this book is a delightful read. On top of that Coonts was/is already a fantastic author who writes extremely well...combine that with an adventure in a old airplane and it makes for a fantastic book. Not much else to say other than most small airplane pilots will love it! It's a completely and utterly different style from the typical Coonts (this is more non-fiction), but it really is a fantastic collection of stories...that just happen to center around an old WWII training airplane!

The essence of a "road trip" story but by air. I have a first edition too and I've read this book almost every spring since it was first published. It gets me in the mood to go for a good long drive. A recommended companion for this book would be "Blue Highways," by William Least-Heat Moon.

I grew up in the Midwest and learned to fly in a 65ph Aeronca Champ flying all over the country in piper tri pacer and 125 Globe Swift. Steve's account has special meaning to me. I have read his account many times and given the book as gifts to special friends with a passion for general aviation. Cannibal Queen is a welcome departure from Steve's wonderful series of intrigue. I can relate and really enjoyed it.

If you love airplanes and adventure, do not miss this book. I have read and re-read this book many times over the years and got it on my Kindle so it would be more readily available on trips. Do not pass this up! Kudos many times over to Mr. Coonts.

Great writer. I felt like I was in the airplane and on his all state flying tour. I did not think initially that I would enjoy this type of book, but I was wrong. I tried it and liked it. If you like aircraft, you will love this book.

Most entertaining book about his travels around this country.

Always a fan of Coonts. While this book is based in the early 90's, it is still a great read.

Flying adventure to satisfy any armchair enthusiast. Honest, knowledgeable and sharing every personal reaction to good and bad events during his long adventure.

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