

BOOK REVIEW

ETC Assignment

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Biotechnology

Title:

‘AIRPORT ‘

written by **Arthur Hailey**

Introduction:

My fondness for the details surrounding an airport made me pick this book. There is always some kind of tension or rush going on there. I overheard that detail-oriented Arthur Hailey was an author, and so I presumed the book would be action packed.

I presumed there would be some technical aspects alongside drama, and suspense, and I was indeed right.

Summary:

The plot occurs at Lincoln International Airport during a chronic snowstorm for one night. An incessant snowstorm takes place. An airport manager, Mel Bakersfeld, is having a plenty of issues ranging from, flight delays, one runway being blocked, and his personal life crumbling.

At the same time, his brother Keith, an air traffic controller is suffering from unresolved past trauma, coupled with a mental breakdown. When a traveler attempting to secretly transport a bomb onto a flight to Rome, chaos and peak tension ensues.

The book contains a lot of characters, which happen to be Airport staff, passengers, and pilots. The novel particularly captures the essence of stress, duty, and tackle moments of high-pressure situations.

Analysis & Opinion:

What amazed me most is the level of detail that was put in the work. The author seems like they personally did research and went into an airport themselves. Everything felt realistic, from the delays due to snowstorms to how the staff managed passengers.

Mel Bakersfeld was my favorite character. He is a man that practically works himself to death and neglects his family because he feels responsible for endless livelihoods. He absolutely is committed when he says, "You can't shut down an airport because of a personal crisis." Tanya also stood out; she was the one that cared for Mel and supported him emotionally. At one point, she told him that he looked really tired and you could tell how much he was going through without him bringing it up.

Some parts were packed with different phrases that were a bit too advanced and had a set pace – this did slow the story down. But after the parts with the bomb began, that is truly when the action of the book starts and it becomes really intense.

The book does convey a certain message that no matter how hectic and out of control things become, someone is there attempting to have everything sorted and arranged. It is about leadership, self-sacrifice, and keeping calm when everything collapses around you.

Personal Connection:

The narrative of this book taught me about the value of people in a famously tough job and how one small error in judgment can lead to serious possible outcomes. It also served as a reminder that people are fighting their own battles while still performing their jobs efficiently.

I can relate to this with my drop year when everyone was against me giving taunts like, “no one succeeds in drop year” and all. Still, I believed in myself and here I am in NIT Warangal. The idea of having to sometimes bite the bullet that is required was novel to me. I also noticed how, despite the many challenges that Mel faced, he carried on with his life even when the pieces of his personal life crumbled in front of him.

After going through the book, I can affirm that I will never see airports the same way. There's so much more that goes into getting a flight ready on time besides simply boarding the plane, and I will now forever be thinking of what all is happening behind the curtains. It struck me quite personally. From the story, it feels as if everything can still be managed and worked on, no matter how chaotic things get.

Conclusion:

Anyone who loves thrillers, real life drama, and stories with powerful characters will find this book fascinating so I will without doubt recommend Airport. This book is for anyone looking to dip their toes in uniquely intense situations narrated with a gentle human touch and giving a positive message.