



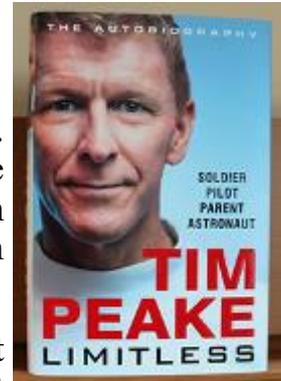
Bookshelf

Book Reviews



‘LIMITLESS’ Author Tim Peake

This is the autobiography of Tim Peake, a truly amazing man. Tim takes us from his school days, through his time in the military as a helicopter pilot, when he was stationed for a time in Wiltshire, to his travel into space where he spent six months on the International Space Station (ISS).



Tim was born in Chichester in 1972. His love of flying began at a young age when even then it was rotary wing aircraft that captured his imagination. His adventures started while still at School. He joined the school's Cadet Force and became an Adventure Scout. He joined Operation Raleigh's Alaska Expedition where his resolve and determination was tested. When kayaking he saw humpback whales, sea lions and sea otters popping up beside him.

He joined the Army Air Corps and gained his commission after a twelve month course at Sandhurst. He went on to gain his 'wings' flying helicopters and flew operational missions in Northern Ireland during 'The Troubles' and in Bosnia. He also had an interesting deployment in Kenya.

He accepted a posting to Fort Rucker, USA where he learnt to fly the fearsome Apache attack helicopter, later to return to the UK which had just bought its first Apaches. Tim became an Apache instructor and later test pilot for this aircraft and many others.. He attended the Test Pilot Course with some fast jet pilots and as part of their training they flew each other's aircraft. It was noticeable that helicopter pilots could fly fixed wing jet aircraft after just about five minutes familiarisation but the jet pilots took much longer with helicopters, struggling to get them to hover! Apache pilots not only have to use each limb doing separate actions, they have to train their eyes to work independently also!

Tim goes on to talk us through Astronaut selection and training processes (8,000 applicants for just four vacancies). After many years of training and preparation Tim got his first flight to the ISS and undertook his 'extravehicular activity' or 'space walk' as we know it; experiences he describes in some detail.

What a man; what a life.

I am happy to recommend this book to all who may admire the courageous and adventurous.

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**Review by
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