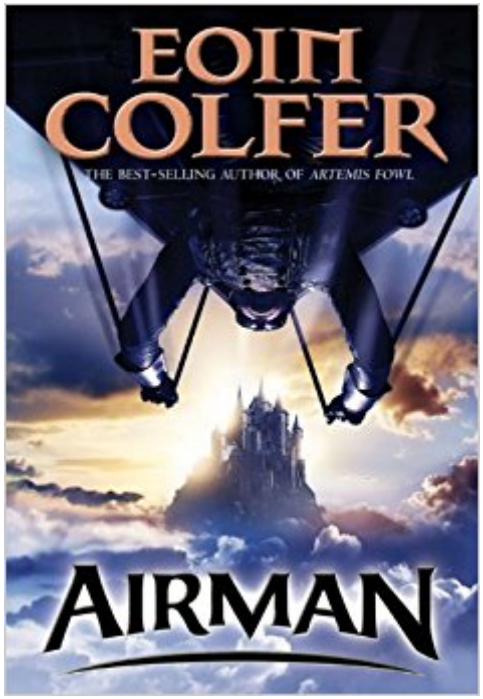
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Synopsis

Conor Broekhart was born to fly. It is the 1890s, and Conor and his family live on the sovereign Saltee Islands, off the Irish coast. Conor spends his days studying the science of flight with his tutor and exploring the castle with the king's daughter, Princess Isabella. But the boy's idyllic life changes forever the day he discovers a deadly conspiracy against the king. When Conor intervenes, he is branded a traitor and thrown into jail on the prison island of Little Saltee. There, he has to fight for his life, as he and the other prisoners are forced to mine for diamonds in inhumane conditions. There is only one way to escape Little Saltee, and that is to fly. So Conor passes the solitary months by scratching drawings of flying machines into the prison walls. The months turn into years, but eventually the day comes when Conor must find the courage to trust his revolutionary designs and take to the skies.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Author of the popular Artemis Fowl series, Colfer ventures into slightly different territory in this fantasy, which has the heft of historical fiction;Ã Â a subset of characters whose physicalÃ Â attributes reflectÃ Â theirÃ Â evil natures; dry humor; visceral horror; andÃ Â swashbucklingÃ Â action that keeps the story from becoming overly dark.Ã Â Born in the basket of an air balloon, Conor BroekhartÃ Â is sure he isÃ Â destined toÃ Â fly. But at 14, he

accidentallyÃ Â witnesses the murder of his tutor and the sovereign of the tiny Saltee IslandsÃ Â where he lives, and everything changes.Villainous Marshall Bonvilain throws him into prison, convincing him that his familyÃ Â believes him guilty of the crime. Thus begins his new life as inmate Conor Ã¢â ¬Å“Finn,Ã¢â ¬Â• who devotes his considerable abilities toÃ Â breaking out ofÃ Â Ã Â prison. Colfer grapplesÃ Â somewhatÃ Â awkwardly withÃ Â a few literary issuesÃ Â here: should he, for example,Ã Â allow his hero to commit murder? There are also huge time gaps that are distracting and occasionally stall momentum.Ã Â Readers may not notice, however, withÃ Â so much else going for the book. Grades 10-12. --Stephanie Zvirin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for Airman:'Swashbuckling high adventure . . . His strongest work yet' - Guardian'Better fun than this will be hard to come by' - The Times'A classic swashbuckling adventure' - Irish Independent ReviewPraise for other books by Eoin Colfer:'Wickedly brilliant' - Independent (on Artemis Fowl)'As ever, Colfer's story rattles along at a tremendous pace with a cast of eccentric and explosive characters' - Guardian (on The Supernaturalist)'Unputdownable' - Irish Times (on Half Moon Investigations) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

|| NO SPOILERS ||In y opinion, this book is amazing in every possible way, it has everything you could ever ask for in a book.First letÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s talk about the way it is written, it has different narrators, going from third person to first (especially when the characters are thinking), it is also place in a historical background, making everything more real and interesting, it also has several time jumps, this allows the reader to have different perspectives of whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s happening at the same time, and also attractive timeline.Now talking about the story itself, I must admit that even when I thought it was about to disappoint me, something turned everything around, making the story even better.It has the perfect combination between planning strategies, deceiving, science and technology, adventure, suspense, love between the main character and a girl and with his family, loyalty, friendship, morals, justice, and several other things.It is also very important that the story is credible, and down to earth, I mean it is a novel, and it involves a degree of fantasy, but it is beautifully balanced.The characters are well built and believable, they are neither too perfect and flawless nor really stupid to the point you get frustrated.Ill finish this review by saying I couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t put down the book until I had read the last page. I really recommend this book, for all ages.

Eoin Colfer was on my brother's bookshelf when I visited him. The cover called to me; so I ordered my own copy. What a wonderful adventure story. Conor Broekhart's travels from the young precocious student to becoming witness to political assassination to prisoner to fugitive to hero is a breathtaking plot! Colfer's villain, Bonvilain is so dastardly that it makes the novel entertaining, not bogging us down so much with the psychological intricacies of character development. What Colfer does exquisitely well is present us with well-drawn and distinct characters that move the story's plot briskly, making it a page turner. The budding romance with the lovely Princess Isabella adds sweetness to what at times is a brutal story in the prison mines. I particularly liked Declan Broekhart's sense of duty and loyalty and his attempt to balance this work dedication to his love for his family. Marketed for the younger reader, it also an excellent read for the adult reader. This is an enjoyable adventure. Enjoy!

I admire Eoin Colfer's writing, and I very much liked this book. There is plenty of adventure, and the main character faces many perils-- maybe a few too many. There are some very violent confrontations and death of a beloved friend in this book. There are times when things are very bleak for the main character. if you have a young reader who is sensitive, I might hold off on this till they're older. But for the reader ready for this, they will enjoy learning about the inventions as well as the society.

WOW! This was an action packed thrill ride from start to finish. Conner Broekhart was born to fly, or born flying to be more precise. Conner has always been interested in balloons, gliders, and heavier than air craft that would be able to take him into the skies. King Nicholas of the Saltee Islands has encouraged Conner's interest and even had a tutor, Victor Vigny, teach Conner what he needs to know to be an airman. Until the unthinkable happens. The King and Victor are brutally murdered and Connor is accused of the crime and sent to the prison on Little Saltee to mine diamonds for the rest of his life. Conner struggles to survive the prison and keeps a tight hold on his dreams of flight, possibly the only way he will ever escape Little Saltee.I loved this book, probably one of my favorites this year. Conner is a noble hero who often uses brains over brawn. The book easily takes you through many years in Conner's life and doesn't drag at all. The supporting characters are well developed. Fencing, flying, and daring rescues and escapes make this one exciting book. In some ways it reminded me of the Count of Monte Cristo and other classic literature, except in

There are few authors writing for young people today who have as much ability as Eoin Colfer. He

could easily write best-selling long form fiction for adults, but luckily for us, he concentrates his special abilities into weaving fanciful tales that are appropriate for school libraries. Nearly all of his tales are set in or involve Ireland, and he brings the magic of the Emerald Isle to every line of his prose. Airman is a suspenseful tale that is a fitting homage to The Count of Monte Cristo. Airman tells the story of Conor Broekhart, a young man born in a hot air balloon, destined for greatness in all things. One inexplicable twist of fate puts Conor on a path of survival, and ultimately, revenge in this frenetically paced, edge-of-your-seat page turner, set against the backdrop of a fictional empire built on the real Saltee Islands off the coast of Ireland. Intrigue, politics, love, betrayal, high-adventure, flight... This book really has it all. Young and old, male and female alike will love this book. Fans of the Artemis Fowl series will appreciate the smart dialogue and careful pacing, as well as the dynamic characters. For me, Eoin Colfer is among the two or three finest writers alive that writes for young people. This book is rare gem.

Reading this book I was reminded of the style of writing from the late 1800s/early 1900s. This story is sort of a mixture of several other popular pieces of literature, written for the more modern reader. Some sub stories and characters didn’t seem to be properly resolved. Still a mostly enjoyable book overall. I could see this being made into a movie at some point.

All good except ending too short

i loved the rest of the books by this author, and while waiting for the next book in the series i was reading i decided i would give it a try, even though i didnt think the title sounded interesting. i found it very enjoyable, easy read with a storyline that keeps you wanting more. its easy to read for younger readers(teen) but as an adult i enjoyed it as well. keep em coming eoin colfer!

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