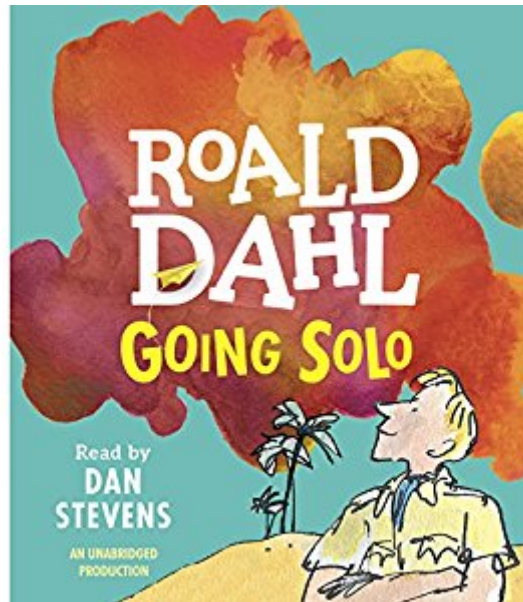




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Going Solo



Synopsis

Superb stories, daring deeds, fantastic adventures! Going Solo is the action-packed tale of Roald Dahl's exploits as a World War II pilot. Learn all about his encounters with the enemy, his worldwide travels, the life-threatening injuries he sustained in a plane accident, and the rest of his sometimes bizarre, often unnerving, and always colorful adventures. Told with the same irresistible appeal that has made Roald Dahl one of the world's best-loved writers, Going Solo brings you directly into the action and into the mind of this fascinating man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Real life good reading. Funny, Compulsive, Driving, Observant. Dahl's own story. I just kept reading and enjoying it. Almost like a book in two parts but he joins them well. One springs from within another. This man knows how to write. I was so grateful to find this book so well written and edited. Not an easy combo to find these days. Excellent, and I don't say that lightly.

Another writer once told me that one of the most important elements to be found in a memoir is a "likeable" narrator. Roald Dahl is perhaps one of the MOST likeable of narrators. Modest to a fault and blessed with a very sly and subtle sense of humor, the story Dahl tells in GOING SOLO, his sequel to BOY, is perhaps one of the most readable memoirs of modern times. His story of the quick and almost informal training he received at a flying school in Africa shortly after Great Britain entered WWII, is hair-raising and nearly impossible to believe, except you do believe, because you

trust this man. At six foot six inches tall, Dahl was physically quite unsuited to be a fighter pilot, noting that when seated in the various planes he flew, his knees were nearly under his chin and he had to hunch over to fit beneath the plane's canopy. But fly he did, even after surviving one horrific crash in the desert early on in his career as an RAF pilot. He sustained a very bad concussion (which was to come back to haunt him and finally "invalid" him out of service nearly two years later) and had his face bashed in. As he explained to his mother in a letter: "My nose was bashed in ... and the ear nose and throat man pulled my nose out of the back of my head and shaped it and now it looks just as before except that it's a little bent about ..." Dahl went on to fly many combat missions in North Africa and Greece, usually against vastly superior odds, but somehow he managed to survive until the middle of 1941, when the migraine headaches caused by the aforementioned crash made him unfit for further flying. Dahl's nearly laconic and completely unself-conscious manner of writing about the things he did - absolutely heroic things - made me think of Sam Hynes's WWII memoir of his missions in the Pacific theater. Both writers downplay the importance of their roles. They never speak of heroics or derring-do, only about the importance of their comrades, doing the jobs they were trained to do and trying their best to simply stay alive. This was an enormously satisfying, moving and often hilarious tale. After reading these two slim volumes of memoirs by Dahl, I do wish he had written another. I have ordered his slim collection of stories about WWII already. What a wonderful writer - and gentleman - Roald Dahl was. - Tim Bazzett, author of SOLDIER BOY and LOVE, WAR & POLIO

I read this book for a purpose. My mother was engaged to one of the pilots mentioned in this book before he was killed. She met and married my father later in the war. It's an interesting story from a soldier's viewpoint and it gave me insight into what my father must have gone through as a rear-gunner over Europe.

Remarkably good WWII memoir. Dahl here is nothing like his kiddie books. "Solo" is tough, honest, and often downright grim. No romanticized WWII ace flyer bunk here!.

This is a wonderful book. I loaned it to a friend who read it during an international flight and she said it made a a normally dull flight a very pleasant trip. It was passed on to a friend who has written some plays. He said he wished he had read Dahl this book before he started writing. He remarked that Dahl is a master story teller. None of them had ever heard of Dahl before and discovered that he is a past master at telling a story.

May Daughter read this for a class and loved it and is reading all of his books now !

Really good story.my nine year old son really enjoyed it.he especially liked the part about returning home after three years to see mama.

Dahls autobiography about working in Tanganika and a fighter pilot is concise and well written. He was lucky to have survived the war. LS

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