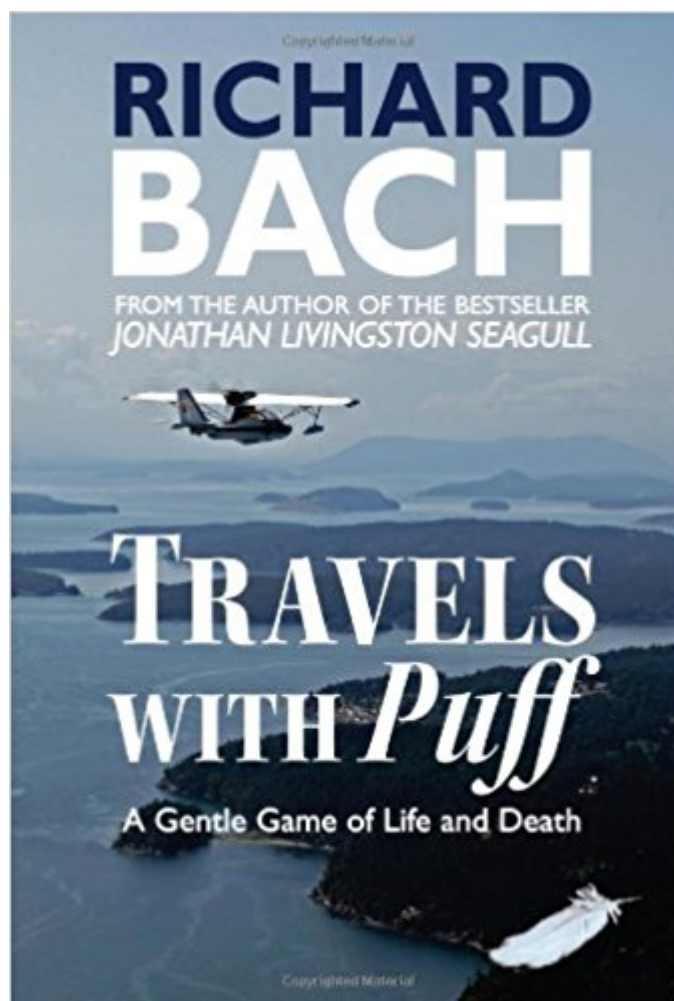


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# Travels With Puff: A Gentle Game Of Life And Death



## Synopsis

"A few years ago, someone asked me by way of their T-shirt, Got Freedom? Here's, a bit delayed and by way of two small seaplanes and a continent ten thousand horizons wide, my answer."--Richard Bach

In the tradition of John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*, and Richard Bach's own bestseller, *Illusions*, *Travels with Puff* recounts Bach's journey from Florida to Washington state in his small seaplane. With humor, wisdom and insight that could only come from one of the world's most beloved authors and an accomplished pilot, and more than 180 stunning color photographs, *Travels with Puff* challenges our ideas of fate and our futures, and asks us how can we prepare for the emergencies in our own lives? Can we ever really be safe? And, is being safe always what we want?

## Book Information

Hardcover: 234 pages

Publisher: NiceTiger (March 19, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937777030

ISBN-13: 978-1937777036

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9.2 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 156 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #390,119 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Travel > Food,

Lodging & Transportation > Air Travel #1577 in Books > Travel > Travel Writing

## Customer Reviews

"Richard Bach...inspires us to find our passion and pursue it with the same child heart he shows each time he puts words on paper."--The State Journal-Register

"In 2012, Bach suffered a near-fatal crash in this craft...so the text overflows with...dramatic and other ironies, his characteristic effervescent...you call down your angels, and somehow they see you through your storms'."--Kirkus Reviews

"Like many of Bach's previous works...an expression of love--love for flying, for an airplane, and the joy it brings."--AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association)

"Travels with Puff is a 'gentle-adventure' about spirit and the power of thought...You'll need to ride through the mechanical details of piloting a plane (just when you've had enough, Bach realizes it, too), but you'll be rewarded with a view of life from the cockpit, stunning photographs...and choice Bach-isms like: 'there's no disaster that can't become a blessing'."--New Consciousness Review

"Bach's voice

is at once exuberant and meditative, infusing these pages with vitality...Bach's explorations with Puff are a fresh and welcome contribution to the canon of great American travel literature. A piquant, contemplative offering from a writer who once again reminds readers that there's a wide and exciting world beyond the ordinary..."--Spirituality and Health Magazine

In the tradition of John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*, and his own bestseller *Illusions*, Richard Bach's *Travels with Puff* recounts his journey from Florida to Washington state in a small seaplane he christened "Puff." With the humor, wisdom and insight that could only come from one of the world's favorite writers, *Travels with Puff* challenges our ideas of fate and our futures and asks us how can we prepare for the emergencies in our own lives? Can we ever really be safe? And is being safe always what we want?

I was fortunate enough to have been a member of richardbach.com at the time that Richard and his SeaRey (the Puff of the title) were making the trip from Florida to Washington. I waited every day for his latest update and photos. Here, in one wonderful package is the story of that trip, almost exactly as he wrote it back then, 'on the fly' so to speak. This book will appeal to pilots, photographers, lovers of good photography, lovers of flight in general, and those who just love a good story. Bach mixes humor and a subtle dose of his philosophical musings with an engaging travelogue. If you loved 'Nothing By Chance' or 'Illusions' you will love this book; it's a modern take on both, and yet unique, with gorgeous color photographs.

Love, adventure, inspiration -- you'll find them all in "Travels with Puff." As long-time storyteller Richard Bach picks up his pen again -- or taps at the keyboard on his computer -- we watch him meet, earn the trust of and soar across country with his new-found love, Puff, a plane/boat/being known to mortals as a SeaRey. Along for the journey in his own SeaRey, Jennifer, is a geologist aviator with a camera, Dan Nickens. As Bach chronicles the adventure in words and Nickens in images, the two create memories they'll long cherish and a book that will ever inspire the rest of us. In this book, the seasoned reader of Bach's work will see reminders of his earlier stories -- a bit of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, an iconic reminder from *Illusions*, morsels of his *Ferret Chronicles*, images first shared by little Dickie in *Running from Safety*, and more. Nothing on the book says, "Only read this if an experienced lover of Bach's books," though, just as nothing warns, "Beware, at the end of this book, you'll be in love, too -- with the words on these pages and the freedom of flight." So, take the chance, spread your wings, pick up a copy. Richard Bach hasn't lost the touch

he has to pull us in on the very first page, take us flying toward his dreams and our own, and inspire us to find our passion and pursue it with the same child heart he shows us each time he puts words on paper.

Richard Bach is my favorite author. Has been for years. I have read them all. Started with *Stranger to the Ground*, *Biplane* and *Nothing by Chance*. The one about the seagull, and so forth. Have his books changed my life? Well, no, but they have enriched it, giving my dreams significant workout sessions. Stretching, expanding my imagination and restoring the song in my heart. Useful when those components of my body start getting flabby and worn-out. In *Travels with Puff*, Mr. Bach goes back where he belongs, flying. Taking a tiny, "wispy", plane across America makes a wonderful story. To me, all the adventures and musing can be condensed into a beguiling invitation. "Hey, look at us! Look at what we can do. Look at what is possible." Hmm ... Are we looking? We all look around and think we are seeing everything. What we can't really "see" we can find on the internet or on television. But we just look east, west, north, south, down, right and left, occasionally tilting our heads to glimpse of the tops of buildings, maybe trees. How often do you really look up? That huge, endless space above us. Let alone have the chance to feel what it is like to fly around in it. To look down at the tops of trees, fly with, above and below the birds. Fly among the clouds and beyond them the stars. Stars and their universes that are somehow closer, spinning, racing each other like restless, tireless teenagers, to the edge of the universe. Heady stuff, that. So, take my advice and read the book. You will find adventure, although "gentle" in nature. You may be inspired to become a pilot. You will fall in love with an airplane. You will be sorry when you finish. But, if you are lucky enough to notice, Richard Bach can give you the same gift he gave me decades ago, simply by flying around in it. He will give you the sky.

This is a most enjoyable book. As a pilot I really enjoyed Bach's relationship with his little amphibian as he first got checked out to fly. Learned to fly at it should be flown and then at its maximum performance. The airplane became the second person in the story as he talked to it and "the plane answered him." The plane 34PD, three four Papa Delta, in pilot talk, Puff to its owner. Puff was worried about this new pilot. The plane had been in two crashes before he entered the scene and it was worried about a new owner. The metaphysical side of this book was expected and fun particularly if you are a pilot. As a young man I bought a used Piper Colt, 2 seat over wing aircraft with tricycle landing gear. At the time I had a pilot's license that still had wet ink. My first grand adventure was to fly from Washington DC to Seattle. Washington. What an adventure and a great

relationship builder. You really become part of your plane. Bach had thousands of hours in will over 100 planes but this little plane was clearly a relationship born in flying heaven. His trip from Florida to Washington State is documented with great descriptions and many photographs of this sweet little ship and the companion plane that accompanied them, another SeaRey. The trip was a fun adventure to be shared with others. How kind of Bach to share it with all of us who find this book. The problem is this book starts the pilot juices flowing, I should buy a plane, but I am too old, but he is 4 years older than I. On the sad side, He clipped some power lines going in to a friend's private airstrip just west of Friday Harbor on San Juan Island of Washington a few days after sending this book to the publisher. Puff ended up upside down. The plane was badly damaged and Bach was severely injured. But he survived. I hope, to fly again in Puff.

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