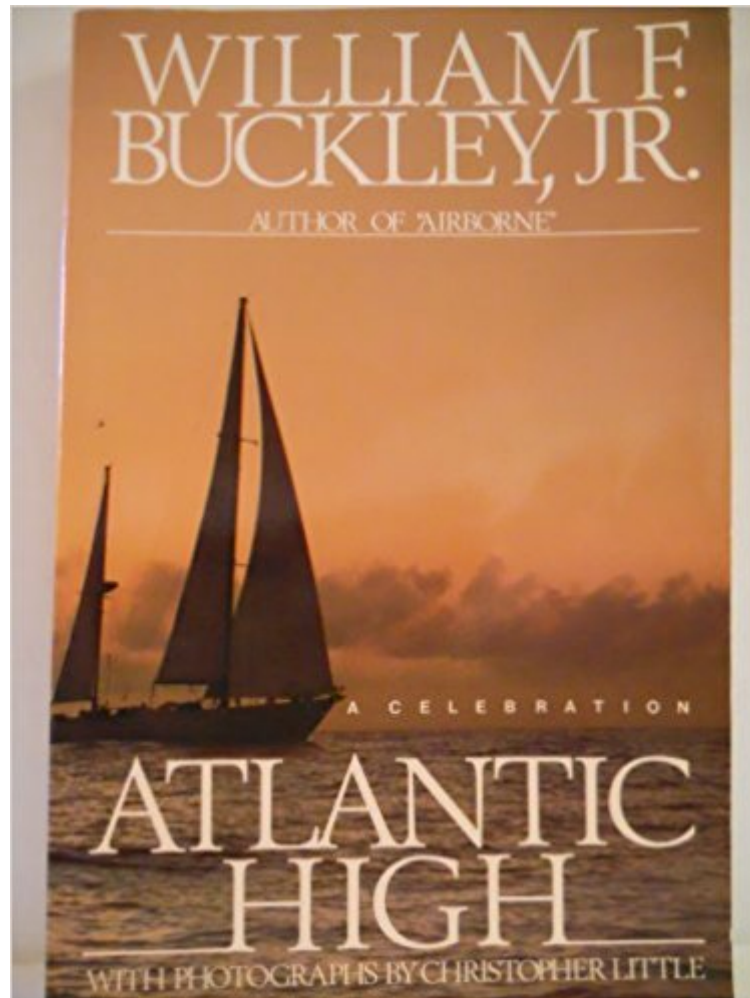




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Atlantic High: A Celebration



Synopsis

Atlantic High: A Celebration

Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

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Customer Reviews

Atlantic High: A Celebration

I read and loved Buckley's earlier swashbuckler, *Airborne*, many years ago, serialized in the *New Yorker*. Both books chronicled an Atlantic crossing on a large yacht laden with all manner of gizmos, a deep wine cellar, and enormous quantities of ice for the whiskey WFB expected when the sun came over the yardarm. The condition of signing on the friends who served on the yacht crew was that each keep a journal of the voyage, passages of which Buckley later wove into the narrative of the voyage. I was never a fan of WFB's politics but loved his energy, his infinite range of intellectual and recreational interests, and especially his droll writing style; and *Atlantic High* did not disappoint. The narrative dragged at a few points, as the reader got deep into the weeds with WFB's detailed descriptions of the capabilities of various (early) computers and other gadgets on the yacht. But although I raced through those passages, I had to smile at the level of focus he brought to mastering the intricacies of navigation. This book is very good company for a summer vacation, and perhaps would be best read on a transatlantic cruise. (I'd give the edge to *Airborne*, though, largely for the extremely clever excerpts of the journal of his son Christopher, who was among the crew).

Great book!

W. F. Buckley Jr. is erudite, entertaining, aloof, warm and funny. His tale of sailing with friends make me feel as though I am sitting in the saloon with them and enjoying the exchanges of information and planning the voyage. The times at sea are engaging and warm. WF spins a yard as well as any.

Some authors, if you've read one book, you've read them all. Not so with Buckley; Read one of his, then you must read them all. The Kindle edition greatly smooths out the dictionary hi-way.

Except for the rehashed and tedious explanation of celestial navigation, we learn precious little about sailing in Atlantic High. We do learn a lot about William F Buckley, though, especially how he is a rich cheapskate who feels justified in skipping out on boatyard bills he thinks are too high. The book is heavily padded with lots of boring name-dropping and fawning over his rich expatriot hosts irrelevant to the trip and there is a whole chapter on how time-consuming it is for him to answer all his mail. There is also a reprint of an Esquire article on his idea of heaven and other recycled material to fill it all out. A good portion of the book is spent describing the photography, which is not visible on the Kindle edition, and on the making of a documentary which WFB doesn't bother to explain never got released. I was a big fan of Airborne, but not of Atlantic High. It is just a contractual obligation used to finance his trip, which wasn't really very interesting after all.

This is Knoplers finest work. A musical reposte of an epic human tragedy, told through the eyes of a soldier fleeing Moscow under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte. The folksy and completely nonsequitor melody underscores the extent of the soldier's disillusionment with war and with all dreams of glory and conquest. Perhaps the most poignant anti-war song ever written.

The story is great, but I really missed the pictures. The Kindle edition only has the picture titles, but no photos (which should be easy to see on the Kindle 2).

Great book...as are all Buckley books. Vivid imagery. It makes you want to go sailing again....

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