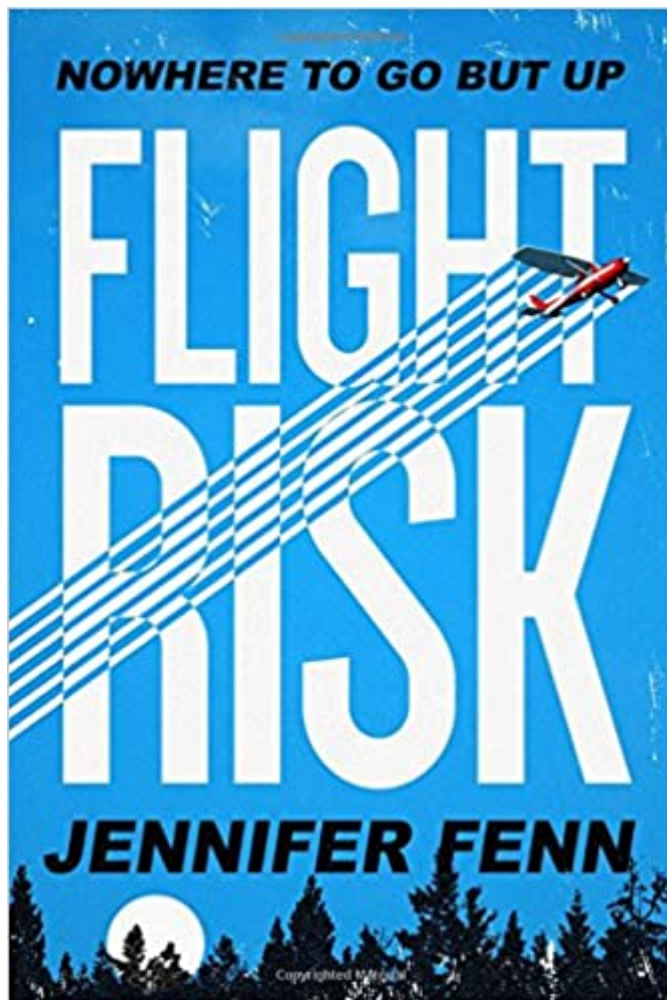


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# Flight Risk: A Novel



## Synopsis

Jennifer Fenn's debut novel inspired by true events, about a teenage boy who has stolen and crashed not one, but three airplanes. And each time he's walked away unscathed. Who is Robert Jackson Kelly? Is he a juvenile delinquent? A criminal mastermind? A folk hero? One thing is clear: Robert always defies what people think of him. And now, the kid who failed at school, relationships, and almost everything in life, is determined to successfully steal and land a plane. Told as an investigation into Robert's psyche, the narrative includes multiple points of view as well as documentary elements like emails, official records, and interviews with people who knew Robert. Ultimately, *Flight Risk* is a thrilling story about one teenager who is determined to find a moment of transcendence after everyone else has written him off as lost.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press (July 18, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626727600

ISBN-13: 978-1626727601

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #268,722 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #319 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #3072 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

## Customer Reviews

"Teens will love the documentary-style narrative and will root for underdog antihero Robert."

—Donald Peebles, School Library Journal "Fenn's ambitious debut novel is part oral history, part tall tale, and part suspense story . . . Inspired by real events (the life of Colton Harris-Moore, aka the Barefoot Bandit), Fenn has penned an original, thrilling tale with wide appeal, including for older reluctant readers." — Caitlin Kling, Booklist

Jennifer Fenn has worked as a middle school language arts teacher and has had short fiction and essays published in numerous publications. She lives with her husband, daughter, and Scottish terrier in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. *Flight Risk* is her debut novel.

Such an Interesting story! Great characters and very well written!

So... This book. It's one of those that I'm not sure I would have read on my own had I not heard such amazing things (I'm a fantasy reader). But I'm so glad I did!!! Also, two words: the cover. Gorgeous. What really intrigued me to no end was that this story was inspired by true events (and ones I wasn't at all aware of but looked right into because how fascinating?!). *Flight Risk* is written in 3 main points of view: from the main character, Robert's, his mother's, and then through the sheriff's voice. All three were equally compelling, but, I really held onto Robert's every word. I mean, I was rooting for the kid 100%. Fenn put such an amazing spin on a subject you'd think would be black and white. But, as most things go, there's so much gray! And in that gray lies the magic that is Robert Jackson Kelly. If you're looking for a great adventure and one that could totally happen (it basically did!), this is the book for you! If you love YA contemporary novels, this is the book for you! If you love reality TV, this is the book for you! If you love out of the box narratives, this is the book for you! If you love great writing and a story that grabs you from the beginning, this is the book for you! Will definitely recommend to everyone from my dad to my niece!

While it's easy to find realistic fiction that targets spies, sports, or survival, this story soars with subjects we don't see often: airplanes, crime, and surfing. These hot topics, enclosed within a bold eye-catching cover, are certain to attract attention. *Flight Risk* is also an ideal recommendation for reluctant readers. Why? Fenn's writing style strikes the perfect balance between crisp prose and sensory image development. Readers will move swiftly through the text, but also "feel" and "see" the story due to brilliant use of concise, yet powerful, descriptive language. Short chapters offer a feature that we know reluctant readers love, yet avid readers will value the depth of this original story. Due to brief references of drinking, drugs, and online pornography, school librarians are advised to read this title before determining whether or not it will fit in their collection.

Conclusion: an amazingly original story that is sure to be a hit among teens seeking realistic reads.

~ ARC copy via Netgalley ~ Lisa Brennan, Middle School Librarian

I've been reading YA for ages, but I've never read anything quite like *Flight Risk*! It's a

near-historical (yeah, I'm gonna call something that takes place in 2009-2010 "near-historical," because don't those years seem like a totally different era?), told in a documentary format, about a teen guy named Robert Jackson Kelley who goes from high school kid to airplane thief. Though the thefts are the backbone of the story, I'd say that the exploration of Robert's home life, family, and motivations are the most interesting aspect of *Flight Risk*. Jennifer Fenn explores such topics as small-town poverty and isolation, law enforcement, ADD / ADHD, prescription drugs... lots of things that have been under the surface of our culture for years. And they're combined here in a way that's never preachy or boring. I also liked how Fenn occasionally dipped into the points-of-view of adult characters in the story, as a way to explore Robert's story from different angles. As I started the book, I thought the documentary style might be distancing, but I found this to be a completely riveting book. I'm excited to see what Fenn does next.

Robert Jackson Kelly is the perfect anti-hero. Some see him as a folk hero, others a juvenile delinquent. And while you can't help but root for him, I was desperate to see Robert get the help he so sorely needed. Fenn is never heavy handed, telling Robert's story from the very beginning and subtly revealing the many ways his small town, parents, teachers, and peers have let him down until stealing planes becomes his one defining moment. The writing is beautiful. Robert's story will stay with me for a long time

This book is so cool and unique! It is the documentary-style, based-on-a-true-story journey of a very interesting young man trying to figure it all out--and stealing some planes along the way. The characters are great and complex and the plot so engrossing that you will want to read it in one sitting. This would make a great movie!

Once I started reading, I couldn't put this book down. The way this story is told and the way the author switches povs, grabs you from the start and keeps you reading and cheering on Robert every step of the way. This book was exactly what I wanted it to be and can't recommend it enough.

Hello movie-makers! Jennifer Fenn's debut, a suspenseful, fun story that makes the reader root for the hero/antihero, would be great on screen. Her skillful writing makes this a quick read. I look forward to whatever book she writes next.

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