

# ADAK

The Rescue of Alfa Foxtrot 586

In the tradition of great tales of men against the sea, *Adak* offers a compelling look at courage and commitment in the face of certain tragedy. Alfa Foxtrot 586 was a P-3 Orion on station on a sensitive Cold War mission off the Kamchatka Peninsula on 26 October 1978. When a propeller malfunction turned into an engine fire, the pilot was forced to ditch his turboprop into the empty, mountainous seas west of the Aleutian Islands. The aircraft went down in just ninety seconds, taking one of the three rafts with it. Thirteen men launched the other rafts, the smallest of which—terribly overcrowded—soon began to leak, threatening the nine men on board. This account of the flight crew's desperate battle against the sea and the heroic efforts to rescue them provide an engrossing true story of survival.

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“Andrew Jampoler . . . has spun a memorable tale. . . Overall *Adak* is an adventure story to rival the best you've ever read.”

—Daniel Ford, *The Wall Street Journal*

“*Adak* has all the attributes of high drama—courage, endurance, tragic error, self-sacrifice—the frailties and glories of mortal men. It manages to be both heartbreaking and inspiring. It is also the story of how the common bonds of seamen and airmen and of humanity thawed the Cold War for a few life-giving hours. For anyone who has sensed even briefly the deadly peril of freezing water, this story will be unforgettable.”

—Jody Powell, former press secretary for President Jimmy Carter

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Andrew C. A. Jampoler is the author of *Horrible Shipwreck!*, *The Last Lincoln Conspirator*, and *Sailors in the Holy Land*. A resident of Leesburg, VA, he spent more than twenty years in the U.S. Navy and flew a P-3 Orion on the same mission from the same station.

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