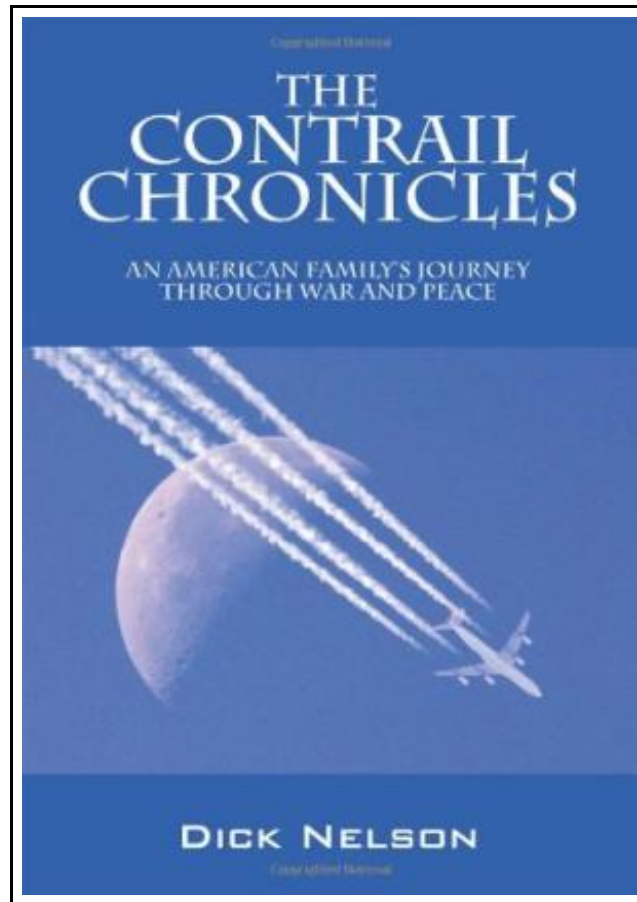


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Outskirts Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Contrails are those silvery white tracks left in the sky by the engine exhaust condensation of high-altitude aircraft. They show where the airborne traveler is going, as well as where he has been. They define the journey, conducted at high speed, where the air is thin and danger is always lurking. This was the harsh testing-ground for a father and his son, from a family of Swedish immigrants---unlikely participants in the armed conflicts that would consume the world in their respective lifetimes. The saga of the Nelson family contains joy and sorrow, triumph and tragedy, and ample quantities of humorous stories. It is a case study in how wars cut deeply into a family s heart and soul, and often destroy the bonds that normally exist. The book traces Wendel Nelson s idealistic quest to become a World War II fighter pilot and defend democracy from fascism. As an American volunteer in the RAF, his exploits range from the Battle of Britain to the North African campaign against Rommel, and then fighter sweeps into Europe in the final years of the war. His son, Dick, documents his experiences at the U.S. Naval Academy, Naval flight training, and the Vietnam air war. The impact of war on the families involved is described in poignant detail. The lifestyle of the modern combat pilot is described in both hilarious and sad episodes, where fiery death was always around the corner. This book also describes in detail the family s involvement with World War II, and its effect on Dick and his mother. The stories show the full impact of a war s lost sons and fathers on the families...



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