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Book Catalog

Dreamland

Travels Inside the Secret World of Roswell and Area 51

By Phil Patton

Our Price: **\$12.95**

Our Item Code: **PattonDreamland**

Postage Code: [book1.5](#)

349 Pages, Trade Paperback

Cover Size: 6 x 9.5 inches

[Villard](#)

Related listings: [Area 51: Books and Videos](#)

Date: Aug. 1998 Country of Origin: USA

Added to Catalog: 5/28/98

Availability: This item is usually in stock and available for immediate Priority Mail shipment. Order it today (by 8pm Eastern/5pm Pacific), and you will probably have it in 2-3 days (in USA).

Cover Image



Note: Reedited version of British release.

Features: Table of Contents, Index

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Comparison to Other Books

This book appears to compete with Darlington's [Area51: The Dreamland Chronicles](#), which was released first.

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Information from the Publisher

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Publisher's Synopsis

"Legally, I can't even say 'Groom Lake,'" Ben Rich, former head of the Lockheed Skunkworks told me shortly before his death. Groom Lake, Area 51, Paradise Ranch, Dreamland is the most secret place in America. DREAMLAND, the book, tells its history and its many stories. It's a cultural history of the most secret place in America, a travelogue of a virtual space. It describes the bat like robot air craft flying above Nevada that your taxes pay for--craft as strange as flying saucers. In a series of portraits of strange characters on the perimeter of Area 51, we learn how alienation produces aliens, and excessive secrecy produces conspiracy theories. The Cold War taught that government secrecy is like a drug---useful in small doses, but potentially addictive and poisonous in large ones. It can cover incompetence, corruption and crime.

From the Book Cover

There is a place in the Nevada desert the size of Belgium that doesn't officially exist. It is the airbase where the test flights of our top-secret experimental military aircraft are conducted--and not coincidentally--where the conspiracy theorists vow the Pentagon is hiding UFOs and aliens. This is Dreamland or Area 51. For Phil Patton the idea of writing a travel account of a place that he couldn't actually visit was irresistible. What he found was a world where Chuck Yeager and the secret planes of the Cold War converged with the Nuclear Test Site and alien landings at Roswell.

A think tank for cold war engineering, Dreamland can be seen from a high ridge outside the base's perimeter 100 miles north of Las Vegas. On Freedom Ridge groups gather with their camouflage outfits and binoculars. The airplane buffs are the Stealth chasers, the Skunkers, guys with code names like Agent X and Zero hoping for a glimpse of the rumored, ray-like shapes of planes like Black Manta and the "mother ship" The most mysterious craft is Aurora, the successor to the legendary U-2, said to run on methane and fly as fast as Mach 6. Scanning the same horizon, the UFO buffs are looking for the hovering lights and doughnut-shaped contrails of alien craft. Are they looking at something sinister and mysterious? Imagined? Or more terrestrial than they think?. Dreamland shows how much we need mystery in the information age, how the cultures of nuclear power and air power merge with the folklores of extraterrestrials and earthly conspiracies.

Patton found people who found themselves in the mysteries in the place. John Lear, the son of aviation pioneer Bill Lear--who gave his name to the jet--served as a pilot for the CIA's Air America; but back home, he became fascinated by UFOs and eventually believed it all--in the underground bases, the alien-human hybrids, the secret treaties. But was he a true believer or part of a disinformation campaign? Bob Lazar seems to know when the saucer will come, and has made three clear sightings at night along Dreamland's perimeter; but is his story real, or a vision of what's possible?

DREAMLAND is an exploration of America's most secret place: the base for our experimental airplanes, fount of UFO rumors, an offshoot of the Nuclear Test Site. How this "black spot" came to exist--its history, its creators, its spies and counterspies--is Phil Patton's tale. He tunnels into the subcultures of the conspiracy buffs, the true believers, the aeronautic geniuses, creating a novelistic tour de force destined to make us all rethink our convictions about American know-how, and alien inventiveness.

Praise for DREAMLAND:

"A mind-opening tale of trespass and revelation, of road adventures, technothriller hardware, saucer folks and aerospace outlaws--as well as a daring account of the haunting of our history through the Cold War and beyond by what we have seen, and often wish we had not seen, in the hazardous dreamscape of the American sky."

--Thomas Pynchon

"Phil Patton's DREAMLAND illuminates the unconscious American id through an unexpected opening: the obsessive passions of ufo believers, the builder of top-secret military jets, and atomic bomb makers. Three tribes whose actions remarkably converge at one ground zero on the map -- Area 51 in Nevada. DREAMLAND is a physic probe into the inner nerd of America.

--Kevin Kelly, Wired, author of Out of Control and New Rules of the New Economy

Indexing Information

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Cross References

- [Black Budget](#): Patton wrote article on black budget for Wired Magazine

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