

THE DREAM MACHINE

RICHARD WHITTLE

READ BY KEVIN FOLEY

"The Dream Machine expertly weaves telling technical details with heart-stopping human drama into a riveting, fast-paced history of one of the military's most controversial war machines." —The New York Times

When the Marines decided to buy a helicopter-airplane hybrid "tiltrotor" called the V-22 Osprey, they saw it as their dream machine. The tiltrotor was the aviation equivalent of finding the Northwest Passage: an aircraft able to take off, land, and hover with the agility of a helicopter yet fly as fast and as far as an airplane. Many predicted it would reshape civilian aviation. The Marines saw it as key to their very survival.

By 2000, the Osprey was nine years late and billions over budget, bedeviled by technological hurdles, business rivalries, and an epic political battle over whether to build it at all. Opponents called it one of the worst boondoggles in Pentagon history. The Marines were eager to put it into service anyway. Then two crashes killed twenty-three Marines—and they still refused to abandon the Osprey.

Based on in-depth research and hundreds of interviews, *The Dream Machine* recounts the Marines' quarter-century struggle to get the Osprey into combat. These stories, including never-before-published eyewitness accounts of the crashes that made the Osprey notorious, not only chronicle an extraordinary chapter in Marine Corps history but also provide a fascinating look at a machine that could still revolutionize air travel.

Richard Whittle, a journalist specializing in military affairs, has reported for *Congressional Quarterly* magazine, the *Dallas Morning News*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. He has also been an editor at National Public Radio and is currently a contributing editor for the aviation magazine *Rotor & Wing*.

Kevin Foley has over thirty years' experience in radio and television broadcasting, commercial voice-overs, and audiobook narration. He has recorded over one hundred and fifty audiobooks, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Politician* by Andrew Young.



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Running Time: 18.5 Hours • Unabridged

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Published by arrangement with Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Jacket design by Constance Lemieux. www.tantor.com



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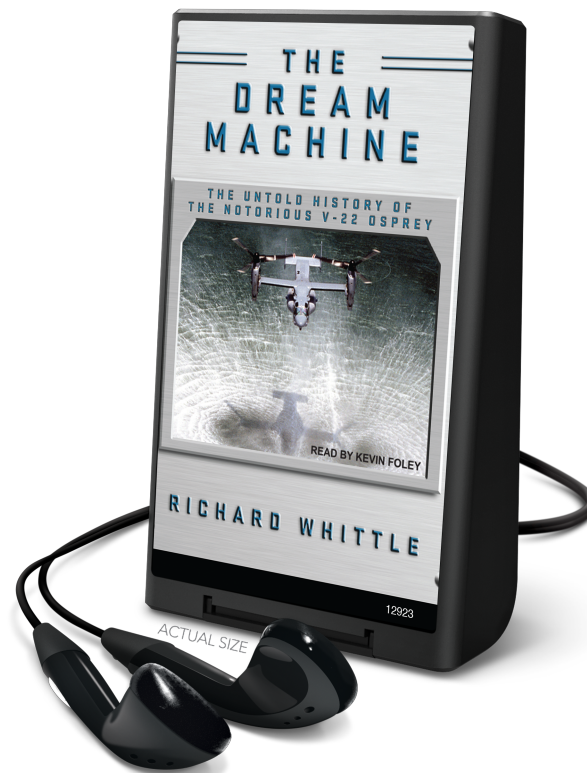
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