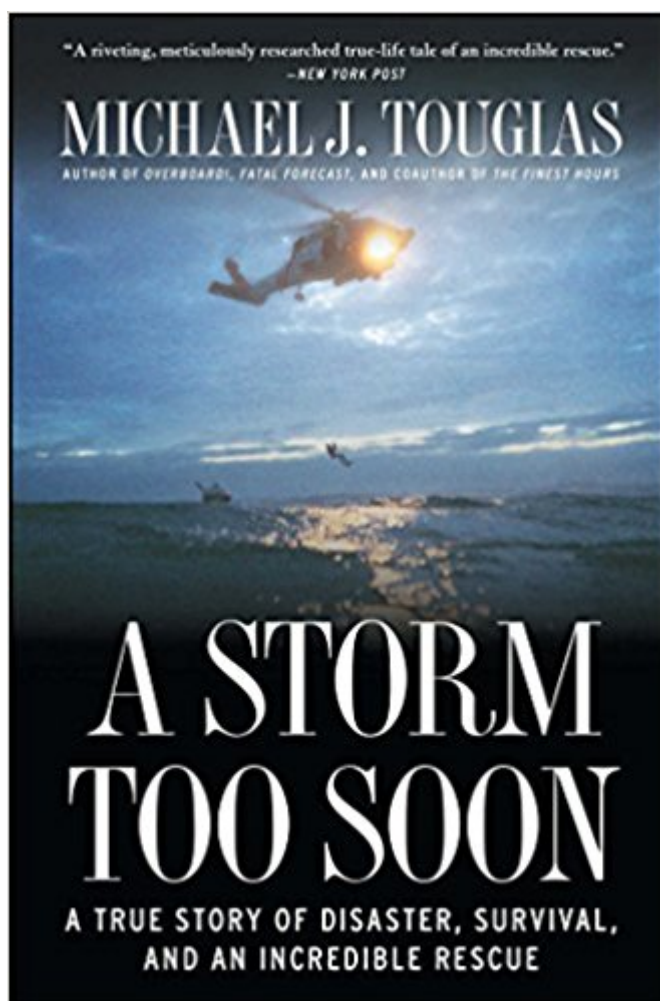


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A Storm Too Soon: A True Story Of Disaster, Survival And An Incredible Rescue



Synopsis

A heart-stopping true-life tale of maritime disaster, survival, and daring rescue—“an edge-of-your-seat chronicle of what happens when a sailboat goes up against a fierce storm in the heart of the Gulf Stream” (The Providence Journal). Seventy-foot waves batter a torn life raft 250 miles out to sea in one of the world’s most dangerous places, the Gulf Stream. Hanging on to the raft are three men: a Canadian, a Brit, and their captain, JP de Lutz, a dual citizen of the United States and France. Their capsized forty-seven-foot sailboat has disappeared below the tempestuous sea. The giant waves repeatedly toss the men out of their tiny vessel, and JP, with nine broken ribs, is hypothermic and on the verge of death. Trying to reach these survivors before it’s too late are four brave Coast Guardsmen battling hurricane-force winds in their Jayhawk helicopter. With waves reaching an astounding eighty feet, lowering the helicopter into such chaos will be extremely dangerous. The pilots wonder if they have a realistic chance of saving the sailors or even retrieving their own rescue swimmer. Soon the rescuers find themselves in almost as much trouble as the survivors, facing one life-and-death moment after the next against the towering seas. Also caught in the storm are three other boats, each one in a Mayday situation. Of the ten people on these boats, only six will ever see land again. Spellbinding, harrowing, and meticulously researched, > is a vivid, heart-pounding narrative of survival, the power of the human spirit, and one of the most incredible rescues ever attempted.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It was supposed to be a straightforward Atlantic crossing: three men in a sailboat, well ahead of the

bad-weather season, sailing from Florida to Saint-Tropez, France. But sometimes the weather does something unpredictable, and about 250 miles from the nearest land, in the treacherous Gulf Stream, the three men were attacked by a fierce storm. Their boat, the Sean Seamour II, capsized and sank. They had only a damaged life raft to keep them alive while they waited for rescue (a rescue that might never come, as they weren't sure their distress beacon had worked). Unlike, say, Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* (1997), this isn't a creative retelling of an incident in which there were no survivors. The three-man crew of the Sean Seamour II survived the ordeal, and the book is based on their memories. It's a story of heroism, for sure (the captain, despite being seriously injured and near death, kept his two shipmates alive), but also of sheer terror. Cast adrift in the angry seas, the men seemed to have little chance of survival. And, if it hadn't been for a rescue effort that carried its own share of life-threatening risks, they would not have. Readers of true-life adventures, especially those involving disaster and rescue at sea, should find this one very much to their liking. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• "The riveting, meticulously researched *A Storm Too Soon* tells the true-life tale of an incredible rescue" (New York Post) "A heart-pounding account of the storm that tore apart a 45-foot sailboat." -The Boston Globe "Tougas spins a marvelous and terrifying yarn....this is a breathtaking book." -- Los Angeles Times "A suspenseful, tautly rendered story that leaves readers breathless but well-satisfied." (Kirkus) • "A magnificent culmination of what-ifs with such detail as to inspire reverence for the human spirit. Tougas's use of present tense is ingenious, this is an armchair riptide of the reading experience." • (South Coast Magazine) "Michael Tougas has done it again, this time delivering an edge-of-your-seat chronicle of what happens when a sailboat goes up against a fierce storm in the heart of the Gulf Stream." (The Providence Journal) • It's a story of heroism, for sure (the captain, despite being seriously injured and near death, kept his two shipmates alive), but also of sheer terror. Cast adrift in the angry seas, the men seemed to have little chance of survival. Readers of true-life adventures, especially those involving disaster and rescue at sea, should find this one very much to their liking. • (Booklist) • "Few American authors "if any" can better evoke the realities that underlie a term such as "desperate rescue attempt." • (Fall River Herald) "Deserves a place as a classic survival at sea." (The Boston Globe) "This book captures the wit, grit and sacrifice of Coasties and their boats." -- Minneapolis Star Tribune • "A compelling tale of man versus nature" • (Yachts Magazine) • "To read this book is to become a believer in the unbelievable. Few stories are as harrowing." • (Oregon Coast

Weekend)â œTougias tells the story in the present tense, giving the story a gut-wringing immediacy that makes the book hard to put down.â • (Metrowest Daily)"The Finest Hours is a touching account, a sensitive rendering of what might be called four indescribably chaotic conditions...Tougias and Sherman never sensationalize, never go beyond the facts, and yet capture all the pain, physical and emotional, of the survivors and their families." -- Providence Journal"Tougias deftly switches from heart-pounding details of the rescue to the personal stories of the boatâ™s crew and those of the rescue team. The result is a well-researched and suspenseful read." (Publisher's Weekly)

My husband said he wanted to read this book slowly because he didn't want the story to end. If we were billionaires, we would give each member of the Coast Guard a million bucks for their courage and bravery in saving lives in raging seas. We would give another million bucks to Michael J. Tougias for putting into words this amazing story and so many others that are well worth reading. They are priceless.Jeannie Walker (Award-Winning Author) "Fighting the Devil" - A True Story of Consuming Passion, Deadly Poison and Murder

This book is so well-written that it kept me on the edge of my seat from the first page to the last! This wasn't just a book about men in peril, but it was also about the incredible training that goes into the Coast Guard Search and Rescue people. You are there in the boat with the men who are caught in the nightmare of 80 foot waves being tossed about like a ping pong ball and their narrow escape when it ultimately sinks. The men who are sent to rescue them had never seen anything like the "storm" (which may have been better described as a hurricane), and how the swimmer barely made it out with his life. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

I stayed up until 5:30 a.m. to finish this book. What happens is almost unbelievable. The survivors embody the best of humanity. The Coast Guard, well, I had respect for them before this book since I live on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, but this story puts their search and rescue teams into a mythical level of courage, professionalism and makes them all heroes in my opinion. If you want a cliffhanger that keeps you reading on, this is the book for you. Of course, I hope no one gets into a perilous position at sea, but if it were me, and I knew the Coasties were coming, I would say prayers of gratitude before I even heard or saw the helicopter. Truly amazing!

I liked the way this author describes the characters and the fact that it was a true story made it an exceptional event that keeps the reader engrossed anticipating the ending.

Guys can sure tell a whale of a tale! Rescue swimmer, Derek Dazzo did not get all the accolades he deserves and I hope he is fully recovered by now. If he never does another rescue, he goes down as one of the most inspiring men I have ever had the chance to come across. (I can't swim and have committed to learn this year). If he does not get a Citizens medal for his inhuman efforts, no one should. The very best to you. If I were a member of the armed forces, I'd salute you.

I love a great disaster and survival story, especially one based on real life, and Michael Tougias delivers. (How many survival stories have an accompanying video of the actual rescue?) The author's writing reflects a respect for the individuals involved as well as mother nature. I was shocked to learn the author is not a sailor, as his descriptions of the details of boating were easily understood by this land-lubber. This is one of those books I purchased on kindle so I can read at my leisure on my macbook or android phone. However, this page-turner kept me so enthralled I finished it in just three sittings. I am looking forward to working through the rest of Mr. Tougias' novels and non-fiction. I came across this author while looking for fiction of local New England interest, but any fan of suspense, true-to-life, or nautical stories is sure to be satisfied with this book.

This true story was a real learning lesson for me - a landlocked person with only a little knowledge about ocean currents, especially the gulf stream. No wonder this fast moving stream of ocean water warms up the western coast of England and Scotland so well; it's very powerful and generates its own weather, sometimes with disastrous results as written about in this story. I now have a new respect for our Coast Guard - I had no idea how very important their jobs are. If you are a little short on information about these things and want to learn more, read this book - you'll be glad you did. Beth Bristow

Michael Tougias once again writes a book that cannot be put down. I am always disappointed when each one is over only because it is over. Great book!!!

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