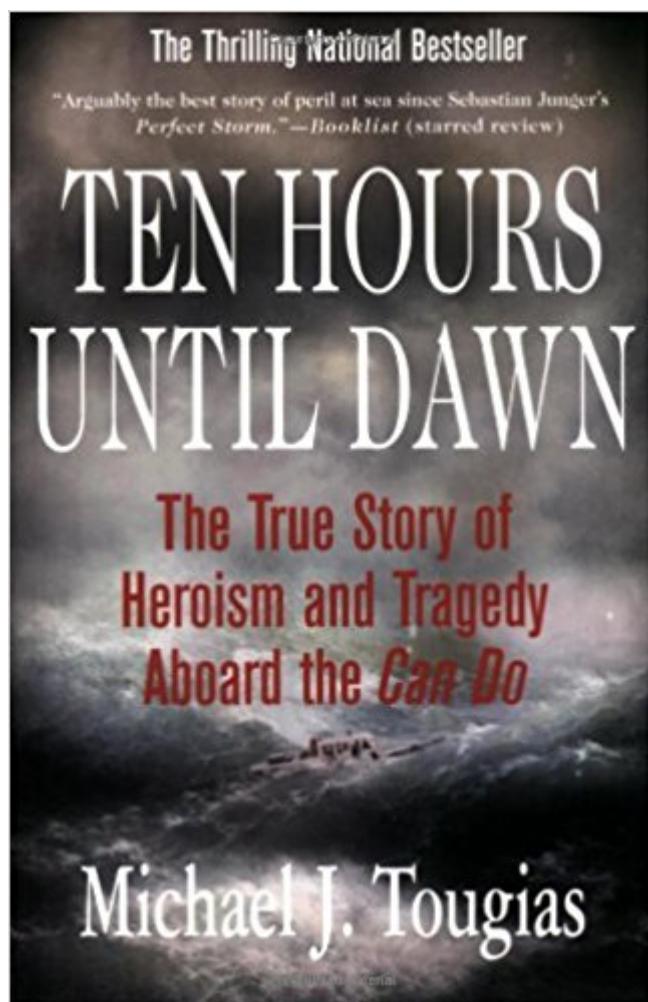


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# Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story Of Heroism And Tragedy Aboard The Can Do



## Synopsis

In the midst of the Blizzard of 1978, the tanker Global Hope floundered on the shoals in Salem Sound off the Massachusetts coast. The Coast Guard heard the Mayday calls and immediately dispatched a patrol boat. Within an hour, the Coast Guard boat was in as much trouble as the tanker, having lost its radar, depth finder, and engine power in horrendous seas. Pilot boat Captain Frank Quirk was monitoring the Coast Guard's efforts by radio, and when he heard that the patrol boat was in jeopardy, he decided to act. Gathering his crew of four, he readied his forty-nine-foot steel boat, the Can Do, and entered the maelstrom of the blizzard. Using dozens of interview and audiotapes that recorded every word exchanged between Quirk and the Coast Guard, Tougias has written a devastating, true account of bravery and death at sea, in *Ten Hours Until Dawn*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Before The Perfect Storm, there was the 1978 blizzard that lashed the Massachusetts coast with blinding snow, 90-mile-per-hour winds and 40-foot waves. Into the juggernaut sailed the small boat Can Do and its crew of five civilians on a doomed mission to assist two other vessels imperiled by the storm. As in The Perfect Storm, all hands were lost; but since the Can Do sank only a few agonizing miles from shore, there are records of terse radio transmissions to help the author recreate their last desperate hours. Journalist Tougias (The Blizzard of '78) fills out his absorbing account with lots of search-and-rescue procedural details, recollections from others who endured the monstrous seas of that hellish night and 300 years' worth of maritime disaster sagas. At times,

the book feels padded with lengthy, adulatory back stories about the Can Do crew and needless speculations (i.e., "Kenny Fuller likely thought of his wife, knowing that if he died it would be especially hard on her"). And the story's outcome-the Can Do never got anywhere near the boats it went to help, both of which survived the storm-raises questions about the wisdom of the heroic ethos it celebrates. Still, Tougias delivers a well-researched, vividly written tale of brave men overwhelmed by the awesome forces of nature. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Arguably the best story of peril at sea since Sebastian Junger's *Perfect Storm* (1997), this superb narrative deals with the blizzard of 1978, which hammered New England with hurricane-force winds and torrents of snow. When the tanker Global Hope ran aground off Salem, Massachusetts, and Coast Guard rescuers quickly got in trouble, pilot-boat skipper and ex-Seabee Frank Quirk took his converted yacht Can Do into the teeth of the gale to rescue even the rescuers. Then the weather took down Can Do's radio and power, and she eventually went on the rocks and was lost with all hands. Tougias has researched exhaustively and written what amounts to a collective biography of Quirk and his right good crew, including their families and the suffering they endured after husbands and fathers died. His balancing of human and technical detail is nearly perfect, and he has made the book accessible even to relative newcomers to maritime literature. Serious maritime buffs may well feel like firing 21-gun salutes, and all readers may sincerely hope that Tougias will produce further such superb chronicles of those "who go down to the sea in ships and have their business in great waters." Roland GreenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Being a retired Coast Guardsman and the Enlisted Engineering Officer on the Cape George during the rescue of the Chester Poling referenced in this book I found it very interesting. Just after this SAR case I was transferred to Rockland, Maine to a sea going tug my preference as I was approaching retirement. A neighbor spoke to me regarding this book so I decided to purchase. Some of these people I knew. Mike Paradis Warrant Bos'n was in charge of Gloucester Station and I remember him as we were both stationed in So. Portland, Me together. Jim Loew I clearly remember as my CO and remember the day he reported aboard the Cape George as a young man. I thought they get younger and younger what am I in for. He turned out to be a great CO and was well respected.

I finished this book in tears, with that hellish lump in the throat that no amount of 'haruphing' will dislodge. What a great - and needless - tragedy the author, a local journalist, describes here, in a vivid picture of the battle between the storm of 1978, with blizzards of forty inches and pure hurricane strength winds, and in the forty-foot waves are the men who are fighting to save others and all too soon, themselves. The Can Do was a steel-hulled Pilot boat out of Gloucester, that home-port of so many brave and lost seamen, and was named as an expression of attitude of the owner, Frank Quirk who with four mates, volunteers to "take a look" to see if he could help men stranded on a tanker in Salem bay. Conditions were so bad that Coast Guard boats and even cutters were soon in great peril themselves. The tanker was aground, hard set on a ledge and going nowhere - the captain had cried "wolf" in his incompetence and five families lost their men while many of them actually listened to the gradually dying radio transmission from the battered boat. Well written, interspersed with snippets from Gloucester history, a worthy read.

Michael J. Tougias weaves the story, Ten Hours Until Dawn, in the same style found throughout a page turner novel. Except this story is true. If you like to get to know the men who qualify as true heroes, read this book. If you would like to get to know their loved ones who understood the passion these men had for the sea and those who sail its waters, read this book. Ten Hours Until Dawn is a tribute to the men who found themselves in the grip of a lethal storm at sea and displayed the extraordinary courage, faith and trust in each other to stay the course as a team to save others. Thank you, Michael J. Tougias for pursuing and writing the story of the men of the "Can Do"

Harrowing story. Writing was a little repetitive but story is compelling enough to ignore. Good read.

BORING!!!!!! The story of the rescue efforts for the tanker is excellent, with details like radio comms etc, but I had to flip page after page, more than 3/4 of the book, to read about too many similar accidents, and about the boring life stories not only of the people involved in this rescue attempt, but of all the people in the area that suffered from the 1978 blizzard.

This book is about the pilot boat CanDo out of a small Mass. harbor, and the storm of 1978, a real "storm of the century" that claimed the lives of the 5 men onboard her. This is a fact based book that tells the story of pilot boat Captain Frank Quirk and four of his friends who go out in the 1978 storm in an attempt to give aid to the Coast Guard when a Greek tanker sends out an SOS stating they are

taking on water. You get a real feel for the men because of the back story on each, so when you are reading the story of that one night that changed the lives of so many, you have a real feel for their character as men. It makes the reader take a more personal interest in their story. I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a good a good story, but especially to people who think there are no real heroes anymore. It will prove that to be completely wrong. Even knowing the outcome, you won't be able to stop yourself from thinking maybe there will be a different outcome. An honestly absorbing read.

A very interesting book which reveals the many times thankless job of the Coast Guards. Navigating in such a tremendous blizzard came across very vividly, however the deaths of the three members of the Can Do felt like an unnecessary waste of lives. The book is very well researched, however, at times I had to make an effort to read on since, there seemed to be too much detail and repetitive descriptions of the blizzard.

Ten Hours Until Dawn is a very worthwhile read which will keep you turning pages well into the night. Tougias' attention to detail and ability to recount the story from so many different first-hand sources, all of whom gave an exceptional level of detail in their individual accounts, is extremely impressive. Equally as impressive was his ability to weave that detail into a gripping story of what true heroism really looks like. If you have any interest in the genre, you owe it to yourself to check out this book.

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