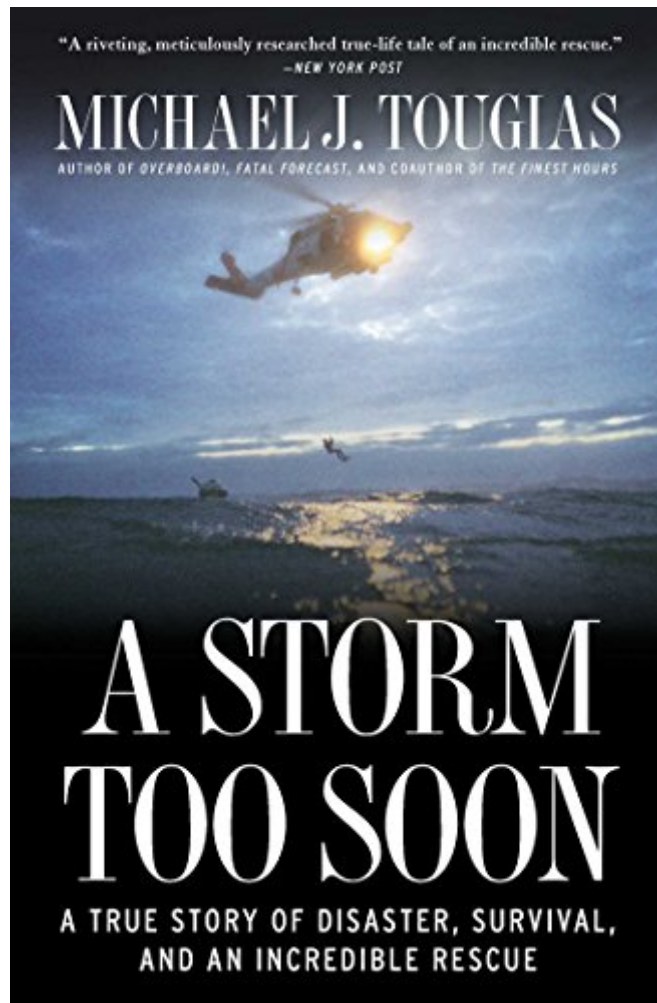


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# A Storm Too Soon: A True Story Of Disaster, Survival And An Incredib



## Synopsis

FROM MASTERFUL STORYTELLER MICHAEL J. TOUGIAS COMES A NEW, HEART-STOPPING TRUE-LIFE TALE OF MARITIME DISASTER, SURVIVAL, AND DARING RESCUE, HIS MOST THRILLING AND AMAZING STORY YET. 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 America and France. Their capsized forty-seven-foot sailboat has filled with water and 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. The captain, however, is a remarkably tough character, having survived a brutal boyhood, and now he must rely on the same inner strength to outlast the storm. Trying to reach these survivors before it's too late are four brave Coast Guardsmen battling hurricane-force winds in their Jayhawk helicopter. They know the waves will be extreme, but when they arrive they are astounded to find that the monstrous seas have waves reaching eighty feet. Lowering the wind-whipped helicopter to drop a rescue swimmer into such chaos will be extremely dangerous. The pilots wonder if they have a realistic chance of saving the sailors clinging to the broken life raft, and if they will be able to even retrieve their own rescue swimmer from the towering seas. Once they commit to the rescue, they find themselves in almost as much trouble as the survivors, facing one life-and-death moment after the next. 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, *A Storm Too Soon* is a vivid account about the powerful collision between the forces of nature and the human will to survive. Author Michael J. Tougias, known for his fast-paced writing style and character-driven stories, tells this true saga in the present tense to give the reader a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat immediacy. *A Storm Too Soon* is Tougias at his masterful best and a 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

As one the miraculously rescued victims torn in-extremis from the wrath of un-forecasted, post-named ST Storm Andrea, I have hesitated to provide my so obviously biased opinion of the book. Commander Nevada Smith who led his HH-60 helicopter crew into this unforeseen maelstrom has opened the path. It is five going on six years since a series of miracles enabled us to relate our ordeal. Not the least of these miracles was the engagement in a totally unforeseen situation of this United States Coast Guard crew, four men who went beyond the call of duty to accomplish one of the most daring USCG rescues. The honors bestowed to them from two countries understate their feat, their commitment. Michael Tougias' A Storm Too Soon captures this story in as gripping a fashion as the hurricane had captured us (we measured over 85 knots before stepping up to a life-raft already in a mangled half destroyed state as my s/v Sean Seamour II slipped below seventy foot waves). Having read most of his books, bias aside this one is particularly riveting.

Gray job by Mike Tougias. I stood duty for 13 years as a USCG H60 Search and Rescue pilot but only encountered these conditions once on the morning of 7 May 2007. Nothing else came close to 80 knot winds and 70 foot waves. A must-read for any sailor or armchair adventurer. From the raft to the helicopter to the stress-filled homes of the families, Mr. Tougias takes you there with layers of detail.[...] Nevada Smith, H60 pilot

The rescue story evolves around the life and death decisions and actions of the naval aviators and two Petty Officers in the helo and the sailors in the water who took calculated risks to pull it all off.

Hats off to these cool-headed Coast Guard naval aviators CDR Smith and LT Nelson who flew to the edge of everything to pull these sailors out of the water....the book very well describes the emotional roller coaster the rescuers were going through including Petty Officer Higgins coolheaded actions between the pilots, rescuer and survivors. I just can't imagine Petty Officer Dazzo free-falling into that storm...as written in the book, I was wanting him to "please don't let go!" The compelling story of the rescued sailors who had little chance of surviving from the get-go, is gripping reading. The book is very good at painting a complete picture of the Coast Guard actions in the helo & C-130, command and control decisions ashore, aboard ships as well as in the homes of the rescuers and rescued. And all of it is so well written that each story line becomes a page turner that you are pulled into from start to finish. The book references a You Tube video "A storm Too Soon". There are actually three related videos at the site. Be sure to watch them all...you will have a very good appreciation of what it is like to look "up" at an approaching wave from a helo cockpit. Marty Morgen, Chesapeake, Va

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!!!

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!

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

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.

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