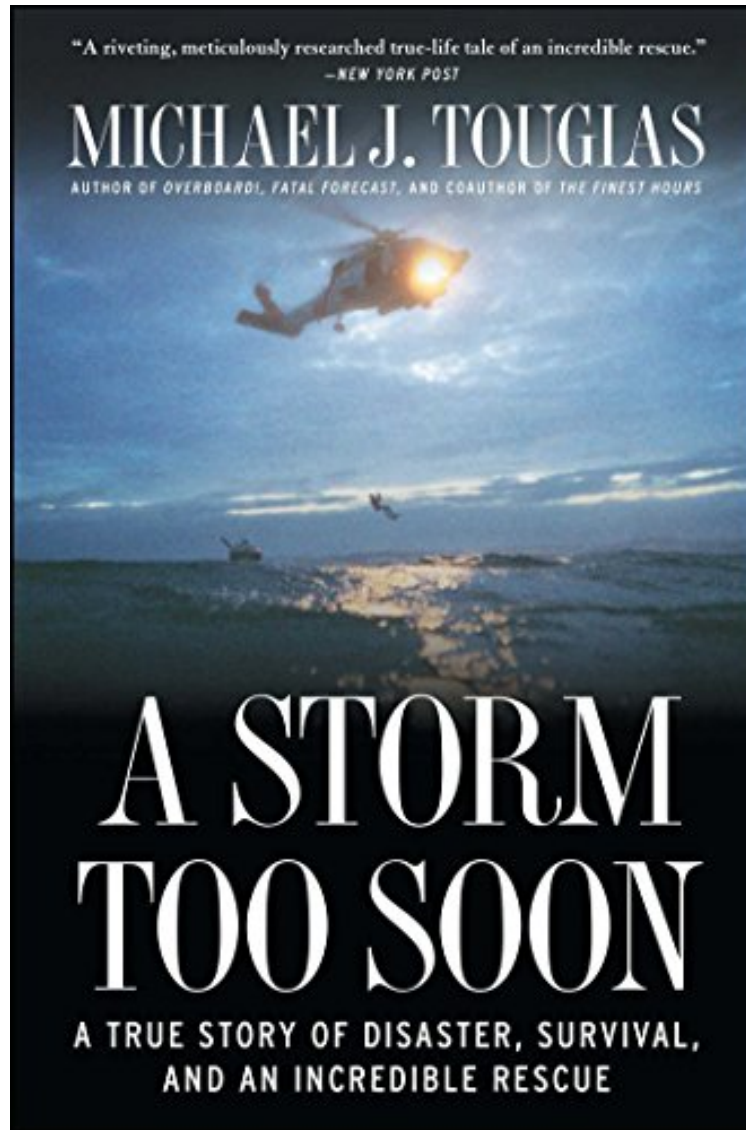


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## A Storm Too Soon: A True Story of Disaster, Survival and an Incredible Rescue

*Michael J. Tougias*

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**Michael J. Tougias : A Storm Too Soon: A True Story of Disaster, Survival and an Incredible Rescue** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Storm Too Soon: A True Story of Disaster, Survival and an Incredible Rescue:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. PricelessBy Jeannie Walker (Award-Winning Author)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 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Spectacularly-Written Book not only about the men in peril, but highly-trained men behind the rescue. By Rather be at the Beach 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heroism at its best By Peggy McCauley 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!

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 worlds 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 its 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, A Storm Too Soon is a vivid, heart-pounding narrative of survival, the power of the human spirit, and one of the most incredible rescues ever attempted.

From Booklist 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 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 "Tougias 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. Tougias use of present tense is ingenious, this is an armchair riptide of the reading experience. (South Coast Magazine) "Michael Tougias 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) Tougias tells the story in the present tense, giving the story a gut-wringing immediacy that makes the book hard to put down. (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 boats crew and those of the rescue team. The result is a well-researched and suspenseful read." (Publisher's Weekly) About the Author Michael J. Tougias is the author of a number of books, including *Rescue of the Bounty: Disaster and Survival in Superstorm Sandy*; *Overboard!*; *The Finest Hours* (with Casey Sherman), soon to be a major motion picture from Disney; *Fatal Forecast*; and *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do*. He is a sought-after lecturer who gives more than seventy presentations each year. He lives in Massachusetts.