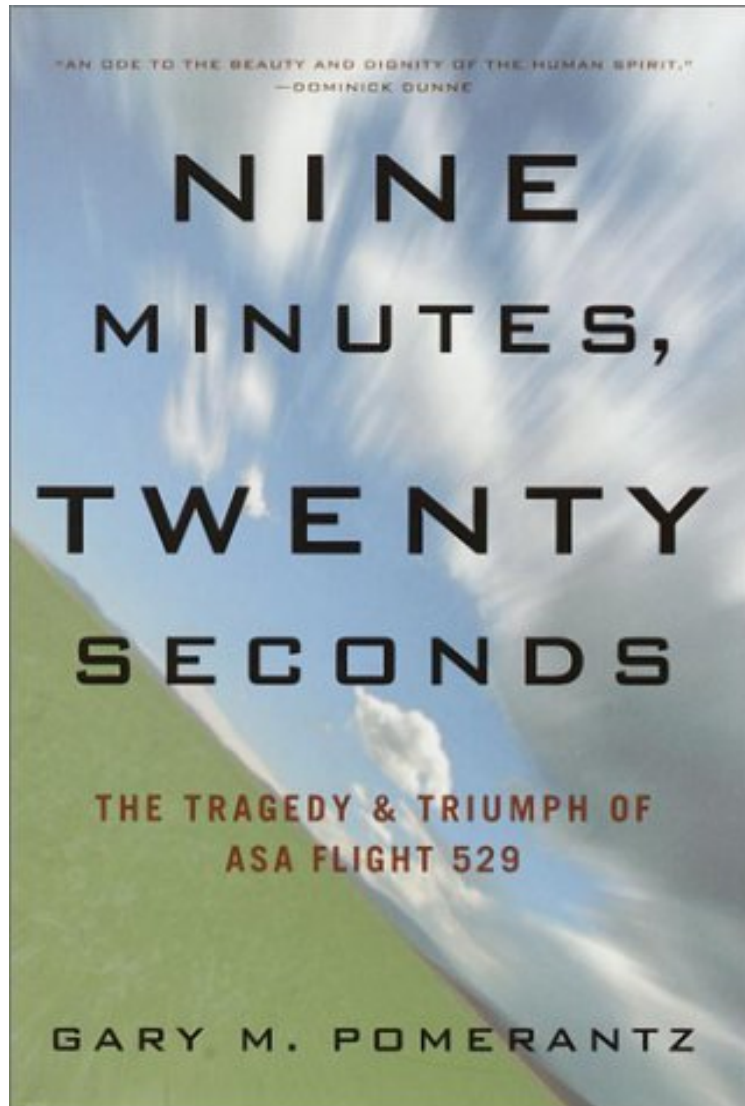


# Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds: The Tragedy Triumph of ASA Flight 529

Gary M. Pomerantz

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**Gary M. Pomerantz : Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds: The Tragedy Triumph of ASA Flight 529** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds: The Tragedy Triumph of ASA Flight 529:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GreatBy CustomerFantastic book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extremely well-crafted and excitingBy rbnnAuthor skillfully and tautly tells the story of a plane crash, focusing on the biographies of a few key figures: the crew, including the stewardess; the engineer who mistakenly

passed the propeller that would fail; some of the passengers. The first half of the book is terrific, the part prior to the plane crash. The book was so well-written it was literally scary to read. The author, as he did in *The Devil's Tickets*, is one of the best out there at telling multiple stories in parallel while keeping their overall tone and rhythm. The second half of the book, although skillfully written and quite interesting, was very disturbing. The injuries of some of the passengers were horrific, and their aftermath was tragic and painful to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. At once the greatest satisfaction and the greatest mystery. By Judith Paley. And that's how the remarkable flight attendant on the doomed ASA Flight 529 viewed her passengers, even before she and they spent nine minutes and twenty seconds of life-altering time together. These ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances prove themselves extraordinary. And the author, Mr. Pomerantz, in turn proves himself extraordinarily capable in capturing the drama, the feelings, the tragedy, and the triumph of the experience. This is one to listen to or reread again and again, perhaps when faced with our own crises, to bolster the spirit and know that we can face the unthinkable with courage and grace.

A deeply moving account of the extraordinary strengths that ordinary people can display when tragedy confronts them. As emotionally powerful a book as you are likely ever to read. David J. Garrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Bearing the Cross*. In August 1995, twenty-six passengers and a crew of three board a commuter plane in Atlanta headed for Gulfport, Mississippi. Shortly after takeoff they hear an explosion and, looking out the windows on the left side, see a mangled engine lodged against the wing. From that moment, nine minutes and twenty seconds elapse until the crippled plane crashes in a west Georgia hayfield nine minutes and twenty seconds in which Gary Pomerantz takes readers deep into the hearts and minds of the people aboard, each of whom prepares in his or her own way for what may come. Ultimately, nineteen people survive both the crash and its devastating aftermath, all of them profoundly affected by what they have seen and, more important, what they have done to help themselves and others. This is not so much a book about a plane crash as it is a psychologically illuminating real-life drama about ordinary people and how they behave in extraordinary circumstances. Each of us has wondered what we would do to survive a life-threatening situation: Would I survive? How would I conduct myself? Would I act to save others in need or only myself? Would others try to save me? How would I be affected by the experience? Judging by what is revealed in *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds*, the answers are surprisingly optimistic. In telling the remarkable stories of these twenty-nine men and women, Gary Pomerantz has written one of the most compelling books in recent memory. Open to any page and you'll immediately be drawn into the dramatic pull of the narrative. But on a deeper level, *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds* speaks as powerfully about our capacity to care for others as it does about the strength of our will to live. This rich and rewarding book will linger in your mind long after you turn the last page.

.com An American could fly on a turboprop run by a regional carrier once per day and not expect to die in a crash for 8,000 years, according to one estimate. That's small consolation to the 29 people who found themselves on ASA Flight 529 in 1995, when a faulty propeller cracked and destroyed one of their plane's engines. As Gary M. Pomerantz notes in *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds*--the title refers to the length of time between the engine blowing and impact--"Of all the emergency checklists, there was none on how to fly with one wing." Pomerantz says his book is "not about a plane falling, but the human spirit rising." That's only part right. *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds* has plenty of human-interest angles, but it mainly holds a morbid fascination akin to rubbernecking at the scene of a highway accident. Ever wonder what people do when they know they're about to crash and believe they might die? Herein lie the answers. (Unexpectedly, they don't scream.) Pomerantz conducted hundreds of interviews for this book, from the flight's 19 survivors to family members of the deceased to the mechanic who refurbished the bad propeller before it went back on the plane. It is by turns interesting, poignant, and harrowing. Readers drawn to stories of adversity will find it riveting. --John Miller. From *Publishers Weekly*. The first tape of Pomerantz's account is almost unbearably dry: a detailed report of a young man's career decisions; a repair job on a stress-fractured propeller; groups of seemingly unrelated, meticulously recorded facts. And Gaines's objective, deadpan reading does not spice it up. But the story and narration pick up considerable speed. The title refers to the amount of time the 29 passengers and crew aboard flight 529 from Atlanta to Mississippi had to say their prayers, watch their lives flash before their eyes and prepare themselves for the inevitable crash after the airplane's left engine failed. The plane crashed in a Georgia hayfield and fire consumed the fuselage. Pomerantz's unnerving journalistic distance, iterated by the professional, subdued reading by Gaines (who starred in *Contact* and other Broadway shows), begins to seem appropriate as the nightmarish crash plays out. Pomerantz interviewed survivors (19 in total) and eyewitnesses, giving the account a stark, terrifying immediacy. Melting clothing (tip: always wear cotton clothing for flights), burning flesh, dead nerves and panic become all the more real (and grisly) for the flat prose and tone. Heroic accounts of men and women unselfishly working to save as many lives as possible make the story ultimately engaging and uplifting. Simultaneous release with the Crown hardcover (*Forecasts*, July 23). Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. On August 21, 1995, Atlantic Southeast Airlines Flight 529 from Atlanta to Gulfport, MS, suffered a catastrophic breakage of one propeller, which not only destroyed an engine but also disabled one wing. The fiery aftermath of the crash eventually killed ten of the 29 people aboard. Pomerantz (*Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*) here attempts

to reconstruct the thoughts and actions of the passengers and flight crew during the nine minutes, 20 seconds between the propeller break and impact, plus events before and after the crash, and thereby produces a moving portrait of the human experience of disaster. The competence of the flight crew and the willingness of the passengers to help one another despite the risks make for a powerful story. In particular, the will to survive of a young mother burned over 92 percent of her body is deeply affecting. Though not recommended for the white-knuckled flyer, this is suitable for all academic and public libraries. Deirdre Bray Root, Middletown P.L., OH Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.