



A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas

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When a forty-seven-foot sailboat disappears in the Gulf Stream in the throes of a disastrous storm, it leaves behind three weary passengers struggling to stay alive. This middle-grade adaptation of an adult nonfiction book tells the story of the four intrepid Coast Guardsmen who braved this ruthless storm in the hopes of saving them. A spellbinding tale of courage and survival from the author of *The Finest Hours*, now a major motion picture.

A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas Details

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Author : Michael J. Tougias

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From Reader Review A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas for online ebook

Valerie McEnroe says

In 2007, three men set out in a 47-ft. sailboat from North Carolina with the goal of crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Calm weather was forecasted. Out of nowhere a storm grew to hurricane strength, tossing the boat in waves that peaked at 80 ft. The boat capsized twice, turtled once, and eventually couldn't withstand the beating. It sank minutes before the men escaped into a life raft. They had no idea if the EPIRB had sent a distress signal to the Coast Guard. In fact it had, and a helicopter was dispatched into the storm looking for a sailboat in distress.

It's incredible that the crew even saw the life boat. A rescue diver went in and managed to hoist each survivor, one at a time, into the basket. It was a dangerous rescue and Tougias manages to capture every minute detail of the ordeal. It's an edge of your seat kind of book. A must for kids who like high adventure. My only criticism is that it needed a bit more editing, given that this is the young readers' edition. Some non-essential and repetitive description might be too much for readers who just want to get to the "good part."

Jenny's Book Life says

Final Remarks for "A Storm Too Soon (Young Readers Edition): A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas" by Michael J. Tougias

Three big stars! ***

This particular edition is adapted for young readers. It was a gripping story and well-told! I read it out-loud to my grandson who has reading challenges. Reading is so much work for him that it's his joy to be read aloud to even at age 12. We kept an iPad nearby to look up the technical words relating to seamanship and boating and storms and the Coast Guard. What fun! I learned about drogues and C-130s and how the Coast Guard conducts sea rescues and rogue waves and all kinds of things.

When reading to/with kids, you develop a 'secret language' born of the books that creates a special bond. This book was a great story for anyone. I suspect the 'grown-up' version might have dragged on a little too long for me with the detailed descriptions, so I actually RECOMMEND this version! It's a perfect book for boys, although I'm a girl and I loved it!

*** 5 Stars = An enduring classic to be read by all; 4 Stars = I LOVE IT! You gotta read it!; 3 Stars = A great book for a specific interest/type of reader/very casual read; 1 or 2 Stars = no comment***

Kelly says

I didn't think this would be a book I'd finish, let alone speed through, but Tougias tells a compelling tale about three men who attempted to sail the Gulf Stream and the tragedy of hitting one of the worst storms imaginable (despite all of their preparations). Fast-paced, engaging, and with just enough personal history

about the men and their experience to keep me going. Like a well-written adventure/survival story, except real.

Katie Steffins says

This book is about three veteran soldiers who travel from Florida to France. Their journey includes many unfortunate events, including losing their ship. The soldiers are left behind on a small raft, and forced to find any other means to survive as they make their way to new land. With horrific storms and no sign of a rescue, these three soldiers endure what many would believe to be impossible to survive.

I chose this Nonfiction adventure book for a middle grade-level classroom because it is one of the most gripping books of this grade level. Students would absolutely fall in love with this book if they are interested in action and war heroes. The fact that this is a true story also captures the interest of a great deal of students. If I were to use this in a middle school classroom, I would at the very least include it in my classroom library for students to use in their free time. This would also be a wonderful book to read aloud with your children, as each chapter leaves the students wanting to know what happens next. Finding a book that captures the entire class's attention would be a great way to introduce a new author.

Deborah says

I loved this hyper paced real life thriller. The writing is crisp and makes for an effortless read. I loved learning about sea rescue teams and the emergency equipment operated by sailors. The heroism, reasoning skills, and awesome power of nature is sure to rivet tweens.

Daisy Hanson says

Quarter 3 Choice Book #4

I like this book a little but it wasn't my favorite it was super boring in the beginning. This is kind of hard to explain but there was too much details, the author would tell about the situation and what it looked like but then he would keep going and by that time I had either fallen asleep, put the book down, or forgotten what the first chunk of details was. I mean I'm just a kid so I guess I might not care as much about all the equipment and what the specific details of the Sean Simmer 2 are. Also by the time the storm actually started causing damage and got bad I didn't even remember the names of the equipment (I often found myself flipping back and forth trying to figure out what something was and why they would use.) I did like how the author added in the past of JP, Ben, and Rudy I thought that it made the story a lot better to know a little bit about them and kind of how and why they think this way.

Margie says

Three men on a boat in the Atlantic Ocean, caught in a dangerous storm that came up suddenly. Seventy foot waves, will they survive. This is a true story and hard to believe it actually happened.

Jack Dismuke says

A Storm Too Soon by Michael Tougias is a thrilling story of survival. JP, Rudy, and Ben are men who all want to cross the Atlantic Ocean. JP, and Ben are pretty experienced sailors especially JP, but Rudy is new to the whole thing. They set sail in JP's sailboat the Sean Seamour the second. They are traveling through the Gulf Stream when tropical storm Andrea gets in there path they start to realize the dangers there in. They eventually have to evacuate boat and with broken ribs JP and the rest of the men board the boat. They get pounded by 70 foot waves and some rouge waves reaching 80 feet or more! They must stay strong and survive!

I really liked this book and the story it tells. My fascination with survival stories made this book really grab my attention. The main character is JP it kind of seems like but, it definitely gives a back story to every character. If I were to change one thing it would be the way the story is told. It is kind of told in 3rd person. I didn't really like that.

I would recommend this book to everyone. There is an adult version and a kid version so, obviously everyone has a version to read. In all it is a great book.

Celeste says

I really enjoyed this true story of three men who are caught in a catastrophic storm at sea. The story flips between the Coast Guard and the men from the sail boat and I couldn't put it down. I wish there would have been more back story on the men, but everything else was great and I liked the readable account.

Jack Douse says

A Storm Too Soon, a true survival story, is one of the best non-fiction books that I have ever read.

Captain JP de Lutz, Ben Tye, and Rudy Snel were sailing to Saint-Tropez, France when they were hit by a major tropical storm 225 miles off the coast of North Carolina. They were slammed by multiple waves over 80 feet, sinking their boat, the Sean Seamour II. They able to evacuate onto the sailboat's life raft, but there were a couple problems. JP was severely injured and was almost unconscious. The warm water of the gulf stream was helpful, but within several hours, they could get hypothermia. And, they had no way of signaling the helicopter other than a few flares, which were quite unpredictable in the very strong winds.

The Coast Guard crew aboard an HH-60 Jayhawk rescue helicopter had to not only locate the tiny orange raft in 88-knot winds but lift two sailors and an unconscious captain to safety.

I think A Storm Too Soon is a very good read. It is very informational and has many interesting facts. Thumbs up to Michael J. Tougias. He definitely knew what he was talking about. The book is a little slow in the beginning but picks up the pace towards the middle and end.

I really liked this book. I would recommend it to anyone who likes true survival stories and very suspenseful books.

Barbara says

This adaptation of an adventure and survival story written for adults and then revised for middle graders is absolutely riveting from start to finish. I literally could not allow myself to lift my eyes from the book's pages because the author does such a superb job of thrusting his readers into the desperate situation of three men, sailing fans who are attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean but run into unexpected weather conditions. Not only does he give some personal background to the stories of Jean Pierre de Lutz (JP), Rudy Snel, and Ben Tye, including their reasons for attempting this feat, but he provides details about sailing, the ship, the Sean Seamour II, and the rescue crew. Readers will be able to feel the surging waves and swirling wind, and hold their breaths to see if the rescue swimmer, Drew Dazzo, will be able to save the three men. Having seen those rescue baskets lowered to save folks before, I had never realized how small they are and how challenging it is to lower them to their intended targets. Given that the men are floating on a life raft, tossed by 80-foot winds, it is something of a miracle that the rescue crew--a great team working well together--pulled this off. Photos of the area show just how hard that raft was to spot, and some readers will be intrigued to learn about all the things that went right--and wrong--for the sailors and the rescuers. The book will certainly remind readers to seize the day, but it might also put some of them off of any ocean voyages.

Jp Lutz says

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 crew into this unforeseen maelstrom has opened the path on Amazon so I will continue on goodreads.

If you look at the photo of our raft on the side of the mountain of water it is hard to imagine, but to put this incredible 70 foot wave in perspective consider that seas generated by Hurricane Grace in 1991, storm that led to book and subsequent movie "A Perfect Storm", had averaged waves of 37 to 50 feet high and rogue waves hitting 100 feet. Sub Tropical Storm Andrea that brought about our demise had waves that averaged 70 feet with rogues waves much higher!

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 , itself 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. You can find more photos on www.artseaprovence.com

J L's Bibliomania says

A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas is the Middle Grade adaptation of Michael Tougias's book A Storm Too Soon: A True Story of Disaster, Survival and an Incredible Rescue.

My older son, who prefers non-fiction to fiction and who likes stories of resilience, picked up A Storm Too

Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas during a recent library trip and has been obsessively reading and re-reading it. The book was a quick read for an adult, and clearly though dryly recounts the events of the unexpected storm and subsequent rescue. I think my son liked the book in part because the introduction made it clear that all of the principals in the story survived (view spoiler). So while there was tension in the moment, the level of suspense was low.

Unfortunately my library system doesn't have the adult version, or else I'd hand it to him to try.

Beth says

I'm actually a little sad I read this one, because apparently it's the kid version and I bet the adult one has even more details. It's an exciting story of a small ship getting buried by the sea and the amazing rescue by the Coast Guard, while quietly in the background another ship is lost completely with no survivors. The details of each person and the decisions, bits of luck good and bad, and skill of the SAR team all come vividly to life.

Zach Koenig says

Most people associate water with pleasant things: swimming, boating, sailing, skiing, etc. However, when Mother Nature has her way the water can just as easily turn into a death trap. That is exactly the type of story that author Michael J. Tougias describes in "A Storm Too Soon", the tale of a sailing cruise caught in the storm of the century.

For a basic plot summary, this book recounts the true story of a trio of three men who decided to take a Gulf Stream voyage in May of 2007. Shortly after departing, however, the trio encounters perhaps the largest, most furious storm that region of water has ever seen. From there, the narrative essentially splits in two for awhile, telling the concurrent stories of the three men on the boat/raft being battered by the high seas, and the rescue crew trying to bring them home.

"Storm Too Soon" is narrative nonfiction at its finest, as Tougias does a remarkable job of putting the reader right into the heart of some exhilarating situations. Like I, most people reading this book will not have first-hand (or any-hand, most likely) experience on the water, and that would have the potential to work against the story due to all the "sailing jargon" used that greenhorns won't make heads or tails of. Fortunately, Tougias walks the fine line between explaining what is going on in layman's terms, yet not completely shying away from descriptions of equipment/terms (as those things play a role in the narrative too).

My final star rating of this book would be 4.5 stars if able, and the only reason it doesn't get the full treatment is because I was a bit concerned about 20-25 pages in. There are many names, places, and pieces of equipment thrown at the reader in the first 20-25 pages, and I started to wonder "how am I going to keep all of this straight". I pushed on, though, and was glad that I did, as the narrative quickly settles down and becomes more straightforward and easy to follow. So, please make sure to give "Storm Too Soon" at least 40-50 pages if you are at all wondering if it is worth your time.

Overall, despite that bit of a rocky beginning, this book is a rousing survival tale told in such a manner that you will really begin to feel for the characters and root for them to pull through. I have a lot of respect for authors that can make this type of "interview the participants and then fill in the blanks" nonfiction work, and Tougias comes through with aplomb. Nautical veterans will perhaps get the most out of the experience

(as they and only they can truly appreciate the violence of the sea on that particular trip), while more amateur readers will still be captivated by the human interest survival/rescue stories.
