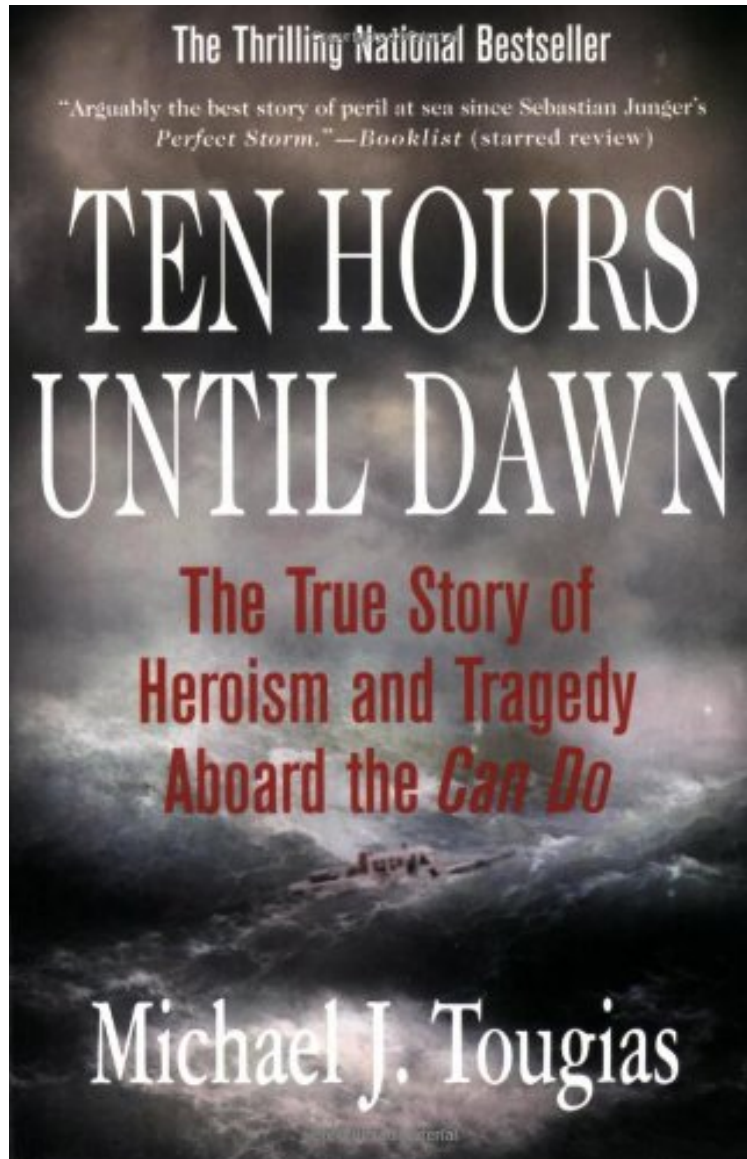


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## Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do

Michael J. Tougias

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#56598 in Books Michael J Tougias 2006-05-30 2006-05-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 .32 x .99 x 5.64l, 1.06 #File Name: 0312334362336 pages Ten Hours until Dawn The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do | File size: 51.Mb

**Michael J. Tougias : Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Could relate to it and loved it. By REGIS STEPNIK 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Needless loss By John the Reader 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you like to get to know the men who qualify as ... By Carla Zwahlen 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, Michale J. Tougias for pursuing and writing the story of the men of the "Can Do"

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.

From Publishers Weekly 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. From Booklist \*Starred\* 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 Green Copyright

American Library Association. All rights reserved Tougias delivers a well-researched, vividly written tale of brave men overwhelmed by the awesome forces of nature. An absorbing account... Publishers Weekly"Arguably the best story of peril at sea since Sebastian Junger's Perfect Storm. His balancing of human and technical detail is nearly perfect, and he has made the book accessible even to relative newcomers to maritime literature. All readers may sincerely hope that Tougias will produce further such superb chronicles. Booklist, starred reviewTen Hours Until Dawn is every bit as gripping as the best adventure fiction. Midwest Book While some might compare Ten Hours to Sebastian Junger's Perfect Storm, Tougias' book is very different, often better, in significant ways. Metrowest Daily NewsThe events (of that night) are chronicled masterfully in Tougias' gripping new book, Ten Hours Until Dawn. Offshore MagazineAbsolutely amazing--what a movie this would make! Paul Sullivan, WBZ RadioThis is a riveting, fast-paced story will keep you awake at night and stay in your mind days after it's finished. South County IndependentA fascinating story and just as good as The Perfect Storm. Portsmouth HeraldAn incredible tale of heroism and sacrifice. Nathaniel Philbrick, National Book Award winnerTen Hours Until Dawn reads so much like a fiction thriller that I had to pause now and then to remind myself the events were real. Portland Herald ""Maine Today""Tougias spins the yarn with tense realism and you'll find yourself turning the pages at an alarming rate. The Valley AdvocateI was a college senior in Providence, Rhode Island, during the Blizzard of '78---a meteorological holocaust of snow and wind that I'll never forget. To learn twenty-six years later that there were men brave enough to attempt a rescue at sea during that storm still has me awestruck with wonder. Michael Tougias's Ten Hours Until Dawn tells their story---an incredible tale of heroism and sacrifice. Nathaniel Philbrick, author of the National Book Award winner and New York Times bestseller In the Heart of the SeaWith a steady hand, Michael Tougias draws us into the vortex of this historic winter storm of 1978 and a high-seas rescue attempt gone wildly awry. The dynamics of this adventure alone would make it well worth the journey. But as a writer, Tougias's true gift is his ability to plumb the depths of human emotion, to take us ever deeper into the hearts of those who survived the ordeal---and even into the lives of those who did not. He re-creates not only the superhuman efforts between the imperiled crewmen and their would-be rescuers, but the gut-wrenching experience of their loved ones waiting helplessly ashore. In this he clearly succeeds. We come away feeling that we know these people, that we understand what it must have been like for them, and our hearts go out to them. Spike Walker, bestselling author of Coming Back Alive and Working on the EdgeWhat a story! Tougias's research and writing make the reader feel as if he is onboard the Can Do during the Blizzard of '78. Ten Hours Until Dawn is a gripping book about a fascinating event of courage and tragedy that few people, including those of us who were deeply involved in fighting that storm, know enough about. Michael Dukakis"