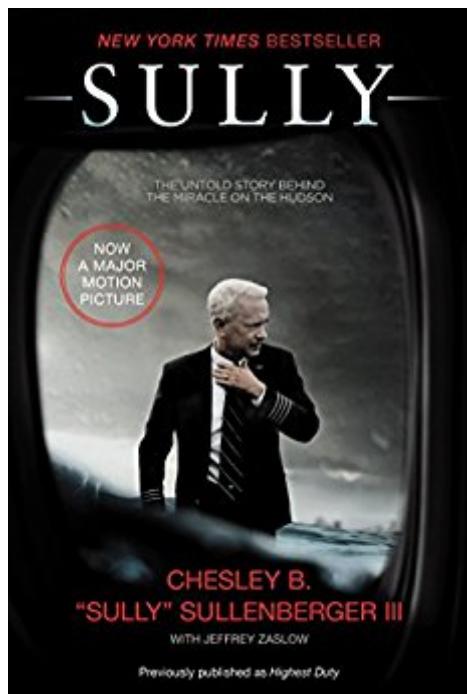


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Sully: My Search For What Really Matters



Synopsis

Now a major motion picture from Clint Eastwood, starring Tom Hanks "the inspirational autobiography by one of the most captivating American heroes of our time, Capt. "Sully"™ Sullenberger "the pilot who miraculously landed a crippled US Airways Flight 1549 in New York™s Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 passengers and crew. On January 15, 2009, the world witnessed a remarkable emergency landing when Captain "Sully" Sullenberger skillfully glided US Airways Flight 1549 onto the Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 passengers and crew. His cool actions not only averted tragedy but made him a hero and an inspiration worldwide. His story is now a major motion picture from director / producer Clint Eastwood and stars Tom Hanks, Laura Linney and Aaron Eckhart. Sully's story is one of dedication, hope, and preparedness, revealing the important lessons he learned through his life, in his military service, and in his work as an airline pilot. It reminds us all that, even in these days of conflict, tragedy and uncertainty, there are values still worth fighting for "that life's challenges can be met if we're ready for them.

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Customer Reviews

I wasn't sure what to expect at first from this book, after all we probably all watched the news on that fateful day. It didn't come out quite as I expected, and I found it to be a much more personal and inward looking view of the life of this modest and extremely professional pilot, almost spiritual in some ways. It goes into some depth about his personal family life, sometime so much that you feel almost embarrassed to be reading such personal thoughts and details. There is a huge overriding theme of professionalism, love of flying and respect of the flying gods who decide ultimately who survives and who does not. I feel humbled by his modesty and openness and sometimes feared for the safety of his marriage given the amount of time spent away, but ultimately the amazing bond between Sully and his wife and children shone through, even in the toughest times which were actually after the accident. What I never expected from this book is that it really made me look inwards at my own relationship with my wife and children and examine my own professional and private life, to see where I could be a better person. Sully himself said that he doesn't consider himself to be a hero, and I have to say I agree, with the greatest of respect. He was thrown into a situation not of his own choosing, with no alternative, and no option to choose to do nothing. He had no choice but to bring all of his years of training and experience to bear to try and save his own skin and those he was responsible for that day. It is an automatic reaction and I am sure that any pilot would have tried just as hard. Not all would have made the right decision as to where to go, picked the right speeds or flap settings or even remained in control, which could have changed the outcome completely, but all would have been just as much a hero for trying. Sully is a consummate professional in his business, and I doff my cap to his abilities. This is no self-indulgent book solely about Sully, in fact it is often self-deprecating as he reflects on his own weaknesses and limitations. He goes to great length to re-iterate that it was a team effort, so the rest of the members of the crew are not forgotten, and the support of his wife both before and after clearly contribute greatly to the making of the man. If you read this you cannot fail to be moved and humbled and to think, "I want Sully on my next flight".

Sully is the ultimate airport book. An airport book is something that is easy to read in the not-so-ideal locations of an airport lounge or on a bumpy plane ride. Airport books need to be clearly written and easy-to-read, but not boring; after all flying and waiting to fly are boring enough already. One might suspect, that as flight 1549 lasted less than five minutes, trying to turn it into a full-length book would result in a repetitive, tedious manuscript full of minutiae. While there is some minutiae, it is largely confined to the two appendices and not in the narrative proper. In Sully, the book, there is the obligatory biography of the author himself. How he learned to fly, his

career in the Air Force etc., but the biography is more than just about and is surprisingly personal. Besides intimate family details, the reader learns much about the airline industry, how flight 1549 touched the lives of those not even directly related to the flight, and, most importantly, important details of the flight that were missed or reportedly inaccurately by the media. Sully was originally published under the title "Highest Duty." It was renamed (presumably) to help market the movie "Sully." While the new title is more accurate, had "Sully" been used as the original title it would have been perceived as self-serving and Captain Sully is better than that. I picked this book at the airport and finished before I landed. I had a smooth, on-time flight; may you have a similar experience.

This biography of a singular event in the United States consciousness doesn't just tell of the event on that fateful day. Much more importantly, it delves into a lifetime of details that all contributed to the successful outcome. Sully doesn't mince words when it comes to sharing things that should have been set up differently by his employer. When they put materially deficient products into the cockpit, Sully tells us what the cost in convenience, confusion and time wasted as a result was. He tells of the many doubts he experienced after the safe landing. He tells about how his experience in landing safely catalyzed people around him, people who he never met, people who found new hope in an amazingly successful result when the most likely outcome should have been disastrous. The only thing that seemed 'off' was the sheer volume of content that seemed unrelated to the story and the outcome. This book is well worth the time to read. Inspirational would be the one word descriptor.

A fascinating behind the scenes insight of US aviation. Sullenberger takes us through his history of military flying and also his life as a commercial pilot. What is clearly evident is his love of actually piloting aircraft and his quest for the optimal flying speed, angles and fight path. As a passenger, its great to know that the crew in the cockpit really do enjoy their work. After reading the book I am more aware of the interest the crew have in their passengers. The chapters dealing with the landing on the Hudson river are fascinating to read. It is clear that aircraft construction as well as intense crew training, education and experience all contribute to the outcome where all the crew and passengers survived. The incident is very similar to SAS flight 751 where there was also a complete engine failure after take-off, although for different reasons. It is so important that our pilots have the right skills and knowledge to deal imaginatively with these challenges. A great book.

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