Miracle on the Hudson: The Survivors of Flight 1549 Tell Their Extraordinary Stories of Courage, Faith, and Determination by Laura Parker

Product Description
In this heart-stopping, page-turning tale of fear, heroism, and redemption, the passengers of the Hudson River crash landing tell their remarkable stories. Millions watched the aftermath on television, while others witnessed the event actually happening from the windows of nearby skyscrapers. But only 155 people know firsthand what really happened on U.S. Airways Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009. Now, for the first time, the survivors detail their astounding, terrifying, and inspiring experiences on that freezing winter day in New York City. Written by two esteemed journalists, Miracle on the Hudson is the entire tale from takeoff to bird strike to touchdown to rescue, seen through the eyes and felt in the souls of those on board the fateful flight. Revealing many new and compelling details, Miracle on the Hudson dramatically evokes the explosion and smell of burning flesh as both engines were destroyed by geese, the violent landing on the river that felt like a huge car wreck, the gridlock in the aisles as the plane filled swiftly with freezing water, and the thrill of the passengers rescue from the wings and from rafts—all of it recalled by the cross section of America on board. Jay McDonald, a thirty-nine-year-old software developer, had survived brain-tumor surgery just two years earlier and now faced the unimaginable. Tracey Wolsko, a nervous flier, suddenly became other peoples rock: Just pray. Its going to be all right. Jim Whitaker, a construction executive, reassured a nervous mother of two young children on board, only later admitting, I was pathologically lying the whole time. As the plane started sinking, Lucille Palmer, eighty-five, told her daughter to save herself: Just leave me! Featuring much more than what the media reported—moments of chaos in addition to stoicism and common sense, and the fortuitous
mistakes and quick instincts that saved lives that otherwise would have been lost—Miracle on the Hudson is the chronicle of one of the most phenomenal feel-good stories of recent years, one that could have been a nightmare and instead became a stirring narrative of heroism and hope for our times. Look Inside Miracle on the Hudson

Chris Cobb hands life preservers thrown from the ferry Thomas Jefferson to Warren Holland and Victor Warnement (in the white shirt) on the right wing. (Photo © Tripp Harris) The final group of passengers to be rescued floats on an escape slide attached to the left side of the sinking Airbus as daylight fades. (Photo © Eric Stevenson) The smooth nose of the Airbus A320 is cracked and dented after its collision with the geese. (Photo © NTSB)

Features:

Miracle on the Hudson: The Survivors of Flight 1549 Tell Their Extraordinary Stories of Courage, Faith and Determination by William Prochnau and Laura Parker is one of the best books of its type that I've read. Gripping is a word that just does seem to do the book justice.

"This is the captain. Brace of impact" is a phrase that anyone who has ever been a passenger of modern commercial aviation simply dreads ever hearing. While Prochnau and Parker did a marvelous job in interviewing most of the passengers, their real talent is their ability to deliver the stories in an interesting and memorable manner. Believe me, this is a talent that not every author who writes books of this nature possesses.

Reported honestly, we see how the passengers reacted once the fact that survival was a real possibility. From the heroic (those who assisted others to evacuate or waited their turn) to not-so-heroic (those who callously pushed other survivors aside as they scrambled for the exit), we see the continuum of behavior when human beings are stressed. I'm not throwing stones either. No one knows how they'd react in a similar situation though we'd like to think we would behave with honor and act with valor. That is what's so great about these books whether its Miracle on the Hudson or A Night To Remember, we get to ask the question "how would I have behaved?"

Well written and well documented, Miracle on the Hudson is well worth your time to read.

Peace always.