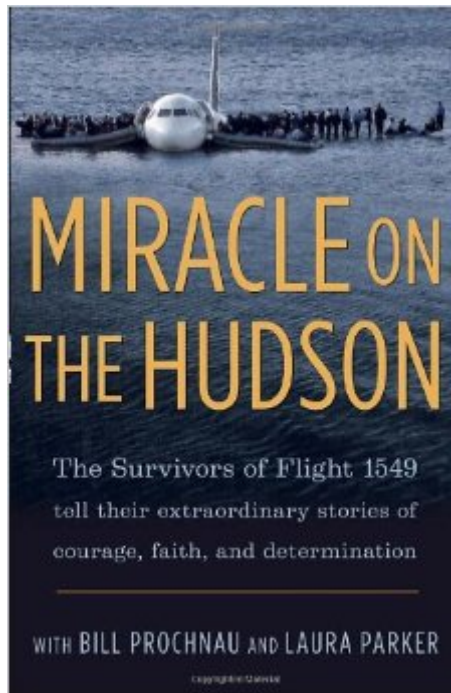


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# Miracle On The Hudson: The Extraordinary Real-Life Story Behind Flight 1549, By The Survivors



## Synopsis

The remarkable true story of Chesley Sullenberger's heroic crash landing in the Hudson River, as told by the passengers who owe him their lives. 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 people's rock: "Just pray. It's 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. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Miracle on the Hudson': Survivors of US Airways Flight 1549 Recount Their Stories of the Famous Crash  
Reviewed By David M. Kinchen  
The news coverage of the 'Miracle on the Hudson' of Jan. 15, 2009 has focused on Capt. Chesley B. (Sully) Sullenberger's skillful landing of his 75-ton Airbus A320 on the Hudson River after bird strikes knocked out both his engines. A month after the landing, a Greenwich Village pub, the Half Pint, created a cocktail honoring the heroic captain, "The Sully," which consists of two shots of Grey Goose vodka and "a splash of water." And, as noted below, he has his own book about the "Miracle" and his life before and after it. "Miracle on the Hudson: The Survivors of Flight 1549 Tell Their Extraordinary Stories of Courage, Faith, and Determination" (Ballantine Books, 272 pages, \$25.00) by William Prochnau and Laura Parker gives Sully his due, as well as First Officer (co-pilot) Jeffrey Skiles, who saw the flock of geese first, moments before Sully, who took over the controls. "Miracle" concentrates on the experiences and backgrounds of the passengers, 108 of whom were interviewed by the two reporters. The 108 were among the 155 passengers and crew on board the Charlotte, NC-bound U.S. Airways flight that frigid January afternoon. The year started out with a miracle, with everybody surviving, despite some scary rescue moments, but the authors note that by mid-2009, more than 500 people had died in commercial airline crashes around the world, making it the worst year for aviation fatalities in seven years. On Feb. 12, a Colgan Air commuter plane crashed near Buffalo, NY, killing all 49 on board and a man on the ground.

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