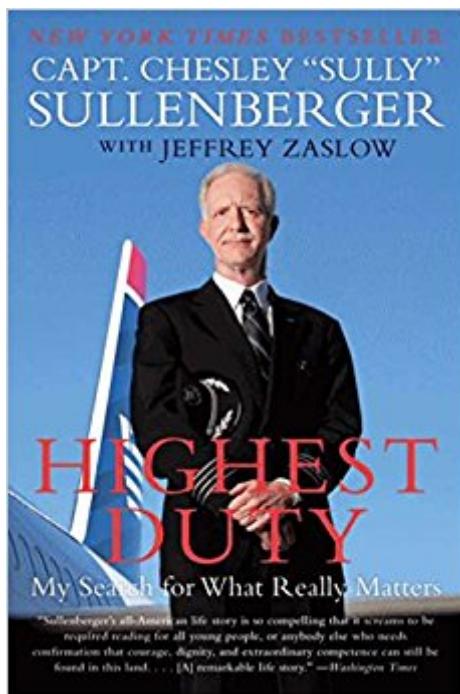


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# Highest Duty: My Search For What Really Matters



## 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

Captain Chesley Sully Sullenberger became a hero after landing a distressed U.S. Air plane on the surface of the Hudson River in New York City. His fascinating and deservedly praised memoir reflects on his childhood love for planes and an outstanding 42-year career as a pilot—as well as how he and his family coped with the onslaught of sudden celebrity. McConnochie does his

level best to fill Sully's shoes and delivers a solid performance, but the real highlights are the portions of the text read by Sully himself, sounding as cool, calm, and collected as he was on that day in January 2009. An enhanced CD with the voice recorder transcript of the crash completes the package. A Morrow hardcover (Reviews, Aug. 19). (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

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. Sullenberger—“Sully,” 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.

I liked the way the writing reflected the person he is: Written very simply, to the point and with an economy of words. I hope everyone’s takeaway includes giving themselves and others acknowledgement for hard work with a loving heart. We may not become the object of other people’s attention on such a grand scale, but that was never the goal for so many who excel at their vocation. Captain Sullenberger, his co-pilot and their families are a gift to us all, especially if we fully appreciate how hard they worked all their lives, reflected upon their experiences, remembered the lessons, and stayed focused on their life’s purpose. He and the crew were successful and extraordinary people already. That day showed the world just how a seemingly ordinary person can make a miracle look easy.

I read this book nearly 7 years ago when it first came out, and I decided to read it again before going to see the soon-to-be-released movie, "Sully," starring Tom Hanks. I'm really glad I read it the

second time. For an outstanding "feel good" book, once is not enough."Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters" is the story of a dedicated and talented pilot who worked in relative obscurity until one extraordinary moment in time catapulted him to international fame. The events of January 15, 2009, don't appear in detail until two-thirds of the way though the book, which is very fitting, because Captain Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow portray how the events in Sully's life and interaction with family and important mentors along the way had prepared him to meet the ultimate challenge which had never been practiced in flight simulators - losing power in both engines at the same time shortly after takeoff in a major metropolis. Sullenberger was the perfect pilot to have faced those unthinkable circumstances. Throughout his whole life and career as a student, Air Force Cadet, fighter pilot, and commercial pilot, Sully made it a point to soak up every bit of knowledge he could from his own and others' errors. He fought against complacency that could result from routine travel and believed in preparation, preparation, preparation. He engaged in constant "situational awareness," staying simultaneously cognizant of every conceivable condition, such as air traffic, wind speed, weather, location of nearest airports, and remaining fuel levels. He learned to anticipate the unanticipated. He believed that as a captain, he bore the chief responsibility for the lives of all passengers and crew. This is a book of inspiration, but it also reveals that the lives of airline employees are not as glamorous as they had been in the 1960s, The Golden Age of Aviation. Government deregulation and the financial collapse of the airline industry after September 11, 2001, forced pilots to take a 40 percent cut in wages and to lose their pensions. Mergers and cost-cutting measures proved to be frustrating for Sully, who prided himself on customer service. He was twice reprimanded for making his flights late by insisting that empty seats be given to standby passengers. One of the most uplifting portions of this book is the reaction of the ferry captains and any first responders who witnessed the river landing and sped to the rescue of the passengers without being commanded or requested. These actions restored Sully's faith in human nature, which had taken a big hit in 1964 when Queens resident Kitty Genovese was assaulted and murdered while 38 people who heard her screams did nothing to help her. Do yourself a favor - read the book and treat yourself to the movie starring Tom Hanks. Yes, I am endorsing a movie that I haven't seen, because this is a chapter of Americana that makes everyone proud.

From beginning to end this book is captivating. We all know the story and how it ends but even so, every part of this book is interesting. I was so engrossed I felt emotions I did not expect to feel. Before reading the book I thought of this mostly as a feel-good story but the reality is that it is so much more than that. Read it to find out all the details of that flight and the man who landed that

airplane safely in the Hudson. I could not put this book down and I'm sad that it's over. Looking forward to seeing the movie when it's released next month, though!!

This is an awesome story and awesome man who gives credit to his crew and even to the man that taught him to fly when he was 16 years old. I hope the movie that is coming out, based on his book will be a credit to home and his crew, and the families involved.

A great book, a great read, a great example of a person who, though he does not consider himself a hero, I have no doubt in my mind that he really is one. In this book, Sully tells us about how without knowing, he prepared throughout his life for this ditching in the Hudson River. He is a true professional and his greatest virtue is being humble. I highly recommend this book!

Sully and his Co-author did a good job writing this book. This is a book that is not just about Airplanes and Piloting. It is a book that is not just about the Miracle On The Hudson Flight. This is an Autobiography in it's purest form and a very honest Autobiography at that. In it Sully reveals the makings of a Pilot, Father, Husband and United States Citizen. He is at times almost too personal about his Family and his everyday family life. This coming from a man that is basically a very private humble non-extroverted person it is truly remarkable and revealing. I am a pilot also and when I first opened the book I thought that was all the book was going to be about. A few pages in I knew I was reading an autobiography and not just an Aviation book. If you want to know just about the Miracle On The Hudson flight there are other books you might want to read first. If you want to know how Sully evolved into the amazing Human Being that landed a huge Airliner on the Hudson River without loss of life or major injury to any of his passengers this is the book you should read. Like all well written Autobiographies you come away from having read with the feeling you personally know this person named Sully Sullenberger. That is the highest complement that can be paid to any autobiography.

I had a hard time putting this book down. Sully is a humble but inspiring man, thrust into the spotlight, not by his own accord but by circumstance. Handling both the Hudson landing and the newly acquired media attention presented separate but equally challenging obstacles, and Sully handles both with humility and class.

It's always interesting to read the book that a movie is based on, and that's what brought "Highest

Duty" to my attention, but I was quickly captivated by the story of Captain Sullenberger's childhood and career. His self-reliance, technical knowledge, and ability to prioritize appear to have been honed since youth, to contribute to the "Miracle on the Hudson". I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book.

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