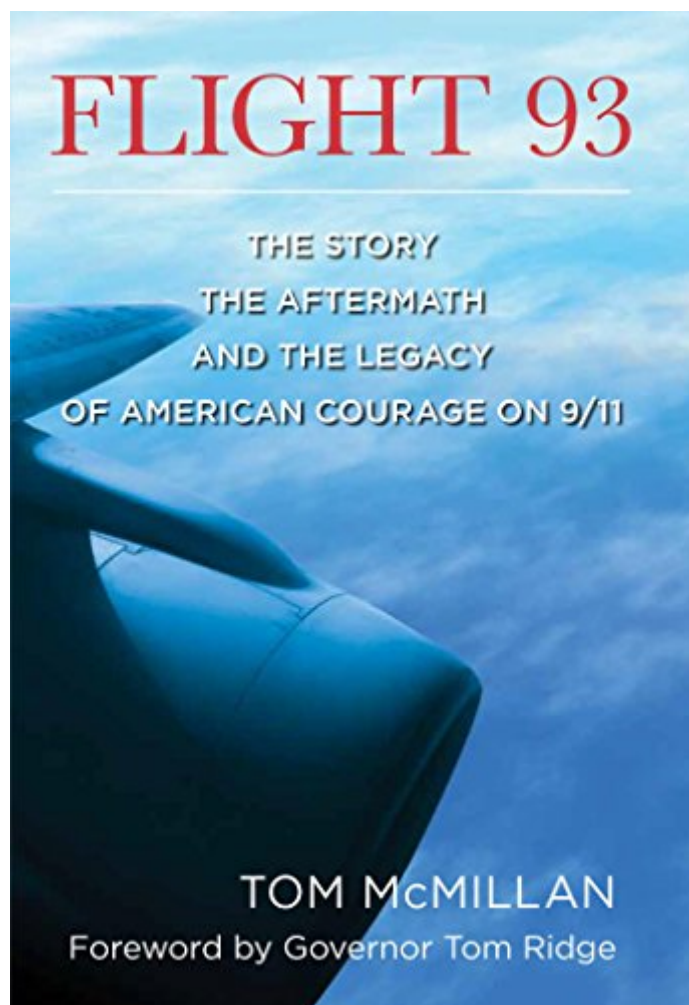


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Flight 93: The Story, The Aftermath, And The Legacy Of American Courage On 9/11



Synopsis

United Airlines Flight 93, which took off from Newark Airport the morning of September 11th, 2001, is perhaps the most famous flight in modern American history: We know of the passenger uprising, but there's so much more to the story besides its harrowing and oft-told climax. Amazingly, the definitive account of this seminal event has yet to be written. The book offers the most complete account of what actually took place aboard Flight 93 – from its delayed takeoff in Newark to the moment it plunged upside-down at 563 miles per hour into an open field in rural Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Flight 93 provides a riveting and complete narrative of the lead-up, event, and aftermath of the flight, based on interviews, oral histories, personal tours of the crash site and evidence recently made public. It examines the lead-up to that horrific morning; the stories of the victims who were launched into the center of history; the revolt that saved untold amounts of carnage on the ground and likely, the US Capitol; the eyewitnesses and first responders who rushed to the crash scene; the impact on family members; the effort to uncover evidence at the site; and the legacy the story leaves for future generations.

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Customer Reviews

"The narrative that developed in the days and weeks after September 11 was that these were ordinary people who did extraordinary things in the face of unthinkable terror. But that piece of mythology, understandable as it is, doesn't give them their due. By no means were these people ordinary. They were energetic, ambitious, curious, dedicated, compassionate, and courageous. Exactly the kind of people it would take to quickly process the chaos unfolding in the final frantic minutes of a hijacked flight, to launch a desperate counterattack aimed at overcoming the assailants--and to boldly try to seize control of the plane." - page 62

The national psyche had already been dealt three crippling blows on that fateful September morning. Now a fourth plane, a Boeing 757 was in the hands of the enemy and hurtling back towards Washington D.C. The best available evidence indicates that the target was the U.S. Capitol. Ziad Jarrah, a member of al-Qaeda and three cohorts were on a suicide mission. Caught up in the terrifying events of this day were 40 ordinary people (7 crew members and 33 passengers) going about the business of living their lives. In a matter of mere moments their worlds would be turned upside down and they would be thrust into the bowels of dastardly plot to kill large numbers of their fellow countrymen. Over the 13 years since 9/11 reams of new information has been uncovered as to just what took place aboard United Flight 93. Tom McMillan has managed to piece it all together and presents an updated version of what happened in his riveting new book "Flight 93: The Story, the Aftermath, and the Legacy of American Courage on 9/11". One can only imagine what the ramifications might have been had these terrorists been allowed to succeed in their deadly mission.

Tom McMillan has written a nearly complete history of Flight 93. He fills in the backgrounds of passengers, crew and hijackers. (I for one think it is important to read about the hijackers, their lives and motivations as well as the plot evolution.) We have all heard the story of these heroic passengers and crew in bits and pieces, but usually as an aside to the NYC and DC events of 9/11. McMillan unravels the story in chronological order from the origin of the 9/11 plot to the crash, and the development of the national memorial. I truly appreciated his descriptions of the recordings that give probable answers to some of the mysteries of the passenger revolt. The timeline of the passenger's phone calls are equally important in understanding the on-board actions. This could have been a dry, fact-driven recitation, because we know the basic story and are familiar with the names Burnett, Beamer, Bingham and Glick. McMillan manages to relate the narrative in riveting prose, and fill the reader with tension and anticipation, and maybe even a little hope that the outcome might change for the heroes. He humanizes the heroes in many ways I haven't read

before, giving life to the less familiar names. That is an accomplishment when writing about one of the best known plane crashes in history. He addresses the paranoia-driven conspiracy theories and even the misguided outrage over the memorial design. I especially appreciated his inclusion of the roles of the various Shanksville residents, mainly Coroner Wally Miller. My only real complaint is the dearth of photos and the lack of organization or continuity of those included. (it seems the photo section was kind of thrown together.) The photos from the crash site are amazing. I had never seen those before.

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