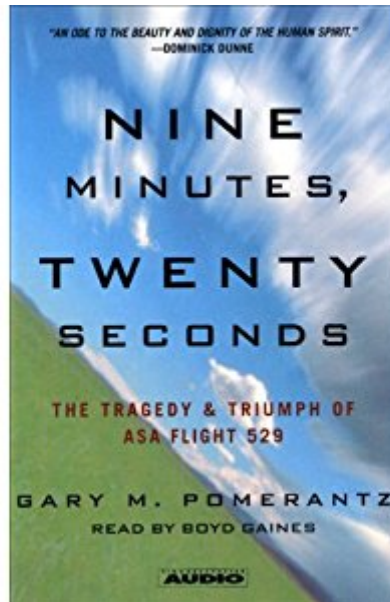


The book was found

# Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds: The Tragedy And Triumph Of ASA Flight 529



## Synopsis

“A deeply moving account of the extraordinary strengths that ordinary people can display when tragedy confronts them. As emotionally powerful a book as you are likely ever to read.” —David J. Garrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Bearing the Cross*

In August 1995, twenty-six passengers and a crew of three board a commuter plane in Atlanta headed for Gulfport, Mississippi. Shortly after takeoff they hear an explosion and, looking out the windows on the left side, see a mangled engine lodged against the wing. From that moment, nine minutes and twenty seconds elapse until the crippled plane crashes in a west Georgia hayfield—“nine minutes and twenty seconds in which Gary Pomerantz takes readers deep into the hearts and minds of the people aboard, each of whom prepares in his or her own way for what may come. Ultimately, nineteen people survive both the crash and its devastating aftermath, all of them profoundly affected by what they have seen and, more important, what they have done to help themselves and others. This is not so much a book about a plane crash as it is a psychologically illuminating real-life drama about ordinary people and how they behave in extraordinary circumstances. Each of us has wondered what we would do to survive a life-threatening situation: Would I survive? How would I conduct myself—would I act to save others in need or only myself? Would others try to save me? How would I be affected by the experience? Judging by what is revealed in *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds*, the answers are surprisingly optimistic. In telling the remarkable stories of these twenty-nine men and women, Gary Pomerantz has written one of the most compelling books in recent memory. Open to any page and you’ll immediately be drawn into the dramatic pull of the narrative. But on a deeper level, *Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds* speaks as powerfully about our capacity to care for others as it does about the strength of our will to live. This rich and rewarding book will linger in your mind long after you turn the last page.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the author indicated in the beginning of the book, this was not meant to be a book about plane crashes per se, he was interested in exploring the human interest side of the story. He did a great job. NINE MINUTES, TWENTY SECONDS is a gripping, almost minute-by-minute account of the fateful flight of ASA 529 heading for Gulfport, MS from Atlanta, GA. Pomerantz brings you into the lives of the 29 (26 passengers and 3 crew members) on board that commuter plane. His background work into these individuals inject an important prelude towards the account of the actual crash, helping the reader feel for these people instead of treating them as statistics. Even the cause of the crash (a faulty propeller blade) is given a very personal touch, beginning with the technician at the factory who was responsible for inspecting the blade prior to its being put in use on the plane. The official NTSB investigation and final verdict are also included, just enough to satisfy the reader's curiosity without going too detailed as to lose sight of the actual focus of the narrative. Ultimately, Pomerantz succeeded in crafting a wonderfully touching work about the strength and nature (both good and bad) of humanity in times of crisis. Since this book was written years after the crash, Pomerantz was able to provide the reader with updates on the lives of the survivors and how the incident has changed their outlook in many aspects. This might not be the book to read if you're looking to read about plane crashes in general, or books that would provide a lot of technical details. It is almost entirely about the individual people that made up the passenger and crew list of flight ASA 529. If you're interested in reading something that would stay with you long after you're done, this is it. I started this book earlier during an afternoon, and finished it late at night. And after I did, I went to bed, and hugged the one I love.

I've just finished reading this book--I read the entire book in one sitting, pausing only to breathe deeply, to shovel food into my mouth, and to wipe the tears from eyes. The first half of the book--in which the reader is right there in the plane during the nine-plus minutes when these 29 people know their plane is going down and each reacts differently--is among the most gripping and compelling prose I've ever read, akin to the best sections of Into Thin Air. But ultimately this book is about so much more than simply a plane crash--it's a psychologically illuminating, real-life drama about ordinary people and how they behave in extraordinary circumstances. Most of us have wondered

what we would do to survive a life-threatening situation: How would I conduct myself--would I try to save others in need or only myself? Would others try to save me? How would I be affected by what I experience? Judging by what is revealed in this book, the answers are astonishingly, even upliftingly, optimistic. This book speaks as powerfully about our capacity to care for others as it does about the strength of our will to live, and I found it to be among the richest and most rewarding books I've ever read.

This book will grab you from the very beginning. You feel as though you too are aboard the plane. You get to know your fellow passengers and the staff. Then the countdown begins. In minute detail it starts counting down the minutes and seconds as structural problems begin. I found this to be absolutely chilling. Find out who survives, who doesn't and how they handle it. The book also contains photos of the plane and passengers So you could refer back to them if needed. This was a remarkable true story.

I am a Flight Attendant, so I read any book I can related to this subject matter. The events are usually written from a technical standpoint. However, I soon discovered that this book was very different. Mr. Pomerantz brought incredible humility and heroism to this story - he lent a voice that allowed us to understand that kind of toll that this took on all involved, rather than the toll it took on the airplane. I applaud the bravery of each and every person involved in this tragedy and am very happy that Mr. Pomerantz allowed these people to have their story told in such a dignified manner. Don't pass this up.

I bought this book in early Sept. after "The Today Show" named it one of the fall's top books (with "Black House" by Stephen King & Peter Straub, Nancy Milford's biography of Edna St.Vincent Millay, etc.) After Sept. 11th, I waited several weeks to begin reading this: a plane crash story seemed too hard to take on. But I must say, this book made me feel better about life and old-fashioned goodness, and it made me understand Sept. 11th in a new way. The stories in this book about the two pilots, the flight attendant and a young passenger named Jennifer Grunbeck made me understand what real heroes are made of. Their courage reminded me of New York city's firefighters and the passengers on United Flight 93. This book is filled with courage, optimism and hope. It's even more important to read now after Sept. 11th. I loved it!!

Quite simply --- this book is just terrific. If you are interested in aviation, or how ordinary people react

to extraordinary situations, or how terribly dependent we are on other people, you will not be able to put this book down. And besides all this, it is beautifully written.

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