



# The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue

By Michael J. Tougias, Casey Sherman

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The story behind the major motion picture from Disney—starring Chris Pine, Eric Bana, and Casey Affleck—written by a recognized master of the genre—“a blockbuster account of tragedy at sea” (*The Providence Journal*).

It's the winter of 1952 and a ferocious Nor'easter is pounding New England with howling winds and seventy-foot seas. Two oil tankers get caught in the violent storm off Cape Cod, its fury splitting the massive ships in two. Back on shore, four young Coast Guardsmen are issued a suicide mission: save the lives of the stranded seamen. Sailing a tiny lifeboat into the teeth of the killer storm, the rescue crew soon loses all navigation. With no idea where the stranded seaman are nor how to get back home, the crew stumbles upon the SS *Pendleton* in the darkness. More than thirty hopeful men appear at the wounded ship's railings. Can the tiny lifeboat save them all?

Dripping with suspense and high-stakes human drama, *The Finest Hours* has incredible and astonishing true-to-life heroism and action-packed rescue scenes. This “marvelous and terrifying yarn” (*Los Angeles Times*) “deserves a place as a classic of survival at sea” (*The Boston Globe*).

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### Editorial Review

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In a 1952 nor'easter, the distress of two ships off Cape Cod initiated a dramatic Coast Guard operation recounted here by coauthors Tougias and Sherman. Both vessels were World War II surplus, cheaply built, unwisely kept in service, and broken in two by the storm. All four halves floated, for the moment, and the authors' narrative accordingly tracks four separate search-and-rescue efforts that form the complete story. The most prominent, in the press at the time and in official honors conferred afterward, concerned one motorized lifeboat, a puny 36 feet long and manned by four men, dispatched to do battle with the maelstrom's towering waves. This is the seascape of *The Perfect Storm*, and the authors do justice to the peril in a tight account of the action. Plotting the course of CG36500, the utilitarian name of the lifeboat captained by Bernie Webber (interviewed for this book), Tougias and Sherman reach their peak of tension in the sink-or-swim moments when mariners abandoned ship and chanced their lives on their rescuers' skill and bravery. An excellent entry in the disaster-at-sea genre. --Gilbert Taylor

### Review

"In February of 1952, eighty-four men were in danger of drowning off the coast of Cape Cod when a ferocious nor'easter split their ships in two. *The Finest Hours* recounts the incredible heroism of the Coast Guard, who risked their lives to save others. A gripping read." --James Bradley, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Look no further for the real-life adventure of the year. *The Finest Hours* is a rousing page-turner, a fascinating history, and an inspiring ode to the courage and professionalism of men who face bitter winds and black mountainous seas . . . all to do a dangerous job. Put it on the shelf next to *The Perfect Storm*. That's where it belongs!" --William Martin, *New York Times* bestselling author

"*The Finest Hours* is a touching account, a sensitive rendering of what might be called four indescribably chaotic conditions . . . Tougias and Sherman never sensationalize, never go beyond the facts, and yet capture all the pain, physical and emotional, of the survivors and their families." --*Providence Journal*

"This book captures the wit, grit, and sacrifice of Coasties and their boats." --*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Nearly fifty-seven years later, it's a breathtaking story that still defies the imagination." --*Cape Cod Chronicle*

"It's good to know that real heroes exist . . . Incredible." --*Concord Monitor*

"Tougias and Sherman have told a mesmerizing story about Coast Guardsmen under the stress of extreme conditions and the self-imposed pressure to perform. The events they describe so vividly occurred in 1952. As extraordinary as the collective performance by the boat crews, cutter crews, and aircraft crews were that night, the real miracle is that such performances are timeless." --James Loy, former commandant of the United States Coast Guard

"Tougias and Sherman reach their peak of tension in the sink-or-swim moments when mariners abandoned ship and chanced their lives on their rescuers' skill and bravery . . . Excellent." --*Booklist*

"Gripping . . . Tougias and Sherman ably narrate the desperate struggles of crew members on both the wrecks and the rescue boats . . . will make readers appreciate the bravery of the men who put their lives on the line . . . Action-packed." --*Publishers Weekly*

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##### Nathan Wilson:

The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue can be one of your

basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue* but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

**Anna Brooks:**

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