



102 Minutes: The Unforgettable Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers

By Jim Dwyer, Kevin Flynn

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"*102 Minutes* does for the September 11 catastrophe what Walter Lord did for the Titanic in his masterpiece, *A Night to Remember* . . . Searing, poignant, and utterly compelling."?Rick Atkinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *An Army at Dawn*

Hailed upon its hardcover publication as an instant classic, the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller *102 Minutes* is now available in a revised edition timed to honor the tenth anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

At 8:46 a.m. that morning, fourteen thousand people were inside the World Trade Center just starting their workdays, but over the next 102 minutes, each would become part of a drama for the ages. Of the millions of words written about this wrenching day, most were told from the outside looking in. *New York Times* reporters Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn draw on hundreds of interviews with rescuers and survivors, thousands of pages of oral histories, and countless phone, e-mail, and emergency radio transcripts to tell the story of September 11 from the inside looking out.

Dwyer and Flynn have woven an epic and unforgettable account of the struggle, determination, and grace of the ordinary men and women who made 102 minutes count as never before.

102 Minutes is a 2005 National Book Award Finalist for Nonfiction.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In *102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers*, *New York Times* writers Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn vividly recreate the 102-minute span between the moment Flight 11 hit the first Twin Tower on the morning of September 11, 2001, and the moment the second tower collapsed, all from the perspective of those inside the buildings--the 12,000 who escaped, and the 2,749 who did not. It's becoming easier, years later, to forget the profound, visceral responses the Trade Center attacks evoked in the days and weeks following September 11. Using hundreds of interviews, countless transcripts of radio and phone communications, and exhaustive research, Dwyer and Flynn bring that flood of responses back--from heartbreak to bewilderment to fury. The randomness of death and survival is heartbreaking. One man, in the second tower, survived because he bolted from his desk the moment he heard the first plane hit; another, who stayed at his desk on the 97th floor, called his wife in his final moments to tell her to cancel a surprise trip he had planned. In many cases, the deaths of those who survived the initial attacks but were killed by the collapse of the towers were tragically avoidable. Building code exemptions, communication breakdowns between firefighters and police, and policies put in place by building management to keep everyone inside the towers in emergencies led, the authors argue, to the deaths of hundreds who might otherwise have survived. September 11 is by now both familiar and nearly mythological. Dwyer and Flynn's accomplishment is recounting that day's events in a style that is stirring, thorough, and refreshingly understated. --*Erica C. Barnett*

From Publishers Weekly

Drawn from thousands of radio transcripts, phone messages, e-mails and interviews with eyewitnesses, this 9/11 account comes from the perspective of those inside the World Trade Center from the moment the first plane hit at 8:46 a.m. to the collapse of the north tower at 10:28 a.m. The stories are intensely intimate, and they often stir gut-wrenching emotions. A law firm receptionist quietly eats yogurt at her desk seconds before impact. Injured survivors, sidestepping debris and bodies, struggle down a stairwell. A man trapped on the 88th floor leaves a phone message for his fiancée: "Kris, there's been an explosion.... I want you to know my life has been so much better and richer because you were in it." Dwyer and Flynn, *New York Times* writers, take rescue agencies to task for rampant communications glitches and argue that the towers' faulty design helped doom those above the affected floors ("Their fate had been sealed nearly four decades earlier, when... fire stairs were eliminated as a wasteful use of valuable space"). In doing so, the authors frequently draw parallels to similar safety oversights aboard the ill-fated *Titanic* nearly 90 years before. Their reporting skills are exceptional; readers experience the chaos and confusion that unfolded inside, in grim, painstaking detail. B&w photos.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School--In a compelling and clear writing style, Dwyer and Flynn use the words of victims and survivors to show what it was like to live through moments of despair and heroism inside the towers on 9/11. Using interviews, e-mails, telephone records, emergency radio tapes, and transcripts, the authors allow readers to experience the terror from the moment the first plane struck until the second tower fell. Diagrams of the buildings give a clearer sense of the mechanics of the tragedy. The passage of time has done nothing to diminish the heroism of citizens and rescue personnel alike whose lives were irrevocably changed by the events of that day. Introducing readers to some of the people who were there reminds us of the survival instinct and the willingness of individuals to help others while they themselves are in the direst of

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