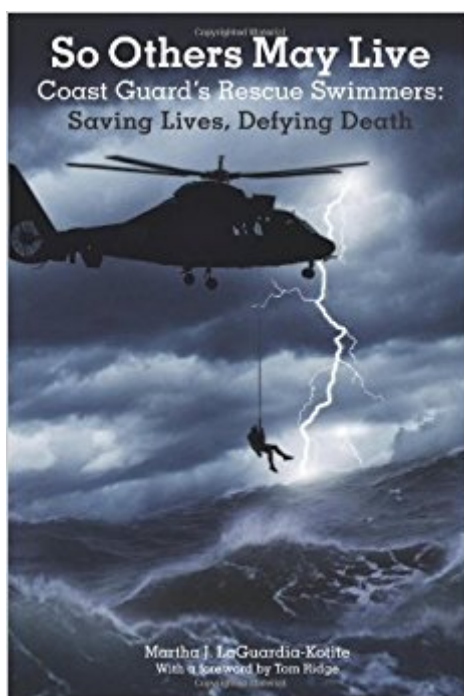


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# So Others May Live: Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmers: Saving Lives, Defying Death



## Synopsis

So Others May Live is the untold story of the U.S. Coast Guard's quiet but resolute rescue swimmers. From deep ocean caves on the Oregon coast to the panicked and chaotic streets of post-Katrina New Orleans, here are their stunningly heroic stories. In startlingly clear and exceptional writing, Martha LaGuardia-Kotite tells twelve heroic stories of the greatest maritime rescues attempted since the program began in 1985. These feats, told through the eyes of the heroes, reveal an understanding of how and why the rescuer, with flight crew assistance, risks his or her own life to reach out to save a stranger. Covering diverse environments—oceans, hurricanes, oil rigs, caves, sinking vessels, floods, and even Niagara Falls—So Others May Live is truly a can't-put-it-down collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Commander LaGuardia more than earns her stripes with an extremely well researched and documented book describing the inside story of how and why the U.S. Coast Guard jumped into the rescue swimmer business. I strongly suggest keeping a towel nearby to wipe off the salt water after each rescue is described. PTEROGRAM, journal of the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl (U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Association)

Fourteen true, amazing, and inspiring stories of some of the bravest men and women you'll ever meet So Others May Live is the untold story of the U.S. Coast Guard's quiet but resolute rescue swimmers. From deep ocean caves on the Oregon coast to the panicked and chaotic streets of

post-Katrina New Orleans, here are their stunningly heroic stories—some of the greatest maritime rescues attempted since the program was started in 1985. These feats, told through the eyes of the heroes, reveal an understanding of how and why the rescuer, with flight crew assistance, risks his or her own life to reach out to save a stranger. Covering diverse environments—oceans, hurricanes, oil rigs, caves, sinking vessels, floods, and even Niagara Falls—this is truly a can't-put-it-down collection.

Martha Laguardia-Kotite has perfectly captured the genesis of the legendary Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers. From their bare-bones beginning to The Perfect Storm off the Atlantic Coast; from the sea lion caves on the Oregon Coast to their heroic (and unacknowledged) work during Katrina; we follow these super heroes as they defy death on an almost routine basis. These stories restore our faith in human nature, to see what lengths others go to so others may live. I recorded this book at the Washington Book and Braille Library (I read for the blind) but was so impressed I bought my own copy from .

When we first heard about this book, some of the guys in the shop were skeptical about how it would turn out. We have all read articles and stories about the work we do and wondered how the writers got it so wrong. Embellishments, mis-quotes, and cheesy bravado injected into stories about Coast Guard swimmers have often left us cold to the idea of a book about the job. But Laguardia-Kotite got it right.....way right. Her book is meticulously researched, well-organized, and tells the story of Coast Guard rescues without overstepping the facts in exchange for reactions. She simply put to paper the heart of the program through stories of actual men and women engaged in the unique job of aviation rescue crewmembers. Also refreshing was the way she (better than anyone I have ever read) tells the story of the rescue swimmer as part of a team, giving all due credit to the pilots and flight mechanics that make rescue at sea possible.

Oh my, these are unsung heroes. Thank you so much for all that you do. Once I got into the book, I couldn't put it down. I am glad I read Brotherhood of the Fin first because it helped me understand what Martha was talking about in several examples. I highly recommend this book--it truly helped me understand how incredible our Coast Guard members are.

Good job

I didn't realize how new the rescue swimmer program really was. This book provides an excellent history of the program, followed by some of the most hair-raising rescue cases in the Coast Guard's recent history. It is amazing how few people were behind the development and this program and the on-going success. A great read that provides insight into the Coast Guard's current standing in the military. Highly recommended!

THIS is a totally awesome book for a young man who is a future rescue swimmer with the USCG. Every type of rescue since the beginning of the team is noted in the various accounts. AND the book is autographed/ signed by the author. Jean

I've read the entire book a few times to my son. He loves it. The writing style is arguably not the greatest, but the stories are wonderful and the author's pride, admiration, and sincerity shines through. I think this could be turned into a wonderful book for boys ages 8-12. I do want to point out the risk of encouraging a career as a rescue swimmer. As a father I'd prefer something a bit less heroic.

Great book, very informative especially if you're considering joining the coast guard.

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