



Saved by the Boats: The Heroic Sea Evacuation of September 11

Julie Gassman , Steve Moors (Illustrations)

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September 11, 2001 was a black day in U.S. history. Amid the chaos, sea captains and crews raced by boat to the tragic Manhattan scene. Nearly 500,000 people on Manhattan Island were rescued that day in what would later be called the largest sea evacuation in history. In this rarely told story of heroism, we come to understand that in our darkest hours, people shine brightly as a beacon of hope.

Saved by the Boats: The Heroic Sea Evacuation of September 11 Details

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Author : Julie Gassman , Steve Moors (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Saved by the Boats: The Heroic Sea Evacuation of September 11 for online ebook

Amy says

Whoa. Goosebumps. Very well-written and nice format for children.

Jill Wharton says

I absolutely loved this book. It was heartbreakingly honest, and it took me back to the day the America was changed forever. I have watched many documentaries and read many books on the topic, but not one that focused on how the people got out of Manhattan on 9/11. This book told the story without being graphic which ensures that children would not be greatly disturbed. It's told at a pace that would easily allow for teachers and/or parents to stop and have any conversation that is needed without disrupting the flow of the story. It's a story the needs and deserves to be told. There were thousands of heroes that day and I think it's important for our children to know that one simple act of kindness can change a person's life. On a day that is forever etched in memory for horrific reasons, it's good to know the stories of people selflessly helping others without expecting any glory or recognition. These stories balance out the darkness of the day.

The illustrations are powerful in their simplicity. The importance of the blue is clearly understood at the end of the book. People to this day remark on what a beautiful sky it was that day. The use of the ashen colors and use of angry swirling smoke was perfect. The lack of color on characters allows the reader to get the feel of the moment without it being overpowering for a child. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to share a 9/11 story that isn't overwhelming with their child.

I received a free advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Angie says

September 11 is an event that is never going to leave my memories. I think I will always remember that day even though I was so far away from the events. It is a national tragedy that should and will not be forgotten. I thought we had learned all there was to learn, but even 15 years later there are still unique stories about that day. I had no idea so many people fled New York over the water. It makes sense when you think about it, but I guess that was not an aspect of the day I thought about. This picture book details the evacuation of Manhattan by thousands of boats and sailors. It is truly a story of human kindness and illustrates just how good people can be. I will admit to getting choked up several times while reading this book. I think it is an excellent story with really wonderful illustrations.

I received a copy of the book from Netgalley.

Amy Lafleur Meyers says

Julie Gassman tells the little known story of the boats that came to people's aid on 9/11, when people were trying to find any means necessary to flee Manhattan and the falling towers. She recounts the events of the day and the heroic actions of the boat captains in story form making this both very readable and informative. Adding to the story are quotations from eyewitnesses meshed into the story. This book was extremely moving as the illustrations were mostly in black and white, except for the blue sky, a little red life preserver, and finally the final page. The mostly black and white give the book a somber tone with the color splashes adding a small sense of hope.

One of my favorite quotations from the book was "they were ordinary people who became heroes on a day when greatness was desperately needed" and "a light on city's darkest day." Gassman mentions how brave the captains were. In the uncertainty of the day, the boats' captains had no idea if they were targets for attack but still moved toward potential danger to help. Gassman really personalizes the book, not only with real people's stories but also with her own memories of the day - such as how blue the sky was. In the author's note, she includes an image of Spencer Finch's artwork, "Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning," on display at the 9/11 Museum. Very moving book that portrays 9/11 with a view of "the helpers" as Mr. Rogers would say.

Sarah - All The Book Blog Names Are Taken says

Incredibly powerful book for younger children. Review to come

Full review can be found on my blog here: <https://allthebookblognamesaretaken.b...>

Beth Leppin says

I didn't know anything about the sea evacuation on 9/11. Interesting!

Matthew says

Review copy provided by Netgalley

The text of this story was easily five star material. The illustrations, however, might be too high concept for the audience that they are supposed to appeal to. They have an unfinished quality that makes them seem like an adult coloring book that is only partially completed. I am no expert on illustration though, so maybe they will have surprisingly strong appeal among readers.

Still, this is a great tribute to all the people that were involved in the evacuation of Manhattan that day. I remember the day, and any book on the topic sends unpleasant chills up and down my spine, but it's also a day when many people revealed their admirable character as they were faced with unexpected tragedy. Stories like this help to make an event like that something that people can look back on not as a region to cringe, but a reason to have a restored belief in humanity. As bad as it was, it showed the courage and the good in humanity far more. A story like this, with so many first-person accounts of unflinching kindness evidenced, helps to remind us of that.

It's a powerful book and when the topic of September 11th comes up, this is a good choice to bring into the conversation.

Jillian Heise says

The starkly contrasted illustrations combine with a powerful story of humanity of that tragic day for a don't miss it picture book.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

I loved this book. It was heartbreaking and it took me back to that September day. I knew that this water evacuation occurred but this is the first book that I have read that simply dealt with this topic and the heroes that made this all possible. People trying to get out of Manhattan on 9/11 could have panicked, but the smart thinking of the coast guard and the unselfishness of the many captains and crews of the boats and ships that stepped up, kept this from happening. This book told the story without dealing with the negative fallout so it can be read to and with children. It's told at a pace that would easily allow for teachers and/or parents to stop and have conversations when questioned without disrupting the flow of the story. It's a story that deserves to be told. With all the evil that happened on that day and all the loss of life, it is wonderful to show future generations how a simple act towards others can change lives for the better.

The illustrations are simple line, pen and ink drawings. They are powerful. The blue sky and the comments about what a beautiful sky it was until it was marred by ash and smoke tell that story with simple grey colours and swirls. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to share a 9/11 story that isn't overwhelming for children. This would be a good read aloud for late primary and middle grades that may be studying heroes or the history of New York.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lone Tree Reviews says

Saved By The Boats is the true story of what happened on a very dark day in American history on 9/11/01. September 11th, 2001, started out as being a very beautiful day until two planes hit the World Trade Center and caused everyone wanting to get out of New York City to get away from the destruction. As the ferry's started to get everyone out and across the river to New Jersey, a call went out for everyone with a boat to come help and get everyone to safety. By the end of the day nearly 500,000 people were moved to safety due to the courageous people that day.

I can remember 9/11 like it had happened yesterday, I think having this book out close to the 15 year anniversary is perfect so kids can understand what had happened that day without it being too focused on the evil that had happened. The pictures were perfect to convey what happened without it being too scary for kids. I knew that the boats played a big part that day, getting everyone out to safety but I never realized that, that many people were saved by a simple call for help.

Thank You to Julie Gassman for sharing your story of that day and writing it in a way so kids can understand

it as well.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley!

Laura N says

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The September 11 attacks in New York City left thousands of people stranded on the Island of Manhattan. With no other option, many took to the seas to make their escape. In simple words and beautiful pictures, *Saved by the Boats* tells the astonishing story of the largest sea evacuation in history.

I had never heard this story before. On a day of terror and heartache, hundreds of people and their boats came to the rescue. It sounds a lot like the Miracle at Dunkirk, but it happened right here in the US, in 2001. Gassman did an excellent job talking about September 11 in such a way that it is understandable to young readers, as well as sensitive of their age—it never becomes too frightening or too intense. A glossary in the back helps readers with unfamiliar words. Even more remarkable is the fact that the author was evacuated on one of these boats! At the end of the book, there is a short note in which Gassman relates her personal experience of being saved by a boat on September 11.

Moor's pictures are stunning. Those who lived through the tragedy of September 11 in New York City often remark on the vivid blue of the sky that morning. This blue is reflected throughout *Saved by the Boats*. The rest of the illustrations are simple: mostly white, two gray Towers and a sepia color for the dusty debris covering Manhattan and those fleeing the island.

Saved by the Boats is a good introduction to the horrific events of September 11. The story itself is inspiring and heartwarming, despite the horrific events surrounding it. The content won't leave young readers traumatized after they finish reading it either. That said, especially for very young readers, I would suggest caregivers read the story with the child and be prepared to offer explanations and answer questions. I would suggest this book as a companion read to *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey* by Maria Kalman and *14 Cows for America* by Carmen Agra Deedy.

Margaux says

Goosebumps. Goosebumps. I was preparing for school that day, watching my cartoons on telly. I remember that morning. Since then, I have read many books, articles, etc about 9/11. But this, this book. The narration is simple. The pictures are... just like how I imagine the event was when I think about it today.

Saved by the boats. I have never read or watched any documentary from this vantage point until now. Someone needs to do a project featuring this side of the story. This is a good start. I hope people will get their hands on this book. This is not just for children, this is also for young adults like me who were kids during that time. This book, while I was reading and looking at its drawings, took me back years when I was eating my breakfast in front of the TV being pissed that my cartoons were interrupted by a live broadcast of a breaking news. I was a kid then, I didn't understand what I was seeing on TV. It hit me when that first tower fell.

Read this book.

Emily says

Saved by the Boats is a great book for kids to learn about the evacuation of thousands on September 11. My favorite part of the book was the author's notes at the back, describing her personal experience on that day. The illustrations throughout the book added a nice feel for the overall story.

Thank you to NetGalley and Capstone Press for providing an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

This book is ideal for young children; putting 9/11 in context while showing that good people did help others that day. If you have a young child starting to ask questions about 9/11 I highly recommend this book.

Jen says

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thank you! I read anything that I can get my hands on having to do with 9/11. Living in NY I experienced this first hand and I am very interested in the stories and information that has come out since that day. Even though 9/11 happened almost 15 years ago now, it still is unsettling and still gives you that uncomfortable feeling when you see it on the news or pictures of the towers being attacked. There is that element in this book, it's uncomfortable, but it's real. This was a reality that happened and now it's something that we need to teach our children about. It is a very important part of history and it is very important to teach the lessons that came from that day and about those we lost. The more we study, the more stories we learn of those who were heroic, those helped their fellow man in a time of uncertainty. That is what this story is about. It teaches how in the face of danger, people were just there willing and wanting to help others. Every single person that helped their fellow man that day is a hero. So many people needed to be rescued from downtown Manhattan that day and these boats were the security and transportation for so many hundreds of people. I will be buying this book to put away for my son when he is older. It gives a bit of back story about what happened that day but it also teaches the important lesson of helping others, and how people were united as not just NY/NJ residents, but as Americans.
