



Flight #116 Is Down!

Caroline B. Cooney

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An award-winning dramatic thriller finds a young girl confronting her fears and making heroic efforts at the terrifying scene of a crashed 747.

Flight #116 Is Down! Details

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Author : Caroline B. Cooney

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From Reader Review *Flight #116 Is Down!* for online ebook

Matthew F says

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Flight #116 is Down is a short, action filled, book with a twist of drama and love. This book seems unique and focuses on small details which makes it intriguing to read. Anything going on just leads up to the final result of the book. I enjoyed it because of the drama.

PLOT

This book starts off quite slow, relaying information about some main characters' backgrounds. Though it tells the story of many, it mainly follows Heidi. Heidi is a 16-year-old girl who, according to her parents, isn't good at anything. One day, she is minding her own business and hears an ear-piercing explosion. In complete confusion and horror, she turns her view to where she hears the sound. A 707 jet has crashed in the woodland surrounding her backyard. The first response is to help everyone but that isn't what saves lives. After about a minute in pure shock, emergency response teams are called. As hundreds of EMT's arrive, Heidi brings blankets and food to as many victims as possible. Though many arrive, it takes a while because Dove House is filled with miles of tiny back roads that can barely fit one normal car let alone fire trucks and ambulances. One EMT, Patrick, is eager to get to the scene to help, but as soon as he sees the horror of it, he thinks twice. He and Heidi become good friends, as Patrick is there to comfort her. Soon after everyone is rescued, Patrick is able to take Heidi to his house until her parents can come back home.

RECOMMENDATION

Flight #116 is Down is fitting for anyone, gender being a factor, at least 12 or up. Though it is a good story, it is quite short and disappointing in some aspects. For the most part it disappoints because it lacks information in general and it is very fast with little explanation.

Cole says

Although flight #116 took me about one month to read, when I was reading it, it seemed as if the book was flying by. The book did start off a little slow for my liking but the tempo picked up right after the plane crash. The two main characters are well developed, and continue to develop throughout the book. Most of the other characters were well developed as well. The author really brought you into the story. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys drama and an upbeat tempo to their book.

Tara says

I read this story as a child and later as an adult, and I enjoyed it both times. The book is about a teenage girl, Heidi, whose parents leave at home alone for the weekend while they take a trip. While they are gone an airplane crashes in their backyard! Heidi must decide whether or not she can face her fears and even death to save complete strangers. Through her experiences she learns about her own capabilities as well as how precious life is. I thought this story was suspenseful and thrilling. A fun read for anyone.

Jackie says

High School senior Patrick longs to put his training as an EMT to real use and sophomore Heidi longs for friends and to be useful in life. They both get their wish when a 747 crash lands onto Heidi's parent's estate outside of New York City. Her parents are out of town *again* and Heidi is first on the scene...she puts her well-focused instincts into high gear as she awaits rescue teams.

As the grisly night wears on with an icy rain and a foreboding nightfall, Heidi and Patrick give strength to one another as the horrific scenes plays out. Each of them, along with hundreds of other emergency workers, tends to the needs of the injured, dying, and dead. They both find a satisfaction in the way they assisted to the needs of strangers and a budding love in the making.

Flight #116 is a fast-paced, sit-on-the-edge of your seat story of survival, friendship, and emotional turmoil...as the crisis of a plane disaster brings out the very best, along with the very worst of human reaction. A great book for reluctant readers.

Melissa says

I should never have read this book. It probably contributed to my need to be prepared for outlandish emergency scenarios.

Laura says

The students have been reading this for years. I've long recognized it as a book to pull students into reading. But I'd never taken it off the shelf until yesterday.

It is good! At first I was confused. The author begins by taking the readers into the thoughts and motivations of a lot of characters. I had a hard time keeping them separate. Then the plane crashed (<--not a spoiler) and I discovered I was already invested in the characters; I cared what happened: if they lived or died or what.

For a while, I thought this was a girls' book. Then I thought it was a boys' book. Now I think it's just a good book.

Kan Puttal says

8/9/14

pg1-26

In the first two chapters are very boring because it was just tell the reader about the setting. But it was also quiet interesting because there are many perspective to it.

14/9/14

pg27-50

There are more people in the story now. It's getting confusion. I want the plane to crash already.

21/9/14

Pg51-66

How the author describe the crash site is so good. I could see it, but the sentence has so many words in it so it was confusing.

Kellee says

I first read Flight #116 is Down as a preteen in middle school, but MAN! it holds up! The only things that stand out as different are the changes in the airport and no cell phones, but these things really do not change the impact of the story. I loved discussing it with one of my student lit circles/book clubs; we each devoured it because it was so suspenseful.

Nick Handrich says

“Flight #116 is Down” by Caroline B. Cooney is about a plane that crashes up in the hills near a small town. This small town didn’t have a rescue crew or firefighters. They had mainly young volunteers who were somewhat trained. They had never been in a situation like this one before and many of them had no idea what to do. The plane crashed in a ravine, making it even harder to help the people. They had to carry everyone up the slippery hill one by one because they could not get a vehicle down there. Through this book there is an extreme amount of difficulties to be overcome.

It is very hard to pick a main character out of this book. There are so many different characters and they all play an important role in the rescue of the passengers. Heidi is a young girl who plays an important role in this because her parents are out of town, there's a plane in her backyard, and through the rescue efforts, all the people are placed in her house to get out of the elements.

The setting is the Dove House Mansion and all the events take place on a Saturday in modern times. The Dove House makes things very difficult because of the very narrow road you must take to get to it. This makes it very hard for the rescue vehicles to get through. The terrain around the Dove House also makes things difficult.

I think the theme would be to always find happiness when things aren't going so well. I say this because even though the plane had crashed some people stayed calm. Some of them found a way to be happy through the situation, and passengers who weren't badly injured helped those who were. Also, another theme would be kindness, because everyone in the small town seemed to be finding some way to help.

I think this book is good for ages 15 and up, male or female readers. This book has a lot of characters and it gets hard to follow them all, so you shouldn't read this if you don't have a very good memory.

Michael2134 says

Personal Response: I read the book *Flight 116 is Down* by Caroline B. Cooney. The book was a great book in my mind. Even though the cover gives the crash away it still surprised me. The book was written with great detail. The writer really makes it feel like the story and the crash was happening around the reader.

Plot: The book started out with a young boy named Patrick who was a seventeen year old who was a part of the junior first responder team. Patrick always dreamed about the time he will be able to show everyone that he would be a suitable EMT. Patrick would always sit at the coffee shop downtown. He forced himself to drink the coffee while he listened in on all of the EMT's stories that they had. His mother and his father were also apart of the Nearing River Emergency squad. There was also a girl named Heidi who lived at the Dove House outside of town about seven miles. Her parents traveled all over the world doing all types of cool things. Heidi went to a boarding school where she did not fit in at all and wished that she could just move home. The Dove house was watched by an elderly woman who took care of the gardens and the home itself. When Heidi came home from break was when the action started to happen. There was a plane a boeing seven-thirty-seven airplane that was traveling through Connecticut loaded with passengers on it. Off those passengers included two young boys Tuck and Daniel, they were on their way to their dad's wedding. Daniel was the older of the two at the age of fifteen and Tuck was ten. Then there is Darienne a spoiled and smart girl who is very pretty, but because of this, she was very stuck up and snobby. The plane ride was going very smoothly when all of a sudden the plane started losing altitude and shaking out of control. The plane was going down. Panic soon broke out on the plane and people were crying and hugging loved ones. The announcement came over the speaker to take the crash position. The plane crash landed in Heidi's back yard of the dove house. The chaos was just beginning for Heidi. She heard a loud crash and took off to the back yard and that is when she saw the plane that had crashed. At first Heidi panicked, she soon got her wit back and called for help, meanwhile help was on the way Heidi helped multiple people to the dove house for warmth and to wait for help. Patrick was the first one on the scene and between himself and Heidi they moved more and more people to the Dove house for safety. They also found people with no serious injuries. Those people also came to help out. Soon there were multiple ambulances and fire trucks that took up the one lane road to the Dove House. There were so many cars from Nearing River and all surrounding towns of Connecticut that lined the road to the Dove House. All the cars created a little problem when the ambulance crews and fire rescue vehicles were trying to get through to the crash scene, Heidi made a bold move and told them to cut down the ancient rose bushes that were in the front of the Dove House. The crews could then get to the crash scene with ease. The house itself was a command post for all the wounded people and for people to wait for ambulances. The house was a disaster, but Heidi did not care. Heidi was glad that she did the right thing and helped out the people that needed the help. At the end of the night Heidi knew she could not stay at home, so Patrick and his parents offered a spot for Heidi to sleep while the house got cleaned. Patrick enjoyed having Heidi over and liked spending time with her.

Characterization: There were two main characters in this story. Patrick who was a smart seventeen year old boy who was a junior emergency responder. Heidi who was the owner's kid on where the crash took place. She was also 17 and went to the same high school as Patrick.

Impact of setting: The book took place in Nearing River, Connecticut. There was no given time to the story, but it seemed to take place in the late nineties. The plane crashed in a small field surrounded by trees and on a dead end small road. The road caused chaos when they tried to bring all the emergency vehicles to the scene.

Thematic Connection: The theme of this story was to never give up on the dreams one sets no matter how

big or small they feel. The book shows this by Patrick, who wants to be an EMT, but always gets pushed off the crime scenes. He didn't let it bother him and he kept pursuing his dreams. He finally got his chance to prove to the others that he was strong enough to be an EMT. He proved he was worthy and he got his EMT license.

Recommendations: I would recommend this book to anyone who likes action books, even though it was a slow action. The book has some gory parts in it, so I would say grade school and up. This book is not gender specific.

Lydia Smiley says

This book was good but you would get lost and confused during it. The author switch point of views which was creative but you would get lost with whose view the author was telling. I read this book for school and I wouldn't have grabbed it off one of the shelves at the book store. Although if it wasn't confusing then I would have given it 5 stars because it was a good book.

Nathan Togstad says

Personal response:

This book was a cross between a book and a movie. It was trying so hard at both that it did not accomplish either. In the beginning, it was darting around following several families on the path to the plane. The background of one or two families would have worked out much better. The times given was the only information to keep things straight. Introducing characters took way too long for the information received. It took the author 200 pages to write a 100 page book.

Plot:

The beginning of the book followed a handful of people on the trip to the plane. The reason they were going was stated for each person. The crash was seen in a few perspectives, then the book followed the rescuers. First responders were overwhelmed, and too many EMTs arrived. There was not enough room to get people out. They used the house to keep survivors warm, but the deceased were kept in a horse barn. When every survivor was off the scene, investigators looked at possible causes of the crash.

Characterization:

Patrick was young to be a first responder. At the age of 17, his training was not too long ago. He looked forward to something like this to happen. He wanted to be a hero. Patrick was speechless when he first saw the crash. His legs would not move. This was when he realized that being the hero was going to take some work. After he got into the action, his training took over. He was doing well until a massive amount of EMTs arrived. He was told they no longer needed him because they had veterans show up. Even though he was stopped from working, Patrick took a lot away from this crash. Patrick grew, tremendously, as a person. He figured out that hoping for his chance was not a good thing. His job was hope for the best and expect the worst..

Impacts of setting:

The Dove house was not the best place for a plane to crash. This all took place around the 1990s to 2000s. The state where the crash took place was never specified. There were large walls with barbed wire on the top. In several cases, that was what separated the rescuers from the survivors. The combination of the weather and the hill made it impossible to get an ambulance close to the scene. The parking space on the street also affected the amount of time it takes an ambulance to get to the hospital. The only good thing the Dove house had was the amount of space. Inside the house there was enough space to seat hundreds. The survivors stayed warm. The setting of the crash was what made the book interesting.

Theme:

The most apparent theme in this book was that nobody can be invincible. During the ride to the airport, a plane crash was not on anyone's mind. Even when everyone was on the plane, nobody thought anything bad would happen. After the crash, the people in the Dove house thought it was all fake. At the airport when the families got the news, everyone thought the employees were lying. The whole entire book was people doubting reality. Nobody wanted to realize that we are in danger every day.

Recommendation:

This book was not the best ever written. There was a jumping around from person to person that made the whole thing confusing. Kids around the age of 15 would probably be able to follow the story line. This book was not gender specific. The only thing taken away from this book is the most useless people still have a purpose. Looking back the book was not worth the time it took to read.

William Young says

I thought "Flight #116 Is Down", was a good book. It is about multiple characters who are affected by a plane crash. The book is written like journal entries from each character. The plane crashes behind a girl named Heidi's house. Patrick is the first one on the scene of the crash, he immediately calls for help and begins to transport the passengers up to Heidi's house. The adults that are responding to the crash look down on Heidi and Patrick because they are kids, and they think they won't be any help, but they end up saving many lives.

Patrick is one of the main characters in this book. He is a high school senior who is also an EMT. He gets to leave school when he gets a call because the town where he lives is so small. He is one of the first responders on the crash site.

Heidi is also in high school and attends the same school as Patrick. She is the one who calls 911 when she sees the plane in her backyard. She immediately starts to help passengers and opens her home for all the injured.

The time is present day during the winter. This makes the plane crash much worse because there is a big hill they have to climb to get from the crash up to Heidi's house. The setting is outside a rural town close to Heidi's house. Heidi lives in a very large house but the driveway is only one car wide so there is a big traffic jam of emergency vehicles that Patrick needs to fix.

The theme of the book is to always keep going. Patrick and Heidi felt worthless because the adults talked down to them and told them to keep out of the way. They didn't let that stop them, and they kept helping and made saving all the passengers they could a lot easier. The passengers on the plane who were trapped in the wreckage never gave up. They kept waiting and holding on to their life until the emergency responders could get to them.

I would recommend this book to young adults, any gender, around the age of 16. It is a fairly easy book to read and has an interesting story and message. 4 out of 5 stars.

Kim Mento says

As I started reading *Flight #116 IS Down*, I felt that the book was dated. Pagers and jazzercise really mad me want to drop the book. As I continued to read, I became invested in the variety of characters and the outcome of the plane crash (not a spoiler, it's the title). I really liked Heidi and wanted to help her with the struggles that she was facing.

This is one of the books on the 8th grade summer reading list, which is why I read it.

In our library on the summer reading shelf and F COONEY.

Rebecca Kittelson says

One of my favorite books in middle school!

Hannah says

I loved the protagonists, Heidi and Patrick, and also the way Cooney perfectly captured the suspense and sense of heart-stopping horror and sick fascination that people feel when they come face to face with the scene of an accident. As a reader, Cooney managed to make me feel like I'm part of the confusion - at times experiencing the confusion and terror that the passengers experienced, and at times the adrenaline that the rescue workers felt.

By letting us meet different passengers as well as locals in the area, it also made the experience that much more personal, as we hate certain characters and like others (and worry for their safety). Darienne is the type of spoilt and selfish brat that leaves you agape at her lack of basic manners and human empathy, but that's what makes the novel so much more realistic. Other characters are a lot more sympathetic, like little Teddy or Carly.

I honestly picked *Flight #116* out by accident, but ended up enjoying every word of it. Highly recommended.

Elissa says

I read this ages ago, but 1. I am intrigued by plane crashes, and 2. I enjoyed it when I was ~11 or so, so the 4-star rating is for nostalgia.

Andrea says

I initially read this as a kid and remembered finding it very gripping and intense, though few details stood out in my mind (except that spoiled little \$#!+ Darienne, I remembered her!). A few weeks ago, after randomly picking up another title by the same author, I got curious as to whether this one was as good as I remembered. Long story short: oh yeah. There are several POV characters, and most of them are by necessity only briefly sketched, but all come off as interesting and believable. The action and suspense is unrelenting, as in any good disaster yarn, but there is real feeling here, too; I definitely got a little teary at least a couple times. It's a quick read, and leaves a lot of threads without clear resolution, but it still feels like a complete story; like the characters themselves, we don't know what ultimately becomes of everyone, but the conclusion is satisfying nonetheless. Excellent read.

Abdullah Faisal Chaudhry says

A girl called Heidi Landseth is left home alone for a while whilst both her parents are in different countries for work reasons. One day a roaring sound fills the sky as a passenger jumbo jet crashes in her huge backyard. With the jet fuel leaking and sparks everywhere she is eager to evacuate the aircraft. However she realizes that the job is too big for one person (DUH) and calls 911. So when the emergency services arrive they are in a race against time to evacuate and send all victims to the hospital before anything else becomes disastrous. With all that done she then feels relief and is recruited to the 911 response team because of all her help. The theme for this book is sympathy and hope.

Ellen D says

I have a middle schooler and downloaded this book for her, then forgot it was in that youth category and read it. I kept reading all the character descriptions and lead-ins to the crash, hoping it would finally get there. Well, it did. And how. I loved the characters of Heidi and Patrick. They kept my attention throughout, as did little Teddie and Carly. The scene was so well described that I shivered for them and wanted to help carry blankets and stretchers. I may not tell my kiddo about this book for a year or so as she's pretty sensitive and could use a little more maturity, but when she's ready I think she'll be enthralled with it.
