



# Rescue of the Bounty: Disaster and Survival in Superstorm Sandy

*Michael J. Tougias, Douglas A. Campbell*

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From the author of the Fall 2015 Disney movie *The Finest Hours*, the “thrilling and perfectly paced” (*Booklist*) story of the sinking and rescue of *Bounty*—the tall ship used in the classic 1962 movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*—which was caught in the path of Hurricane Sandy with sixteen aboard.

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, Captain Robin Walbridge made the fateful decision to sail *Bounty* from New London, Connecticut, to St. Petersburg, Florida. Walbridge knew that a hurricane was forecast, yet he was determined to sail. The captain told the crew that anyone could leave the ship before it sailed. No one took the captain up on his offer.

Four days into the voyage, Superstorm Sandy made an almost direct hit on the ship. A few hours later, the ship suddenly overturned ninety miles off the North Carolina coast in the “Graveyard of the Atlantic,” sending the crew tumbling into an ocean filled with towering thirty-foot waves. The coast guard then launched one of the most complex and massive rescues in its history.

In the uproar heard across American media in the days following, a single question persisted: Why did the captain decide to sail? Through hundreds of hours of interviews with the crew members and the coast guard, Michael J. Tougias and Douglas A. Campbell create an in-depth portrait of the enigmatic Captain Walbridge, his motivations, and what truly occurred aboard *Bounty* during those terrifying days at sea. “A white-knuckled, tragic adventure” (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*), *Rescue of the Bounty* is an unforgettable tale about the brutality of nature and the human will to survive.



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