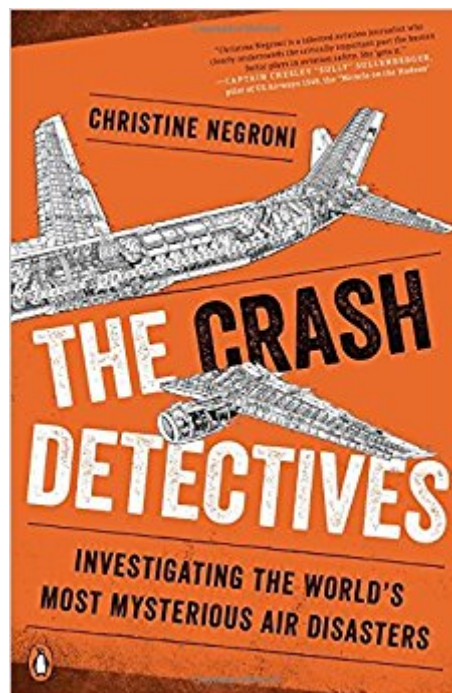




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# The Crash Detectives: Investigating The World's Most Mysterious Air Disasters



## Synopsis

“Negroni is a talented aviation journalist who clearly understands the critically important part the human factor plays in aviation safety.” —Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, pilot of US Airways 1549, the Miracle on the Hudson  
One of The Wall Street Journal’s 3 Books Every Geek Should Read This Fall  
A fascinating exploration of how humans and machines fail—leading to air disasters from Amelia Earhart to MH370—and how the lessons learned from these accidents have made flying safer. In *The Crash Detectives*, veteran aviation journalist and air safety investigator Christine Negroni takes us inside crash investigations from the early days of the jet age to the present, including the search for answers about what happened to the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. As Negroni dissects what happened and why, she explores their common themes and, most important, what has been learned from them to make planes safer. Indeed, as Negroni shows, virtually every aspect of modern pilot training, airline operation, and airplane design has been shaped by lessons learned from disaster. Along the way, she also details some miraculous saves, when quick-thinking pilots averted catastrophe and kept hundreds of people alive. Tying in aviation science, performance psychology, and extensive interviews with pilots, engineers, human factors specialists, crash survivors, and others involved in accidents all over the world, *The Crash Detectives* is an alternately terrifying and inspiring book that might just cure your fear of flying, and will definitely make you a more informed passenger. “Christine Negroni combines her investigative reporting skills with an understanding of the complexities of air accident investigations to bring to life some of history’s most intriguing and heartbreaking cases.” —Bob Woodruff, ABC News

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Fascinating . . . For all the horror stories in *The Crash Detectives*, the reasonable reader will leave the book more sanguine about modern commercial airline travel than before.” —Edward Kosner, *The Wall Street Journal* “[*The Crash Detectives*] will bolster your knowledge of the mysteries of air travel. . . . Aviation journalist Christine Negroni uncovers behind-the-scenes stories of the industry’s most famous heroic saves, catastrophes and mysteries.” —*The Wall Street Journal* (Books Every Geek Should Read This Fall) “Christine Negroni is a talented aviation journalist who clearly understands the critically important part the human factor plays in aviation safety. She gets it.” —*Captain Chesley Sullenberger*, pilot of US Airways 1549 the “Miracle on the Hudson,” *New York Times*’ bestselling author of *Making a Difference* and *Highest Duty* (now adapted as the major motion picture *Sully* starring Tom Hanks) “Negroni is no wanna-be aviation disaster geek. Her resume qualifies her to understand aviation accidents and speak and write with knowledge about them. . . . This is a must-read for those caught up in the whys and hows of aviation accidents.” —Scott Hamilton, *Leeham News and Comment* “Christine Negroni’s book is a refreshing take on airplane accidents. . . . [Negroni] brings the dual perspectives of an inquisitive journalist and experienced air safety investigator.” —*Aviation History Magazine* “An incredible book. Really fascinating.” —Larry Rifkin, *Mornings with Larry Rifkin* (Hartford, Connecticut) “I devoured this book. It was extremely interesting.” —Ron Seggi, *USA Radio Network* “In *The Crash Detectives*. . . journalist and crash investigator Christine Negroni looks at numerous air crashes from Earhart’s in 1937 to the 2014 disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and explores the different theories about what might have happened and why it can be so difficult to get to the truth.” —*Chicago Tribune* “Recommended. . . . The aviation journalist has her own theories about what really happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 . . . which led her to explore plane crashes and miraculous saves that have occurred over the decades, discovering en route startling revelations.” —*Sacramento Bee* (12 new nonfiction titles

for fall)“[The Crash Detectives] makes a compelling case. . . . It puts [MH370] into context by chronicling a string of . . . mysterious air disasters. . . . And it plumbs the reasons why some accidents are particularly hard to crack.”

Cond Nast Traveler“Has this aviation journalist solved the mystery of MH 370? Negroni’s quest to find answers, and to place MH 370 in the historical context of plane crashes and disappearances, was the inspiration for The Crash

Detectives.” Observer“The evolution of air safety is rooted in catastrophe.

Christine Negroni pulls back the curtain on the people, the places, and the tragedies that have shaped this process over the decades an unflinching look at a system that most of us take for granted.” Patrick Smith, air travel blogger and bestselling author of Cockpit Confidential“Mysteries are always fascinating; aviation mysteries are especially so because they involve ordinary people. In The Crash Detectives, Christine Negroni combines her investigative reporting skills with an understanding of the complexities of air accident investigations to bring to life some of history’s most intriguing and heartbreaking cases, reminding us that even in the 21st century, aviation still holds elements of the unknown.” Bob Woodruff, ABC News“This is a completely fascinating book that will interest everyone and belongs in every aviator’s library.” Patty Wagstaff, aerobatic national champion pilot

Journalist, aviation blogger, television commentator, and crash investigator Christine Negroni has twenty years’ experience observing and participating in the international effort to create safer skies. She currently reports for the New York Times, ABC News, and Air & Space magazine, and she writes the popular blog Flying Lessons.

As a 3rd. generation member of an aviation family, and friends who are members of NTSB, I was enthralled by Christine’s book. An historical and modern day look at aviation disasters, some human error, some mechanical, some terrorism, and some unknown, that can only be theorized upon. I liken Negroni to John Douglas, the famous FBI profiler, whose gut instincts, and intrinsic knowledge of his subject led him to be revered worldwide, for his work and opinions. Her investigative and journalistic skills, have afforded the layman and expert aviation enthusiast, a look into the history of air crashes, what has been learned from them, and how far we still have to go, in deciphering the how, who, what, where, and why’s of it all, to prevent further. The most important of which is out of such disasters how to make aircraft safer. 100 plus years since aviation began, we humans still get it wrong and make mistakes and Negroni clearly explains it in her writings. I highly recommend this

book, for anybody who has even a fleeting interest in aviation and air crashes.

Many books and certainly almost every accident report (aviation or otherwise) focuses on what went wrong. Everyone wants to know who is to blame. Christine does a great job of sharing stories about what goes right and points out how often pilots make decisions that lead to positive outcomes. As a former FAA aviation safety inspector with hundreds of hours in U.S. airline cockpits observing professional pilots and crew members do their job, I certainly concur. Everyone who is interested in aviation will enjoy this book.

Really more like 3.5 stars. This was a fun read and very informative. It maybe just me, but I feel like the narrative lost steam about halfway through. It's possible that I am just more interested in the stories and information in the first half, but I felt like I was just trying to get through the book in the last half.

I like it because (1) lots of interesting anecdotes (2) taught me to pay close attention to the oxygen mask system and its importance. That said, it's very light reading (which is good) - not a very detailed, scientific or systemic coverage. Overall - highly recommended reading - great entertainment value + information.

Numerous accidents are covered with factual information. The reader becomes aware of the complexities of an aircraft accident and the need to place "blame". The ongoing topic of aircraft automation and the value of experienced aviators is also covered. Faced with a total power loss, could a computer make the decision to land a B-767 on a drag strip or an A-320 in the Hudson River? Could the "Auto Flight" system then successfully fly such an approach and landing without engines and human intervention? This is an excellent book and a must read for anyone interested in air safety.

This is a good book to read for all of us road warriors. I liked the many possible causes she presents with good background stories I hadn't heard before. The stories about the Boeing 727 are really interesting. Overall I came away with a new perspective on how manufacturers, air safety boards, investigators and the airlines themselves interact (or don't interact!) after a crash.

Fantastic book. Well written and informative with the right amount of flair to keep the reader

interested without bogging down in too many details. Ms. Negroni also delves into the safety of lithium-ion batteries and touches on the connection between their dangers and the politics surrounding them. Whether part of the avionics as in the B787 Dreamliner or as cargo or just in passenger devices, these batteries are an unfinished and potentially dangerous issue in aviation and one all flyers should be aware of. Highly recommended reading.

After reading a rave review in the Wall Street Journal, I decided to purchase the Kindle version. I have to say that I was disappointed with the book. The breezy, and in some areas sarcastic, tone, was a little off-putting. Given the author's background, I expected a more rigorous and neutral treatment of air crashes. I didn't see that here. The author's theory on the fate of MH-370 is interesting and may well prove correct. But, frankly, I saw no reason to prefer it over other plausible theories I've seen. Finally, I have to mention a few of those niggling little errors that jar the reader, which indicate the book needed stronger editing, fact checking, and proofreading. Amelia Earhart's crossing was west-to-east, not east-to-west. B-16 bombers were never deployed to Clark Field in the Philippines; in fact, the bomber never made it out of development. And Oliver North and Robert McFarlane didn't work for the National Security Agency. North worked on the staff of the National Security Council. McFarlane was the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (aka National Security Advisor).

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