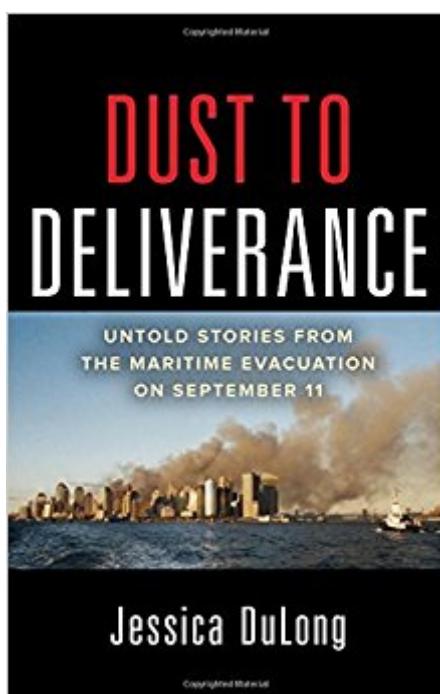


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# Dust To Deliverance: Untold Stories From The Maritime Evacuation On September 11th (International Marine-RMP)



## Synopsis

The captivating saga of the September 11th boat lift, when ferries, dinner boats, and other vessels spontaneously converged to rescue nearly 500,000 stranded people from Manhattan—A waterborne evacuation larger than Dunkirk—in New York Harbor? How come we barely noticed this at the time, and have largely forgotten about it since? Readers of this fast-paced book will not forget it again. Jessica DuLong brings this extraordinary episode to vivid, poignant life, using both literary and maritime expertise. Adam Hochschild, bestselling author of *King Leopold's Ghost*—“In this beautifully written and compassionate account, infused with dread and wonder, DuLong delivers meticulous reporting, human-scale and panoramic, that reframes 9/11. This enheartening chronicle of endurance and kindness, as wonderfully engineered and brilliantly executed as the waterborne rescue itself, proffers an evidence-based and hopeful view of humanity.” Mark Kramer, Founding Director, Nieman Program on Narrative Journalism, Harvard University

When terrorists took down the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, frightened people crowded along the shores of Lower Manhattan. With the dust and fires spreading, no one knew if more attacks were coming. Chaos reigned. *Dust to Deliverance* is the gripping story of how the New York harbor maritime community converged spontaneously to deliver stranded commuters, residents, and visitors out of harm’s way. Even before the Coast Guard called for “all available boats,” ferries, charter yachts, dinner boats, tugs, and other vessels had raced across New York harbor to pick up passengers. In less than nine hours, they rescued nearly half a million people from Lower Manhattan, making this the largest waterborne evacuation in history. Rooted in eyewitness accounts and written by a mariner who served at Ground Zero, *Dust to Deliverance* interweaves the personal stories of people saved that day with those who saved them, while revealing the inner workings of New York harbor and its close-knit community. This groundbreaking, minute-by-minute chronicle provides an unprecedented look at one of the most significant moments in American history. This human saga of compassion, triumph, and resilience reveals how tragedy creates new, often unlikely, alliances, even as it strengthens existing bonds. The book brings to light the resourcefulness and resounding human goodness that rise up in response to darkness, calamity, and turmoil.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Journalist and historian Jessica DuLong is the author of *My River Chronicles: Rediscovering the Work that Built America*, winner of the American Society of Journalists and Authors Outstanding Book Award for Memoir, 2010. Her writing has appeared in *Newsweek International*, *Rolling Stone*, *Psychology Today*, *Newsday*, and *Maritime Reporter & Engineering News*, among other publications. A Coast Guard-licensed merchant marine officer, DuLong serves as chief engineer of retired 1931 New York City fireboat John J. Harvey, a historic preservation project now operating as a living museum, which was called back into service on September 11.

This must-read book is a page turner. I lived downtown on 9/11 and knew that some people had gotten off the island by boat. But until reading *DUST TO DELIVERANCE*, I had no idea of the size and scope of these rescue efforts. Though it is hard to know how many people were evacuated--possibly as many as 400,00 to 500,000--the extraordinary stories of the mariners and those they ferried to safety were new to me, as I suspect they will be to most readers. The book is based on first-person accounts of some of the captains, engineers and other mariners as well as some of the people they rescued. These are hero stories and they are important not as footnotes in history but as front and center footholds on further understanding the tragedy and people's response to it. These are stories that needed to be told, and DuLong does so with a sharp clarity and clear voice, pulling back the curtain on the New York/New Jersey mariner sub-culture. The narratives are fascinating and compelling. I learned a lot. This is not a criticism by any means, but my hope is that future editions will have photographs accompanying the book's pages. Or better yet,

that a companion book with photographs will be published illustrating 9/11 from the mariners' unique perspectives.

An incredible book. The author weaves dozens of stories and people together in magnificent fashion. The recounting of heroism and pluck in the face of this disaster is inspiring and breathtaking in its scope. A must read.

DUST TO DELIVERANCE is a gripping and detailed account. A true contribution to the historical canon, from an author who has made it her business to chronicle New York's river stories.

I just finished this book Incredible well written story about 9/11 from personal accounts.

EXCELLENT

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