

Movies & Languages 2017-2018

Sully



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Clint Eastwood
YEAR/COUNTRY	2016 / USA
GENRE	Autobiography, Drama
ACTORS	Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney, Mike O'Malley

PLOT

Most Americans have memories of January 15, 2009 when Captain Chesley "Sully" and co-pilot Jeff Skiles after takeoff Airbus 320 out of New York La Guardia Airport, collided with a flock of large birds, disabling both engines in a mere 208 seconds (about 4 minutes). Without engine power or airports nearby, Sully made the bold decision to turn the Hudson River into a runway, a risky water landing that ultimately paid off, saving the lives of 155 passengers in what the media dubbed the "Miracle on the Hudson".

Although Sully is claimed a hero by the press and public, he suffers from a mild form of post-traumatic stress syndrome and a hint of self-doubt. In fact, if the ordeal of Airbus 320 wasn't harrowing enough for Sully, then the following inevitable investigation of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) was waiting just around the corner.

Sully and Skiles must answer for their actions to the NTBS investigators, looking into what went wrong, while looking for holes in Sully's account. Did he do everything he could to land the plane safely before resorting to the river? Did he needlessly endanger the lives of his passengers and crew? If the investigation finds him at fault, he could end his career.

PS "If we had done everything by the book that day, we wouldn't be here having this discussion."

Although the film received positive reviews from critics grossing over \$240 million worldwide, it created some controversy with its portrayal of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The American Film Institute selected the film as one of its ten Movies of the Year.

The film is based on Sullenberger & Zaslow's autobiography "*Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters*" published in 2009.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English, some slang.

CUT EMPTY or INFLATED PHRASES

An empty phrase can be cut with little or no loss of meaning.

INFLATED PHRASES	CUT EMPTY
As a matter of fact	In fact
At the present time	Now, currently
Due to the fact that	Because
For the reason that	Because
Have the ability to	Can, be able to
In spite of the fact that	Although, though
In the event that	If
in the final analysis	Finally
Example:	
We will file the appropriate papers in the event that we are unable to meet you	We will file the appropriate papers if we are unable to meet the deadline

VOCABULARY

s.o. = someone, s.th. = something

NTSB: National Transportation Safety Board: investigates all civil aviation accidents in the U.S.	Mayday: an international radio-telephone single word used by aircraft & ship in distress (phonic rendering of French "m'aider" = help me!)
ACARS: Aircraft Communications and Reporting System: digital datalink system for transmitting short messages between aircrafts and ground stations	Timing: the skill or action of judging the right moment in a situation to do something ("tempismo")
QRH: Quick Reference Handbook: manual for solving technical aircraft problems	Bird Strike: the event of birds hitting an aircraft in flight, usually at low altitude. In the film, a flock of birds fly head-on into the aircraft's engines, causing both to lose power. Sully reported "dual engine loss to bird strike"
PTSD: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Out of commission: inoperable, not currently in use
CVR: one of the black boxes of an aircraft; a device that records the last 30 minutes of auditory communication inside the cockpit before crash	A runway: a paved surface where planes take off and land
A ferry: a boat to carry passengers on the Hudson River	Flaps: in aviation, a variable control surface on the edge of an aircraft wing to increase lift or drag
To be kidding: to be joking	Eyeballing: to estimate roughly by sight
To be overwhelmed: to feel completely astonished or embarrassed	To blow it: spoil, botch, make a mistake, "It was a great opportunity, but now I've blown it!"
To lose thrust: to lose power of the two engines	Public hearings: held as part of the public inquiry process; provides interested parties with the opportunity to discuss inquiry issues in a public forum ("udienza")
To be overwhelmed: to feel completely astonished or embarrassed	A fraud: an imposter, a charlatan, a wolf in sheep's clothing sheep
To apologize: to be sorry you have hurt or upset someone	To tease s.o.: to make fun or attempt to provoke s.o. in a playful or unkindly way