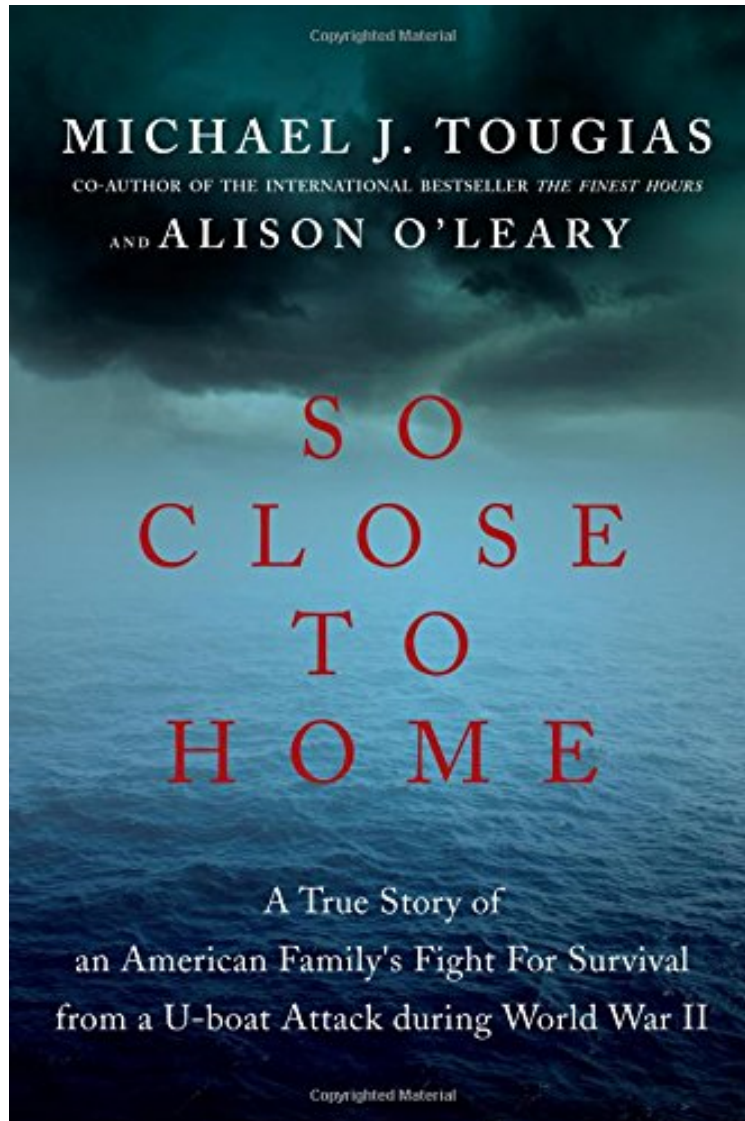


[FREE] So Close to Home: A True Story of an American Family's Fight for Survival During World War II

So Close to Home: A True Story of an American Family's Fight for Survival During World War II

Michael J. Tougias, Alison O'Leary
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Michael J. Tougias, Alison O'Leary : So Close to Home: A True Story of an American Family's Fight for Survival During World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So Close to Home: A True Story of an American Family's Fight for Survival During World War II:

A true story of men and women pitted against the sea during World War II and an unforgettable portrait of the determination of the human spirit. On May 19, 1942, a U-boat in the Gulf of Mexico stalked its prey fifty miles from New Orleans. Captained by twenty nine-year-old Iron Cross and King's Cross recipient Erich Wu'rdemann, the submarine set its sights on the freighter Heredia with sixty-two souls on board. Most aboard were merchant seamen, but there were also a handful of civilians, including the Downs family: Ray and Ina, and their two children, eight-year-old Sonny and eleven-year-old Lucille. Fast asleep in their berths, the Downs family had no idea that two torpedoes were heading their way. When the ship exploded, chaos ensued and each family member had to find their own path to survival. Including original, unpublished material from Commander Wu'rdemann's war diary, the story provides balance and perspective by chronicling the daring mission of the U-boat and its commander's decision-making in the Gulf of Mexico. An inspiring historical narrative, *So Close to Home* tells the story of the Downs family as they struggle against sharks, hypothermia, drowning, and dehydration in their effort to survive the aftermath of this deadly attack off the American coast.