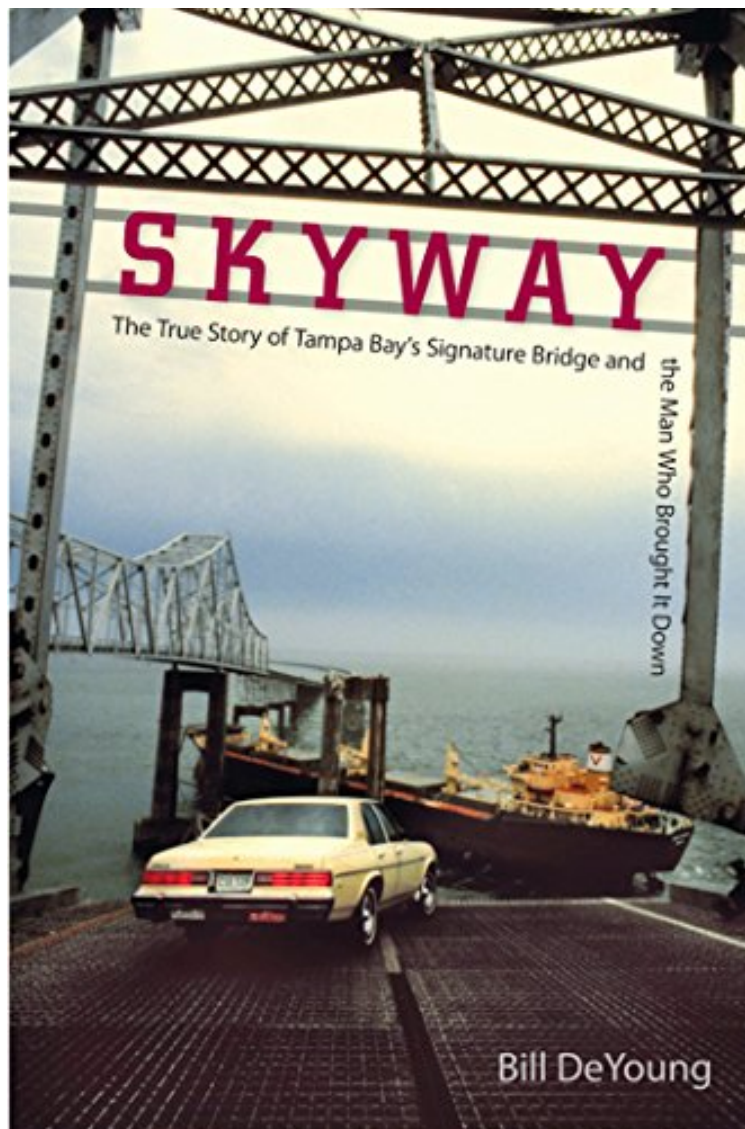


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Skyway: The True Story of Tampa Bay's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought It Down

Bill DeYoung

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Bill DeYoung : Skyway: The True Story of Tampa Bay's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought It Down before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Skyway: The True Story of Tampa Bay's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought It Down:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating accountBy Nancy SanchezThe horrible disaster was news to me, a new resident of the Tampa area. It happened just before Mt. St. Helens blew and during a presidential primary season, so that may account for why it didn't stay longer in the national news.The book itself is billed as creative nonfiction. It's easily readable, though a bit dry in a few places. But it is generally well told and compelling. I recommend it, especially to people who live or spend time in Florida.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Read!!By Russ AI live in the St Pete area of Florida and have driven over Skyway Bridges many time in the last 30 years. And I had a vague knowledge of the history of both bridges. But through Mr. De Young's vast amount of research and his intricate accounting of so many details it really it enlightened me and gave me a new respect for all those involved, including the ill fated Harbor pilot John Lerro. I could not put the book down and may read it again. Because it was difficult to absorb all the details in one read. I would highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in Florida, bridges or the subject of ships and harbor pilots.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully WrittenBy Shar1020As a Floridian, I remember this day, as well as the weather. Such tragedy!! Bill DeYoung has certainly done his homework. This is a poignant story of the disaster that befell the Victims, Families, Captain John Lerro, Crew Members, and the Sunshine Sky Bridge. I use to travel from St. Pete to Sanibel every year for vacation. Driving across the one remaining span, seeing the mangled steel super structure that was once the opposite span was so heart wrenching, as you knew the tragedy that had occurred. Even to this day, when I travel across the new, modern, beautiful bridge, I still think back to that awful day that took so many lives, and destroyed so many others.

Bill DeYoungs story of the construction of the original and second span of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, of the accident in 1980 that destroyed it, and of John Lerro, the harbor pilot steering the Summit Venture that struck the bridge, is spellbinding and reads like a mystery.Robert Kerstein, author of Key West on the EdgeBill DeYoungs meticulous reconstruction of how Floridas mightiest bridge was built and then destroyed is a compelling read, full of telling details and tragic irony.Craig Pittman, author of The Scent of Scandal On the morning of May 9, 1980, harbor pilot John Lerro was guiding a 600-foot freighter, the Summit Venture, into Tampa Bay. Directly in the ships path was the Sunshine Skyway Bridge--two ribbons of concrete, steel, and asphalt that crossed fifteen miles of open bay. Suddenly, a violent weather cell reduced visibility to zero at the precise moment when Lerro attempted to direct the 20,000-ton vessel underneath the bridge. Unable to stop or see where he was going, Lerro drove the ship into a support pier; the main span splintered and collapsed 150 feet into the bay. Seven cars and a Greyhound bus fell over the broken edge and into the churning water below. Thirty-five people died.Skyway tells the entire story of this horrific event, from the circumstances that led up to it through the years-long legal proceedings that followed. Through personal interviews and extensive research, Bill DeYoung pieces together the harrowing moments of the collision, including the first-person accounts of witnesses and survivors. Among those whose lives were changed forever was Wesley MacIntire, the motorist whose truck ricocheted off the hull of the Summit Venture and sank. Although he was the lone survivor, MacIntire, like Lerro, was emotionally scarred and remained haunted by the tragedy for the rest of his life. Similarly, DeYoung details the downward spiral of Lerros life, his vilification in the days and weeks that followed the accident, and his obsession with the tragedy well into his painful last years. DeYoung also offers a history of the ill-fated bridge, from its construction in 1954, through the addition of a second parallel span in 1971, to its eventual replacement. He discusses the sinking of a Coast Guard cutter a mere three months before Skyway collapsed and the Department of Transportations dire warnings about the bridges condition. The result is a vividly detailed portrait of the rise and fall of a Florida landmark.

A well-paced narrative that parses history from tragedy.Connect Savannah