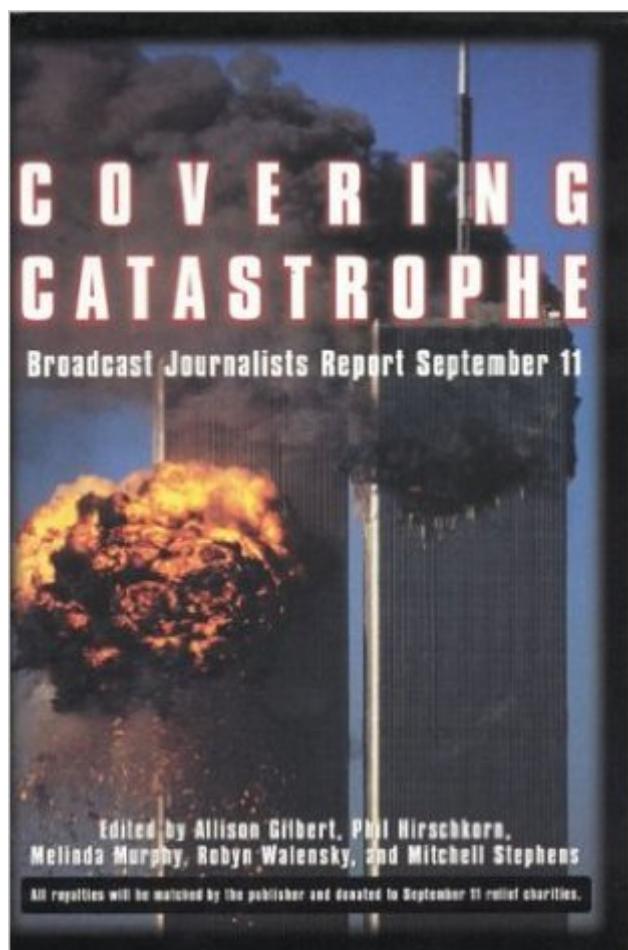


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# Covering Catastrophe



## **Synopsis**

Covering Catastrophe tells what it was like for TV and radio journalists to report the most terrifying story of their lives-and our time.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Well, what can I say? I bought this book and finished it the same day! I absolutely could not put it down! This book offers an up close and personal account of one of the worst days in American History. Not only did these journalists risk their lives to bring breaking news to the American public, but they became PART of the horrifying event as it unfolded before our very eyes. This book is a personal account of what these people, not journalists, experienced on that chilling day as they put themselves in the line of fire trying to do their job. Like many of us, these journalists lost loved ones in the World Trade Center right before their very eyes, and ran for their lives when the towers collapsed. Some journalists were hurt, others put their job aside for a moment and headed in to assist the wounded. The world united as the tragedy of September 11th unfolded, and our country demonstrated the best in humanity. This book recaps this horrible day up close and personal through our journalists' eyes. The terrorist attack on September 11th, was the worst thing that has ever happened in my lifetime, and I was personally traumatized as events unfolded before me on the television set. I lost friends that day, and a city that I called home at one time was changed forever. This book made me cry at times as it reminded me of the details of that horrible day. I never want to forget what happened, which is why I purchased this book. I will use this book to help explain to my

children what I, and everyone else in America went through on 9/11. This book spoke to me on a very personal and human level, and for that I am happy to add it to my collection. I read also, that all royalties will be given to the Citigroup Scholarship Fund and Society of Broadcast Engineers Fund. I am glad to see that the money for this book is more of an extension of the humanity I witnessed on that day. I can't recommend this book enough.

On that most inhumane of days, 9/11/01, the humanity of the broadcast journalists covering the horrible events, was jerked from its comfortable background position, and exposed for all to see and hear. "Covering Catastrophe" is the chronicle of many different news professionals who worked the story, telling in their own words how they reported on and in many cases became part of the story. The most moving aspect of the book for me was how they shed tears, feared for the lost, became closer to their families and in some cases fought the nightmares. The book is presented in chronological order, beginning with a bright cloudless morning in New York, and ending almost 24 hours later. Some of the well known principals, such as Brokaw, Rather and Jennings will probably write more detailed memoirs of the event, but this book highlights how the "average guys" responded as well. The book is well paced and will not only take you back to 9/11, but will give you a glimpse of what it was like on the other side of the TV screen.

Well done. My hat's off to the editors. It had to be difficult to wade through that much material and decide what stays and what goes. It had to be just as difficult to relive that horrible day through the first-person accounts of friends and colleagues. As for how it reads, it is a FAST read. But for me, I can only read a little at a time. It is a powerful book.

Listening to Robyn Walensky's eloquent retelling of the events of that fateful day at a book signing in Washington, DC, and reading the minute-by-minute reconstruction of what it was like to cover these events, this book brings back all of the emotion and impact of September 11th, but from the vantage point of the working broadcast journalists who brought the story into the living rooms of the country and the world. Ms. Walensky and her co-editors and contributors have done an historical service to all future generations by putting their experiences collectively into the permanent record. If time ever can dull the memory of what happened that day, take this book down from the shelf and it will all come back, with clarity and purpose. Hopefully, a similar book will be assembled on what the print reporters experienced that day. A superb recounting of the working reporter's craft.

If you only buy one book about September 11th - this is the one to buy. There are several books out but this is the best for a moment to moment account from broadcast journalists who experienced that day from a news point of view. Everyone, from news program producers, sound techs, camera people, radio people are included in this excellent compilation of who saw what, when, how and what they felt as participants in the biggest story of this century. I'm a history nut and stayed home the day of the attack to watch TV coverage all day from all the different networks and I wanted a book that would really convey the events, the victims and the feelings and impressions of those who responded to the catastrophe of 9/11 in an accurate fashion for my children to read and, hopefully, my grandchildren to read in this one book and have some idea of what living this historical day was like. I consider this to be the most valuable book I have bought all year (and I buy lots of books).

Covering Castastrophe is a book that ought to be in everyone's library. It is an historic record of a horrific event in our history. It gave me the feeling of participating in history that eventful day. Frequently, I had to stop reading it because I felt I was walking beside every reporter, correspondent, producer, anchorman and cameraman. There were times I could not breathe either. As a former New Yorker, who watched the towers being built, I was mesmerized and glued to the TV, as everyone else. Visiting Ground Zero was emotional. This book left an impact that has overwhelmed me. It has given me a better understanding of how determined these people work to get the story and get it right. What a great job they do. Another group of unsung heroes. Well done, all!!

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