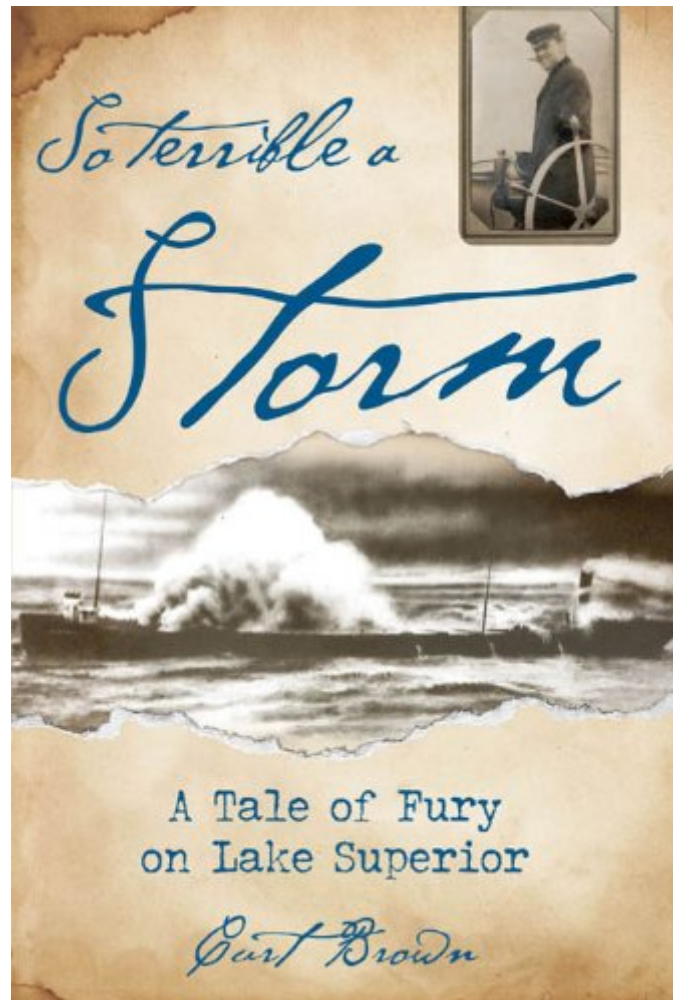




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# So Terrible A Storm: A Tale Of Fury On Lake Superior



## Synopsis

Not since Sebastian Junger in *The Perfect Storm* has a writer captured so well the fury of the seas as Curt Brown. *The Maritime Executive* Through masterful research and elegant prose, Curt Brown traces the devastating intersection of nature's fury and corporate greed. It was Thanksgiving week 1905, and the industry bosses wanted one last run before the shipping season ended; the bottom line depended on it. The tragedy that followed led to the building of Split Rock Lighthouse and went down in history as one of the nation's worst shipping disasters. The explosive squall caught nearly 30 vessels on Lake Superior. In the wake of the storm, weather forecasting and shipbuilding were forever changed. Drawn from the accounts of witnesses and survivors, *So Terrible a Storm* is a must-read.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For some reason, books set in Minnesota aren't that easy to find. I picked this one up because of the setting "Lake Superior. Author Curt Brown does an amazing job of researching and telling about the great storm of 1905, one which claimed the lives of dozens of

sailors, accounted for the loss of 7 ships and damaged many more. This book had me riveted from start to finish. When Brown described the storm “the wind, the icy water, the blinding snow and freezing temperatures” I could totally relate, I live only a few hundred miles from Lake Superior. What these poor men went through really tugged at my heart, and I found myself shivering in sympathy. This was a fantastic book “reminiscent of David Laskin’s The Children’s Blizzard. Highly recommend!

I grew up in Superior, Wisconsin, and my youth was spent on the Duluth side, walking down the pier where the Aerial Lift Bridge lifts to admit ships coming into its harbor. I lived this history as I read all the familiar places, and learned Duluth history I hadn’t known before--the irrepressible reporter Mary McFadden, first female reporter for the Duluth News-Tribune, the storm of 1905, all of it came to life as I read this book. the book is not a mere recitation of historical events. It is a human story, told with compassion and I know I will return to this book again.

About a time long ago and one young woman who wrote for a newspaper The tragedy of the storm so terrible

There is an unusual atmosphere in Duluth and now I have a better understanding of why - it’s the Lake that brings the almost ‘oceanside’ feeling to this inland City. Lake Superior is a large body of water that is connected to more large lakes and then on to the east coast Atlantic ocean. This book gave me a road map through these waterways along with a history lesson of deadly weather and the lack of concern of the big corporations that owned the ships and were responsible for those who worked on the ships in the early 1900’s. It’s all about politics, money, greed and power - the profitable bottom line. When a storm of unprecedented strength hit Lake Superior those massive ships out on the water were like toy boats afloat in a maelstrom. Read this book and learn how management manages to blame everything on a force they have no control over, but should have been better prepared for! Beth Bristow

This book will be of interest to anyone following Great Lakes shipwrecks. I loved reading it on a rainy night by lamplight, learning about the fury of Lake Superior in winter, men and ships cast onto rocks, the crew climbing cliffs to save one another, and captains facing life and death choices. We have a coast guard station in our town; I was fascinated by the precursor teams who tried to save ship’s crews from drowning.

Curt Brown refers to the neglect of the Great Lakes in most writings, but the activities on these waters are as fascinating as those dealing with the world's great oceans. Having grown-up just south of Lake Erie, I found this tale of a terrible storm in 1905 fascinating. Brown does an excellent job detailing the circumstances of the storm and the ships and men involved. It is also a look into a time when iron ore was "king" on the Great Lakes and steel mills ruled the shores of northern Ohio and Pennsylvania. There are more stories waiting to be told of the Great Lakes.

Well-written book that keeps you reading. Recommended.

Exciting read

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