



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

*Bill DeYoung*

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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 ship's 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 stories of the survivors, and remembers those whose lives were cut short by the events of that fateful day. Similarly, DeYoung details the downward spiral of Lerro's 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 Transportation's dire warnings about the bridge's condition. The result is a vividly detailed portrait of the rise and fall of a Tampa Bay landmark.

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#### **Gail Delamora:**

Skyway: The True Story of Tampa Bay's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought It Down can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but

nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing Skyway: The True Story of Tampa Bay's Signature Bridge and the Man Who Brought It Down although doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

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