



# Angels Three: The Karen Perry Story

*Landon J. Napoleon*

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They were airborne for six minutes. And then they were gone.

“An absorbing read.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**

“Haunting, yet inspirational.”

—**Publishers Weekly**

On Thanksgiving eve 2011, Karen Perry’s life changed forever when her three young children and their father died in a plane that crashed into Superstition Mountain in Arizona. The story made national headlines and was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Network as part of its Super Soul Sunday series. Everyone wanted to know—how does a mother comprehend, let alone process, such a loss?

*Angels Three* takes readers deep inside Karen Perry’s world of aviation, the challenges of parenting special needs children, and the indescribable pain of every parent’s worst fear come true. This skilled pilot and grieving mother is left to search for clues about what happened that night, and why. Her search for the truth leads to a startling revelation, legal battle with the Federal Aviation Administration, and a troubling question: Was the crash avoidable?

From the author of “Burning Shield: The Jason Schechterle Story”—an “inspiring true story” (**Kirkus Reviews**) that “celebrates the resilience of the human spirit” (**Publishers Weekly**)—comes another gripping biography, a tragic and ultimately hopeful story of perseverance in the face of unimaginable loss.

## Reviews

“Amid Karen Perry’s terrible tragedy is the inspiring story of the deep and passionate support she received from her colleagues at Delta Air Lines. Her journey is a remarkable one, and we are proud to have her as a member of the Delta family.”

—**Richard H. Anderson, CEO, Delta Air Lines**

“I read ‘Angels Three: The Karen Perry Story’ with a heavy heart. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) had concerns with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airspace changes before this tragedy occurred. I applaud Karen for her bravery in writing this book and sharing the lessons to be learned. By telling her story I am hopeful the memory of the six victims—including her three children and their father—will make a difference by educating pilots and policymakers so this kind of tragedy never happens again.”

—**Mark Baker, President and CEO, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association**

“‘Angels Three: The Karen Perry Story’ is a beautifully written book about a woman’s life journey, her incomprehensible loss and, ultimately, her extraordinary courage. This is a true story full of honesty and riveting detail that leaves you forever moved.”

—**Paul Babeu, Pinal County Sheriff**

“Karen Perry’s story is one of heartbreaking sorrow and transcendent strength. Her experience speaks to the resiliency of the human spirit, inspiring each of us to find that light within ourselves.”

—**Ashley Davis Bush, author of “Transcending Loss”**

“A life-changing story from a remarkable woman of courage, strength, and wisdom. The book has inspired me to dig deeper into my own spiritual search. Karen Perry’s breakthrough is a constant reminder of God’s plan and love for all of us.”

—**Jonas Elrod, writer/director of “In Deep Shift” (Oprah Winfrey Network)**

“A wonderfully written book.

## **Angels Three: The Karen Perry Story Details**

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## **From Reader Review Angels Three: The Karen Perry Story for online ebook**

### **Suzanne says**

The tale of a horrific accident involving a private plane crash in the Superstition Mountains shortly after take-off. I thought this was a terribly sad story on a human level. But as a book, it left me wanting more. There wasn't enough conflict and resolution within the tale to be satisfying for a reader. In many ways, the book reflected the true life experience: a horrible experience with only time as its true resolution. Karen had so much going on, as a book character she offered much to explore but the author didn't actually try since she suffered so much. Her husband also was left relatively unaddressed since he was dead. I think the author missed an opportunity to write a better book because he was working so closely with the surviving family member. It became a tribute story instead of a nonfiction thriller.

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### **Christine Wright says**

#### **Wow**

I read this because of the title that held the word angels. I didn't know this story or if I had I was oblivious to the news. Thank you for the raw emotions shared about love and loss. To be a mother waiting to see your children again and knowing we are just passing through and this is not our home is soo tough. I am a survivor of pregnancy and infant loss and am coming up on a 14 year anniversary and some since then. One sweet day I know I will see Jesus and my sweet angels face to face. But until then I just travel on. Thank you for the story. Amazing. I have since watched videos on the accident. My anniversary is November 23.2005. Our firstborn was lost at 38 weeks on Feb 5, 2006. Still fresh and still hard. God bless you Karen!!!

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### **Marci Mayer Eisen says**

Absolutely one of the saddest, most tragic stories I've ever read. Deeply heartbreaking. The writing is fine and it is definitely a story that one can't forget.

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### **Cyndy says**

This is a heart rending tale of truly devastating loss. I found this book interesting especially as I lived in the same area around the same time. I have hiked to the top of Flat Iron many times and the Lost Dutchman State Park is one of my all time favorites parks. The book was written in a narrative interview style. It was initially unclear who was narrating the story which led to some confusion. The story line is captivating as Perry has lived an interesting life. However, I was underwhelmed by her passion for being a commercial pilot which didn't seem to go anywhere as she worked as a flight attendant for most of her career.

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## **Lisa Jones says**

This was a gift from my sister! LOVED this story. Sad and real; life is fleeting.

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## **Grace says**

The author, Landon, gave a very detailed account of the life of Karen Perry. For most of the book I wondered, who is Karen Perry that I need to know all of this detail? It was really too detailed. I probably should have cared where certain secondary characters came from or how the bronze memorial was made, but it was too much. The story that I was interested in seemed to take up such a small part of the book. I admired Perry's tenacity to advance in a heavily male-dominated field of piloting, but it was her mothering 3 children, two of which were special needs, which I wanted to hear. I admired Perry's willingness to give up the fast track towards being a pilot of commercial airliners to be a mom. I was fascinated by the challenges and joys she faced as she parented these 3 amazing children. The loss of those three children in an instant was devastating.

But I did not enjoy reading about her many live-in relationships, her rude language and her humanistic world view. Some of the latter could well have been just the author's take but I don't think so. In his point of view Superstitious Mountain, where the crash happened, became a sacred place because of the six deaths that happened there. The author writes, "the mountain's presence is an anchor stretching back before all of humanity and forward to well beyond. Whatever part of the human race plays in the very big puzzle of the universe, the mountain is a steadfast holy marker." What? It is God's presence that makes a place holy and nothing else. There was a heavy mixture of beliefs throughout the book including animism, Christianity, spiritualism and evolution.

In Perry's profound grief she seeks to find meaning. "Why was I left behind?" she asks. That is a question we all must ask. She found an outlet in serving others and giving of herself. But that is not enough. I wish that God had been more a part of that equation for her. I don't think we can really find a meaningful existence without believing in a merciful Creator who gives us life and purpose.

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## **Kimberly Trivette says**

**Very moving...yes comes across conceited...**

This is a very heartbreaking tale of a mother's greatest fear...losing her children. However, I was put off by the complaining about the kids, as well as how much it was concentrated on her career and how she earned it. This was more about her than the children. Made me sad to see how this was portrayed. I understand this was therapeutic for her, however maybe more about the precious babies born with special needs would help others more than how to earn a pilots license...

Did NOT mean to give 5 stars, really wanted 3, however it wouldn't let me change it.

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### **Susan Riggs says**

#### **Three**

Or six. This is the painful but compelling saga of life's worst times. You keep hoping the ending will magically change. It doesn't

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### **Elaine says**

What intrigued me about this book is it's locale. As soon as I read "Superstition Mountains" in the blurb and knowing these mountains to be in Arizona, it piqued my interest. I love Arizona and I love the Superstition Mountains. They make a lovely scenic backdrop.

I'm not surprised to read of a crash in the Superstitions. Sometimes the mountains become invisible due to fog or dust storms, and I mean *invisible*. Not just difficult to see but as though they don't exist as they blend into the brown, gray, or darkened sky. The planes from the Mesa airport tend to fly toward the mountain and one has to hope they fly high enough. The Superstitions are not far from Mesa and one has to wonder why they fly in that direction and whether they will have reached altitude in time to clear the mountain. As you read the book, you'll get a better understanding of how such a horrific occurrence could take place; it was only a matter of time.

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### **Vera Turner says**

The unpredictable life of a woman involved in getting into a man's career path to be a pilot and the sacrifices she made and the losses she had to live through.

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### **julie morse says**

#### **So heartbreaking**

So unbelievable that the FFA isn't being held accountable for their regulations. Karen lost 3 children but 3 other families lost their loved ones too. Such a tragedy and so heartbreaking to know it could happen again

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