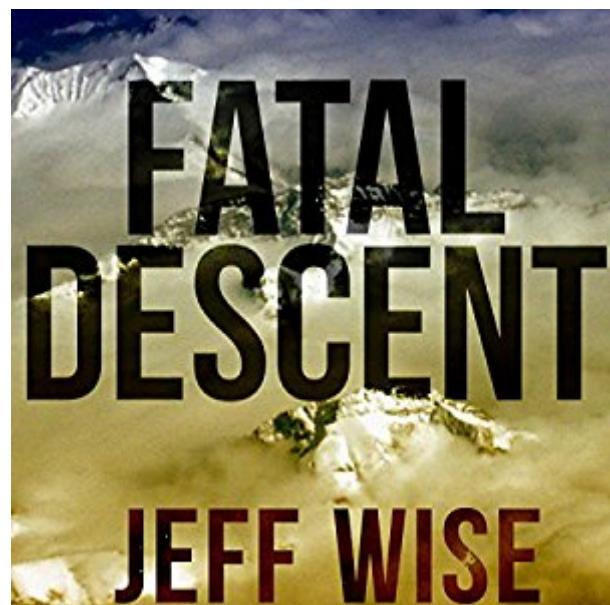


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# Fatal Descent: Andreas Lubitz And The Crash Of Germanwings Flight 9525



## Synopsis

The definitive investigation into the crash of Germanwings Flight 9525 and the mind of the copilot who committed the most shocking crime in aviation history. On March 24, 2015, Germanwings Flight 9525 crashed into the French Alps. All 144 passengers and six crew members were killed. In the ensuing days, a picture of the flight's harrowing final moments began to emerge. Shortly after reaching cruise altitude, a 27-year-old first officer named Andreas Lubitz locked the captain out of the cockpit, took control of the plane, and deliberately caused its descent. In *Fatal Descent*, journalist and aviation expert Jeff Wise travels to Lubitz's hometown in Germany and pieces together a definitive and haunting portrait of the killer and the system he betrayed, revealing in heart-pounding detail how a lifelong superachiever like Lubitz could have committed such an unthinkable act, what actually happened inside the cockpit, and whether current airline regulations leave us vulnerable to similar attacks in the future. Jeff Wise is a science journalist specializing in aviation and psychology. He is the author of the best-selling Kindle Single *The Plane That Wasn't There*, about the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370. A licensed pilot of gliders and light airplanes, he also has stick time in powered paragliders, trikes, World War II fighter planes, Soviet jet fighters, gyroplanes, and zeppelins as well as submarines, tanks, hovercraft, dog sleds, and swamp buggies. A contributing editor at *Travel + Leisure* magazine, he has written for *New York*, *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Businessweek*, *Esquire*, *Details*, and many others. His *Popular Mechanics* story on the fate of Air France 447 was named one of the Top 10 Longreads of 2011. His last book was *Extreme Fear: The Science of Your Mind in Danger*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

On March 24, 2015, Germanwings (a subsidiary of Lufthansa) Flight 9525 crashed into the French Alps. All 144 passengers and six crew members were killed. The mystery of what brought down the Airbus A320-211 was solved when the plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder were recovered. Taking advantage of the captain's brief absence from the cockpit, the plane's first officer, Andreas Lubitz, had locked the captain out of the cockpit and then deliberately flown the aircraft into the side of a mountain. Two questions then faced investigators: 1. Why did Lubitz do it? 2. Lubitz had a history of mental illness and was being treated by a psychiatrist, who stated that Lubitz was no longer fit to fly. So why did Lufthansa allow him to continue to fly? Investigators scrutinized Lubitz's life in an attempt to shed light on what drove him to commit suicide and mass murder. There were few answers, but it appeared that Lubitz may have been a "maladaptive perfectionist," someone who sets very high standards for themselves, but feels bitter disappointment, anxiety, and loss of self-esteem when they fail. But even if that description fit Lubitz, it didn't explain why he felt compelled to take his own life and the lives of 149 other people with him. The author, Jeff Wise, did his own investigation into Lubitz's background and came up with some clues to Lubitz's behavior, but why Lubitz did what he did on that fateful day is still a mystery. It's a compelling story about a shocking tragedy, one where it was difficult to believe that an authority figure as trusted as an airline pilot could so heinously betray his passengers. I read the book for free with my Kindle Unlimited subscription.

The writer for this book is talented and I enjoyed his style. I actually read this book to the end even though about 80% of it is based on conjecture. Yes, we have the Cockpit Voice Recorder so we know what was said. That is public knowledge. Yes, we also have the Flight Data Recorder so we know what was done on the flight deck. That is also public knowledge. So if you are buying this book to find any "inside" facts that the public does not know about, you will not find them. I DID learn about the training and selection process that Lufthansa uses to select their pilot candidates which is something I did not know and I found that interesting and very different to the way we in the United States select our candidates. In the United States our pilots are selected based on their experience, the amount of hours they have and of course they too must go through a rigorous interview, medical and psychological review. The difference between many of the European Airlines and the United States airlines is that most of the pilots that are hired at the major airlines already have years of

experience flying the line and thousands of hours of flight time. Many are former captains for smaller airlines. My point is that they have had years of evaluation from their company and their peers and the ones who have severe mental issues are weeded out long before they get to the interview process with a Major Airline. This book would be very interesting to those who do, or wish to monitor pilot behavior but as far as the aviation enthusiast who wants to know a bit more as to what happened, and why.....there is no new information here. Having said that, again, it was well written, short and informational to a certain aspect if you are interested in the psyche of a "pilot" who "loses it" which after 30,000 hours of flight time for a major airline in the United States, I have never personally seen and of the many things I worry about on a particular flight, this is not one of them.

A well written book that anyone can read and comprehend. I agree with Jeff Wise in that it's impossible to know what people are thinking every second of everyday. There are always going to be a very select few of individuals who are capable of doing something horrific like this. Lubitz had to have known in those last few moments what that collision was going to do to his own body. He had a front row seat. But he continued. I really can't think of any cause unless it was conditions set in motion to cause the perfect storm. God bless all the passengers and crew that suffered at the end and knew their fate. Thank you Jeff for all the information that you went to great lengths to provide us with the story. Also my heart goes out to Lubitz's family and all those that knew him. May God bring them some peace and forgiveness

The author has written a thoughtful and very interesting book about a troubled young man, highly qualified to fly an aircraft carrying humans and whose deranged thinking turns him into a mass murderer. The writing is crisp and clean, no wasted words, no side trips off the subject. A look inside a sick mind that explains, as well as such a mind can be explained, what most likely went wrong with this young man. Highly recommended.

Very good book. It filled in the gaps that I did not know about Andreas Lubitz, the first officer of the Germanwings fatal crash. I've taken FAA medical exams in the past, and most of the questions on the medical form rely on your being honest. Most pilots know ahead of time what drugs, medical condition's, etc, will disqualify you from obtaining a medical certificate, and ground you. Just seems to me that in some occupations in life where other peoples lives are dependent on you, there needs to be a change in the medical privacy laws. I do realize though that many conditions can be hidden from doctors, such as depression, thoughts of suicide, etc.

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