After the Storm: Recent Books on Hurricane Katrina


Arlene. Bret. Cindy. Dennis. Beginning on June 1 and ending on December 30, the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active in recorded history. Harvey. Irene. Jose. Katrina. Of the twenty-seven named storms that moved up and down the East Coast and crisscrossed the Gulf of Mexico, Katrina is the hurricane we remember. That last week of August, we all watched Katrina cross our television screens and listened to alarm bells slowly ring. Then, on Monday, August 29, at 6:10 a.m., Katrina, a Category 4 storm with winds of 145 mph, made landfall sixty miles southeast of New Orleans, inundating Louisiana's marshy coast. Within the hour, the flooding of New Orleans began, and it continued for the next three and a half days. Before the storm, people described the sky as an awful shade of orange. After the storm, they say there was nothing but silence. They describe smashed cars, empty refrigerators, pulpy belongings, their houses covered with mold. Across the region, over 2,500 people were dead or missing, 275,000 homes were destroyed, and 400,000 jobs were lost. Seven years later, the Gulf Coast is still rebuilding. The books under discussion here all share similar concerns: survival, ruin, rebirth. Taken together they create a compelling portrait of New Orleans and its people and complicate our understanding of how some of the city's communities experienced Katrina and its aftermath.

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When the Water Came: Evacuees of Hurricane Katrina features poems by Cynthia Hogue and photographs by Rebecca Ross, revealing the rupture and grief that followed the storm. Shaped from extensive interviews with thirteen survivors who resettled in Arizona, where Hogue and Ross live, the poems and photos show great compassion for the evacuees. In condensing the lengthy interviews, Hogue chooses to preserve moments when she is directly addressed and puts her subjects' laughter in brackets, reminding readers that these New Orleanians are speaking for themselves. She retains the evacuees' use of metaphor, imagery, and repetition and uses line breaks to pull out rhetorical patterns and highlight direct speech. Not only is When the Water Came a book of great generosity, it also serves as a moving historical record of Katrina's survivors.

The thirteen evacuees Hogue interviews come from a cross-section of the city. They are black and white, young and old. While some left before Katrina struck, others stayed behind, attending a hurricane party, sitting in the hospital with a newborn son. Two were rescued by helicopter, while another got out of his wheelchair, swam to an overpass where he stayed for the next seven days, and saw a woman fall from...
Storms are acts of nature, but Katrina's lethality was given a huge helping hand by human beings – even if you don't classify the hurricane as an "extreme weather event" directly caused by man-made global warming. In November 2009, a federal judge ruled that the US Army Corps of Engineers had displayed "gross negligence" in failing to maintain a navigation channel whose failure led to the flooding. The doctrine of "sovereign immunity" meant the Corps could not be sued – but the inundation was the most spectacular indictment imaginable of the ageing civil A decade has passed since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. What has -- and hasn't -- changed in the Big Easy since? The book gives a good history on the demographics of New Orleans and that because its predominantly poor African Americans who live there, it carries a stigma to more non black communities. The writers hint at other non race related issues as buses left many supposed refugees to fend for themselves. This book does not simply argue that the U.S is some racist hell and point blame at the federal government, rather it eloquently outlines the arguments both for and against the theory that race caused the situation in New Orleans post-hurricane devastation. Some writers conclude that racism had everything to do with it, others point out that the blame game itself and the lack of black America's responsibility for its own destiny were to blame. Hurricane Katrina August 23–30, 2005 was one of the costliest and deadliest hurricanes to ever strike the United States, impacting low-lying coastal plains particularly vulnerable to storm surge flooding. Maximum storm surges, overland flow depths, and inundation distances were measured along the Gulf Coast of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The vehicle-based survey was complemented by inspections with the reconnaissance boat along the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi Barrier Islands. The survey covered both the impact on the built and the natural environments. The storm surge peak After the Storm - Read online for free. How Hurricane Katrina and the murder of Emmett Till shaped one woman's commitment to climate justice The post After the Storm appeared first on Guernica. At least I'd be close to books. I never thought I'd yell at my grandfather, ever. He was my grandfather, we are black, and I like having teeth in my mouth. My grandfather never raised a hand to me, but I just assumed that any sort of backtalk would release a giant rock from the sky to smite me. On the other hand, I never thought I would see a hurricane in Port Gibson, either. We’re no stranger to thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes. But hurricanes? That's a coastal problem, and we are about 200 miles from the Gulf Coast.