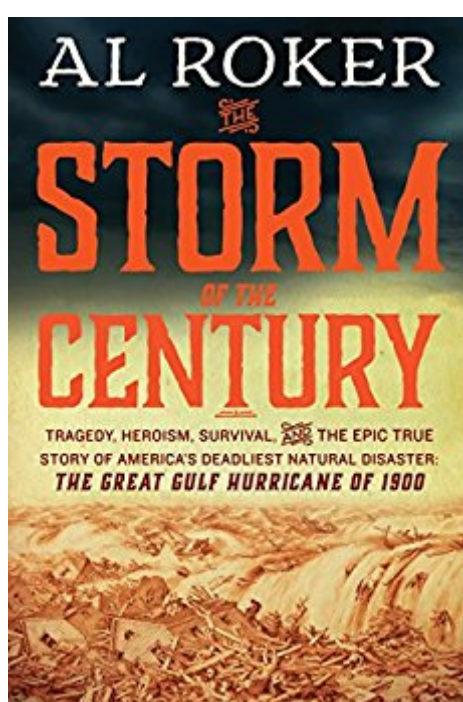


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The Storm Of The Century: Tragedy, Heroism, Survival, And The Epic True Story Of America's Deadliest Natural Disaster: The Great Gulf Hurricane Of 1900



Synopsis

In this gripping narrative history, Al Roker from NBC's Today and the Weather Channel vividly examines the deadliest natural disaster in American history—a haunting and inspiring tale of tragedy, heroism, and resilience that is full of lessons for today's new age of extreme weather. On the afternoon of September 8, 1900, two-hundred-mile-per-hour winds and fifteen-foot waves slammed into Galveston, the booming port city on Texas's Gulf Coast. By dawn the next day, the city that hours earlier had stood as a symbol of America's growth and expansion was now gone. Shattered, grief-stricken survivors emerged to witness a level of destruction never before seen: Eight thousand corpses littered the streets and were buried under the massive wreckage. Rushing water had lifted buildings from their foundations, smashing them into pieces, while wind gusts had upended steel girders and trestles, driving them through house walls and into sidewalks. No race or class was spared its wrath. In less than twenty-four hours, a single storm had destroyed a major American metropolis—and awakened a nation to the terrifying power of nature. Blending an unforgettable cast of characters, accessible weather science, and deep historical research into a sweeping and dramatic narrative, *The Storm of the Century* brings this legendary hurricane and its aftermath into fresh focus. No other natural disaster has ever matched the havoc caused by the awesome mix of winds, rain, and flooding that devastated Galveston and shocked a young, optimistic nation on the cusp of modernity. Exploring the impact of the tragedy on a rising country's confidence—the trauma of the loss and the determination of the response—Al Roker illuminates the United States's character at the dawn of the 20th-century American Century, while also underlining the fact that no matter how mighty they may become, all nations must respect the ferocious potential of our natural environment.

Book Information

File Size: 2937 KB

Print Length: 324 pages

Publisher: William Morrow; Reprint edition (August 11, 2015)

Publication Date: August 11, 2015

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B00PQRWKLE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #240,333 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #73

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters #90

in Kindle Store > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Atmospheric Sciences #101 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local > Southwest

Customer Reviews

“Galveston was sea now: there was no island. The bay had met the gulf, and as the Cline family spun, pitched, and coasted on their collapsing raft, all they saw to suggest a city were the tops of a few remaining buildings, here and there visible in lightning flashes above crashing ocean waves that spread on all sides as far as they could see.” — page 191 Imagine the sheer terror of suddenly being caught up in a Category 4 hurricane that you were not expecting. This is precisely the situation the good people of Galveston, TX found themselves in during the afternoon and evening of September 8, 1900. It would go down as the deadliest natural disaster in American history. Al Roker is known to tens of millions of Americans for his work on NBC’s “Today” and as host of The Weather Channel’s “Wake Up with Al” show. Roker recalls this historic storm in his fabulous new book “The Storm of the Century: The Great Gulf Hurricane of 1900”. Mr. Roker grabbed my attention in the opening pages and simply never let go. I could not put this one down. In the opening chapter of “The Storm of the Century” Al Roker introduces us to about a dozen residents of Galveston. Over the next 300 pages or so we share the trials and tribulations each would face during those terrifying 12 hours. I found that this approach to relating the story of what actually took place in the city on that fateful night to be extremely effective. Meanwhile, Roker also presents a brief history of the area. Much to my surprise, I discovered that Galveston was very much a “multicultural” city. Roker explains how and why that came to be. Meanwhile, there is also a discussion of the emerging science of meteorology.

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