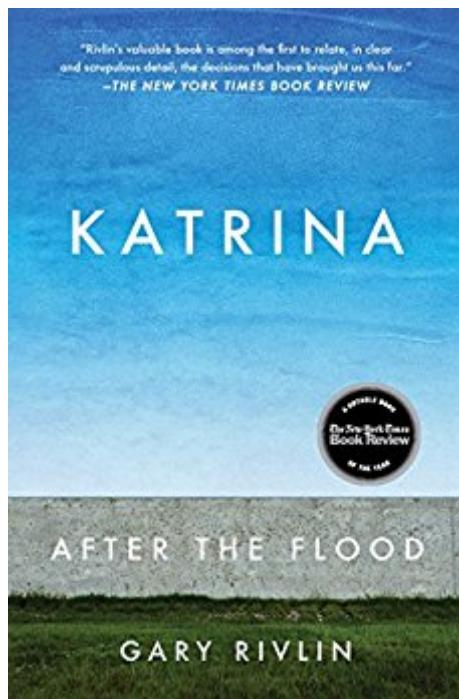


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Katrina: After The Flood



Synopsis

Ten years in the making, Gary Rivlin's *Katrina* is a gem of a book "well-reported, deftly written, tightly focused" [a starting point for anyone interested in how The City That Care Forgot develops in its second decade of recovery] (St. Louis Post-Dispatch). On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall in southeast Louisiana. A decade later, journalist Gary Rivlin traces the storm's immediate damage, the city of New Orleans's efforts to rebuild itself, and the storm's lasting effects not just on the area's geography and infrastructure "but on the psychic, racial, and social fabric of one of this nation's great cities. Much of New Orleans still sat under water the first time Gary Rivlin glimpsed the city after Hurricane Katrina as a staff reporter for The New York Times. Four out of every five houses had been flooded. The deluge had drowned almost every power substation and rendered unusable most of the city's water and sewer system. Six weeks after the storm, the city laid off half its workforce "precisely when so many people were turning to its government for help. Meanwhile, cynics both in and out of the Beltway were questioning the use of taxpayer dollars to rebuild a city that sat mostly below sea level. How could the city possibly come back? "Deeply engrossing, well-written, and packed with revealing stories." Rivlin's exquisitely detailed narrative captures the anger, fatigue, and ambiguity of life during the recovery, the centrality of race at every step along the way, and the generosity of many from elsewhere in the country (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). *Katrina* tells the stories of New Orleanians of all stripes as they confront the aftermath of one of the great tragedies of our age. This is one of the must-reads of the season (The New Orleans Advocate).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wrote this review on Huffington Post."Ring out the bells againLike we did when spring beganWake me up when September ends"-Billy Joe Armstrong (Green Day)With the tsunami of media leading into the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina on Saturday, it seems impossible that an author could come up with a new, insightful and passionate history of the 10 years after the hurricane that is not a rehash of something that has been already said.Gary Rivlin made the impossible happen.His book Katrina: After the Flood will be the historic book of record for anyone studying that time period or those who want to learn the politics of rationing resources when a region is starting all over again.Gary is an unusual choice to be the definitive voice of the post-Katrina era. As he notes in Katrina: After the Flood, Gary had no personal connection to New Orleans and most of his interactions with the city had been those of a typical tourist: The French Quarter, the Jazz Fest, things of that nature.As Gary (and I) found out, the tourist lens of New Orleans is as dramatically different from how the rest of the city operates as Disney World is from the rest of Orlando. They are very different worlds.On the other hand, Gary was an inspired choice for the role. Rivlin has the scientific background of the engineering student that he once was and the literary chops of the best-selling author he has become. He's an interesting combination of analytical and compassionate with a strong sense of social justice thrown in.

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