



City Adrift: New Orleans Before & After Katrina

By Jenni Bergal, Sara Shipley Hiles, Frank Koughan

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Hurricane Katrina was a stunning example of complete civic breakdown. Beginning on August 29, 2005, the world watched in horror as -- despite all the warnings and studies -- every system that might have protected New Orleans failed. Levees and canals buckled, pouring more than 100 billion gallons of floodwater into the city. Botched communications crippled rescue operations. Buses that might have evacuated thousands never came. Hospitals lost power, and patients lay suffering in darkness and stifling heat. At least 1,400 Louisianans died in Hurricane Katrina, more than half of them from New Orleans, and hundreds of thousands more were displaced, many still wondering if they will ever be able to return. How could all of this have happened in twenty-first-century America? And could it all happen again?

To answer these questions, the Center for Public Integrity commissioned seven seasoned journalists to travel to New Orleans and investigate the storm's aftermath. In *City Adrift: New Orleans Before and After Katrina*, they present their findings. The stellar roster of contributors includes Pulitzer Prize-winner John McQuaid, whose earlier work predicted the failure of the levees and the impending disaster; longtime Boston Globe newsman Curtis Wilkie, a French Quarter resident for nearly fifteen years; and Katy Reckdahl, an award-winning freelance journalist who gave birth to her son in a New Orleans hospital the day before Katrina hit.

They and the rest of the investigative team interviewed homeowners and health officials, first responders and politicians, and evacuees and other ordinary citizens to explore the storm from numerous angles, including health care, social services, housing and insurance, and emergency preparedness. They also identify the political, social, geographical, and technological factors that compounded the tragedy.

Comprehensive and balanced, *City Adrift* provides not only an assessment of what went wrong in the Big Easy during and following Hurricane Katrina, but also, more importantly, a road map of what must be done to ensure that such a devastating tragedy is never repeated.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This objective investigation conducted by seven outstanding journalists is an overwhelming indictment of the failure on the part of government and nongovernment agencies to respond to both the threat and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Sara Shipley Hiles, a journalist on environmental issues, explores the natural and man-made environmental factors that contributed to the catastrophe; she further explains the negative impact of the Bush administration's downsizing, in 2004, of a Louisiana coastal restoration plan. Jim Morris details how an eviscerated Federal Emergency Management Agency, despite adequate warning, tragically failed to evacuate the population. Another piece by Curtis Wilkie details the heritage of corrupt state and local politics that led to a civic breakdown and an immobilized judicial system. According to this very disheartening examination, New Orleans, despite federal promises, is now less able to withstand a hurricane than it was in 2005. Graphic black-and-white photos throughout are a haunting reminder of the television images of a helpless and dying American city that horrified the country in 2005. This excellent exposé of corruption and incompetence, conducted under the auspices of the Center for Public Integrity (a nonpartisan organization that sponsors investigative journalism) should lead to calls for future accountability.

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From the Back Cover

"This book documents, with clarity and cogency, how virtually every agency and institution, public and private, failed a city when the threatened 'big storm' finally struck."--John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center and former editor and publisher of the *Nashville Tennessean*

"City Adrift is the most disturbing and engrossing book on the heartbreakingly entrance of Hurricane Katrina into our nation's mythology. The reporting is infuriating and devastating in its power and terrible accuracy. The disaster did not have to happen, and this book provides further proof that the winds of Katrina will refuse to die down in our lifetime."--Pat Conroy

"If there was any doubt that Hurricane Katrina was, in reality, a man-made catastrophe in New Orleans, this book dispels it, fact by indisputable fact. Anyone who believes that government exists primarily to protect the public from events and matters beyond an individual's control will be appalled and embarrassed. This is an important book that exposes the depth and breadth of government dysfunction with ramifications far beyond the levees and bayous of southeastern Louisiana."--Bryan Norcross, CBS News hurricane analyst and author of Hurricane Almanac 2006

About the Author

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Susan Gagnon:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you

can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible City Adrift: New Orleans Before & After Katrina? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

James Drake:

The book City Adrift: New Orleans Before & After Katrina will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book City Adrift: New Orleans Before & After Katrina is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Tina Alley:

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Kimberly Foley:

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