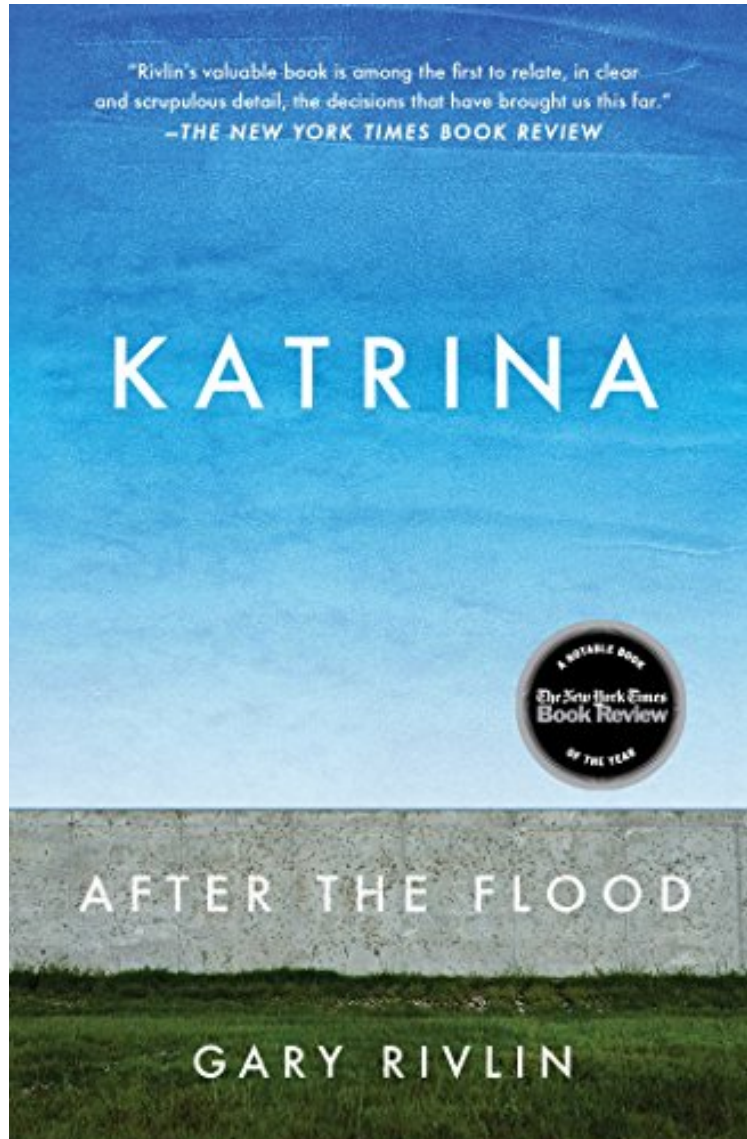


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Katrina: After the Flood

Gary Rivlin

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Gary Rivlin : Katrina: After the Flood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Katrina: After the Flood:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I loved Katrina: After the FloodBy MHI loved Katrina: After the Flood. It's a terrific read that walks us through the horror of Katrina from the time when it hit through the rebuilding of New Orleans. The writer, a former colleague of mine at the NYTimes, brings us into vivid conversations and discussions between the New Orleans Mayor, the Louisiana Governor, President Bush and other key officials, as well as the people who were appointed to plan and execute the reconstruction. He describes gripping and heartbreaking

scenes during the ordeal, and introduces us to fascinating characters whose lives were upended by the flood. I don't think I understood the magnitude of the devastation, the challenges of rebuilding a ravaged city, or the racial and economic inequities that the hurricane exposed and sharpened until I read this great book. A must read. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Really Engrossing Read By Michael J. Kelly This is a book about an important event in history that reads like a novel. Gary Rivlin has found some very interesting characters with different perspectives - from a friend of President Bush's leading the planning after the storm to a radical community organizer working on the ground - and he weaves their stories together to build a really compelling story about what has happened to New Orleans after the storm. Originally sent by the New York Times just after the storm hit, Rivlin apparently found the story hard to leave behind. He follows characters as they initially evacuate New Orleans or stay put to weather out the storm, and then try to navigate the maze of recovery efforts - some working to shape those, some just trying to figure out how to put their lives and neighborhoods back together. A really engrossing read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a wonderful, in-depth report of what happened in NOLA after ... By Stuart Rosen This is a wonderful, in-depth report of what happened in NOLA after the camera crews packed up shortly after Katrina. Along the way, we get to know key people and their impact on the attempted recovery, the efforts to leverage this "opportunity" into a means of reinventing NOLA, and not for the better. The reporting is thorough, the writing is crisp, evocative and empathetic. Anyone with even a slight interest in this recent American tragedy would do well to read Rivlin's book.

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).

Unknown "Rivlin's valuable book is among the first to relate, in clear and scrupulous detail, the decisions that have brought us this far, and to identify those who made them"; Rivlin is a sharp observer and a dogged reporter. He is unerringly compassionate toward his subjects; But Rivlin's most valuable journalistic skill is his acute sensitivity to absurdity. He is particularly piqued by the absurdity of racial and economic injustice. "One of the must-reads of the season"; Rivlin offers a good report of what happened during the storm, the bureaucratic snarls and blockages that followed and, most of all, the human cost to all New Orleanians. "The New Orleans Advocate "Deeply engrossing, well-written, and packed with revealing stories"; a magnificently reported account of life in a broken, waterlogged city; 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 (starred) "A carefully researched, beautifully written book"; San Francisco Bay View "A sprawling, epic tale, filled with cold numbers and heartbreaking scenes of loss and devastation. It's also an insightful, accessible saga that follows a wide cast of participants - including politicians, businessmen, and everyday residents - over the course of many years; [Rivlin] doesn't pull punches as he looks at the political, economic, and social aspects of New Orleans's struggle to recover, nor does he shy away from the complicated racial themes that have always been a part of the city's history; he skillfully balances out the human elements with concrete details of the devastation and the reconstruction that has followed. For those interested in how New Orleans came to the brink of destruction and slowly fought its way back to become a thriving, even improved, metropolis, this is certainly a work worth checking out." - Publishers Weekly "A fascinating lesson in urban planning in the face of calamity and financial shenanigans about what has been deemed 'the most expensive disaster in history.'" - Booklist "Journalist Gary Rivlin sweeps from street to boardroom in this history of the aftermath; As Rivlin sharply reminds, overcoming disasters is very much an issue of

governance. Nature Magazine "Sweeping and searching, Katrina is a Category Five expose; of disastrous disaster relief. Florida Courier "A gem of a book; well-reported, deftly written, tightly focused. It's a book that will appeal to the urban planner and the Mardi Gras reveler." Katrina is a genuine success, and is a starting point for anyone interested in how The City That Care Forgot develops in its second decade of recovery. St. Louis Post-Dispatch "Painstakingly researched; Rivlin's reporting allows him to paint deep portraits of his characters and explain relationship; Rivlin does an admirable job keeping the political personal and helping readers understand how deeply and devastatingly Katrina affected everyone in the city. The book is timed to come out a couple of weeks before the 10th anniversary of Katrina, but the timing this summer is equally important as part of the conversation America is currently having on the subject of race relations. Miami Herald "A riveting, wide-ranging but detailed account of Katrina's immediate impact and its aftermath. Tampa Bay Tribune "It is in large part because race lately imposes itself upon our national consciousness with even greater force than usual that Gary Rivlin's vital, comprehensive account of Hurricane Katrina's long-term impact on the city of New Orleans comes across less as a 10-year-anniversary marker of an indelible calamity and more as an up-to-the-minute microcosm of our larger society; manages to pack into a lean, taut narrative the heartbreaking setbacks, thwarted dreams and the confounding, repeated inability of anybody in power to either get things done or transcend festering social divisions. As with the finest works of journalism, Rivlin's book deploys the tools of his trade to illuminate the segment of history he examines and make us wonder about the things we all have in common with those in New Orleans. USA Today "[Rivlin] constructs his narrative to give readers unfamiliar with the terrain a cohesive back story and illustrates the aftermath through a cross-section of people." Chicago Tribune "Gary Rivlin's sharp eye for detail, grasp of the big picture and thorough reporting reveals the endless errors, egregious official conduct and exploitation that compounded the misery of Katrina victims long after the storm. It's a helluva a book that should arouse every American to demand reform before disasters strike their communities." David Cay Johnston, Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, author of Divided and Perfectly Legal "Gary Rivlin is one of our nation's most sharp-eyed cultural observers, and one of our most gifted social historians. Katrina is a provocative and beautifully-rendered book that reminds us that the subject of race is always percolating below the surface. The vividly-told and haunting Katrina is vital, not only for understanding New Orleans, and what happened there over the last ten years, but for understanding how divisions of race and class are perpetuated across America today." Michael Eric Dyson, author of April 4, 1968 "The once-great city of New Orleans wasn't destroyed just by a force of nature. Along with the hurricane came a category-5 tsunami of racism, operating at every level from armed encounters in the streets to serene indifference in the White House. Gary Rivlin, one of our finest journalists, chronicles it all in superb and riveting detail. This is something we have to know, discuss and absorb before the next storm comes along." Barbara Ehrenreich, author of Nickle and Dimed "Katrina is an important book. It's important not because it's brilliantly reported or well-written, not because it uncovers everything from political maneuvering in the White House to despicable acts of selfishness, and not because it also tells stories of courage and tenacity which give meaning to the word "inspirational." It's important as a case study of both how not to handle a disaster and how to survive one. There are real lessons here." John M. Barry, author Rising Tide and The Great influenza "This blow-by-blow account of the months and years after Katrina brings back the frustration felt by so many who watched the devastation unfold and raises important questions about the role of race in the response to natural disasters." Library Journal "A clear-eyed account; Rivlin weaves in powerful personal accounts from a cross-section of survivors; black and white, working class and affluent; A skillful storyteller, Rivlin delivers a fascinating report on a city transformed by tragedy." BookPage "As harrowing as it is riveting; a balanced and comprehensive chronicle." New York Daily News "A riveting account of the disastrous results of the storm, starting from the preliminary evacuations to the present day; skillfully blends personal comments with investigative journalism, presenting readers with a well-rounded view of the social, economic and emotional impact the storm had on hundreds of thousands, in the first days after the hurricane and over the ensuing decade." Shelf Awareness "Gary Rivlin's Katrina: After the Flood is as raw as the title.... Katrina carries you from the days before the disaster through an aftermath so tumultuous and chaotic you can scarcely fathom it happening in a developed country. Rivlin's careful storytelling won't let us escape, however, as he confronts us with testimonials from streets that remain uninhabited 10 years later." 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ldquo;Katrina: After the Flood succeeds as a lucid and sympathetic account of a vital American metropolis crushed by natural forces and beset by issues of race and class in its ongoing attempts to recover.rdqquo;mdash;Highbrow Magazine emsp;ldquo;It is in large part because race lately imposes itself upon our national consciousness with even greater force than usual that Gary Rivlinrsquo;s vital, comprehensive account of Hurricane Katrina's long term impact on the city of New Orleans comes across less as a 10 year anniversary marker of an indelible calamity and more as an up to the minute microcosm of our larger societyhellip;manages to pack into a lean, taut narrative the heartbreaking setbacks, thwarted dreams and the confounding, repeated inability of anybody in power to either get things done or transcend festering social divisionshellip;As with the finest works of journalism, Rivlinrsquo;s book deploys the tools of his trade to illuminate the segment of history he examines ndash; and make us wonder about the things we all have in common with those in New Orleans.rdqquo;ndash;USA Today About the AuthorGary Rivlin, an investigative reporting fellow at The Nation Institute, is a former New York Times reporter and the author of five books, including Katrina: After the Flood and Broke, USA: From Pawnshops to Poverty, Inc.mdash;How the Working Poor Became Big Business. His work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Mother Jones, GQ, and Wired, among other publications.