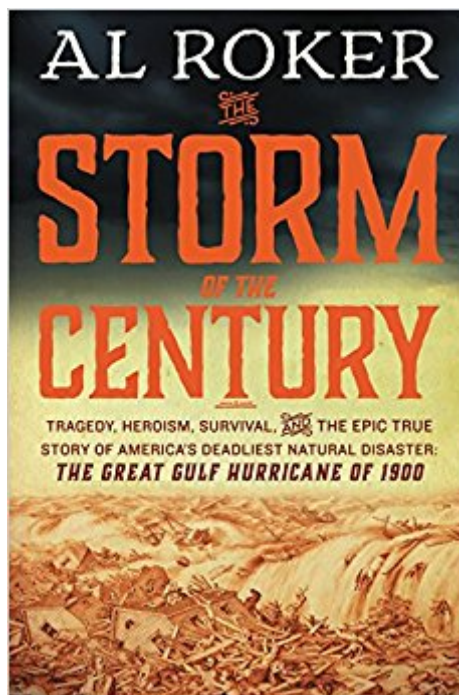




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The Storm Of The Century: Tragedy, Heroism, Survival, And The Epic True Story Of America's Deadliest Natural Disaster: The Great Gulf Hurricane Of 1900



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 "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.

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating, multifaceted story." (USA Today) "Compelling. ... Uplifting." (Kirkus) "Vivid details abound in Roker's telling of the hurricane and its aftermath... [which] reads like a novel. ... Engrossing." (Chicago Tribune) "Gripping reading and a well-crafted cautionary tale. ... [Roker] brings important new energy, details and meteorological insights to this retelling." (Dallas Morning News) "[A] vivid and absorbing account of the infamous Great Galveston Hurricane. ... Spellbinding and informative." (Booklist) "[A] compelling work. ... Focusing on the human experience of the storm, Roker follows survivors before, during, and after the hurricane in order to elucidate what people on Galveston Island encountered as the storm raged through the city." (Library Journal) "Reads like a blockbuster movie script." (Associated Press) "Roker revisits the worst natural disaster of any kind, ever to hit the United States. ... He sets the stage for the drama with a comprehensive, but accessible history of Galveston at the time." (Publishers Weekly) ONE OF USA TODAY'S "25 HOT BOOKS FOR SUMMER" (USA Today) "Personalize[s] the event. ... Roker's best research uncovers more of the rescue and recovery effort. ... Roker's new book is a fine effort." (San Antonio Express-News) "This book, skillfully crafted by Al Roker, is a must read! It has changed my thoughts about weather predictions forever." (Craig Daily Press (CO))

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I finished the book in two days I could not put it down. I was captivated by the personal survivor stories as well as information it contained on the early tracking of hurricanes .

I received my book yesterday and could not put it down until it was finished. It's well written, it includes a good balance of the backgrounds of those folks featured, the science of the weather that was the storm and the political climate that allowed so many to die, when they were never told of the early warnings. Growing up in Houston, TX I was fascinated by Hurricanes and in particular the 1900 storm after reading about first person accounts in long article in the newspaper on one of the storms anniversaries. I grew up going to Galveston almost weekly and to this day love the city. I have walked the sea wall many afternoons, have camped on the beaches when they allowed such thing, toured the grand homes on Broadway and have been on the island when a Hurricane approached. I cant imagine the horror of those living there without the great marvel that is the seawall. I saw only one minor mistake the mis-identification of the Bishops Palace as Ashton Villa in an historic photo. Overall great book, compelling story and glad I bought it.

I have been to Galveston many times and enjoy seeing their tropical flowers, plants and old homes. I have read a few stories about the hurricane that happened on September 8, 1900. (My birthday) I am looking forward to reading this account of the storm from a knowledgeable weatherman. Presently my state, Texas, is trying to start recovering from Hurricane Harvey. I cannot imagine what my fellow Texans are going through and they knew a storm was headed to Houston. I have a

difficult time imagining I lived in Galveston in 1900 and knew nothing of what was in store for me and my community. I feel very blessed to be living in the day and age of our weather forecasts. I am very pleased with my purchase and I am looking forward to reading more about the storm in 1900. A few years ago, I was seriously thinking about moving to Galveston because I enjoyed my trips to that wonderful city. In hindsight, looking at what my neighbors are going through all along the Texas coast, I am so grateful I chose to stay put in North Texas. We worry about tornados most of the time living in "Tornado Alley". But to actually experience such a horrible event and lose so many friends and family, boggles my mind. I am looking forward to reading this book and perhaps putting my mind at ease, somewhat, knowing that all things are possible with God's direction and his love.

An excellent read, great telling of heroism, arrogance, social classes, science and survival. Al Roker is an excellent story teller, he is equally adept at telling the story of the individuals impacted by the storm and explaining the science behind the storm. I have always respected Mr. Roker as a meteorologist and entertainer, now I can give him accolades as an author.

What a great story. The Storm of the Century is a most interesting account of the 1900 storm that devastated Galveston. Mr. Roker's informative and educational approach in explaining the formation and related meteorology of the storm itself is very interesting. The stories of the individuals caught in the maelstrom are related so well that you feel you are moving back and forth through the experiences with them. I have read Isaac's Storm by Eric Larson, also a wonderful book. Both of these efforts add to our knowledge and understanding of this national weather disaster and the history of our ability to predict the weather.

The story was interesting but did seem to lag a little at about 70%. Well written and extremely well researched, I just didn't particularly enjoy the segment about the news reporting. It dragged on and on. I will admit to having reached about 80% and then skimming just to move beyond the boredom. Even though I wasn't too happy with the last of the story, it was worth reading. I did like the fact that the author did include information about the main characters mentioned, and what happened to them in the years following the storm.

Al Roker, the familiar weatherman and host on Today, writes this book from a meteorologist's point of view. It certainly has lots of stories about all the other people caught in this horrible disaster but I

found it very interesting about the "turf" disputes between the U.S. Meteorological Service and the Cuban meteorologists (led by Jesuit priests) who were possibly some of the best meteorologists in the world. A close up look at the natural disaster that killed more people in the US than any other. Thumbs up to Al!

I have read three other stories related to the 1900 Galveston hurricane. I found this to be the most engaging of them all. It is well rounded in information. Tell you about people, weather forecasting 100 years ago, the rebuilding of the city, relief efforts and more. Worth the read.

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