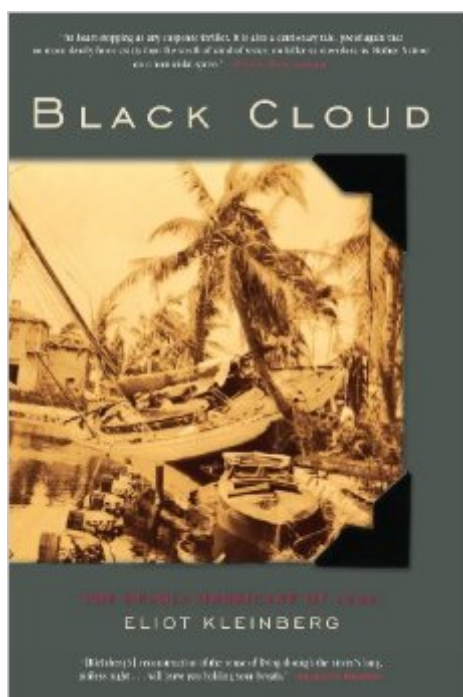


The book was found

Black Cloud: The Great Hurricane Of 1928



Synopsis

The great hurricane of 1928 claimed 2,500 lives, and the long-forgotten story of the casualties, as told in *Black Cloud*, continues to stir passion. Among the dead were 700 black Floridians—men, women, and children who were buried in an unmarked West Palm Beach ditch during a racist recovery and rebuilding effort that conscripted the labor of blacks as latter-day slaves. Palm Beach Post reporter Eliot Kleinberg has penned the gripping and tragic tale of 1928's killer hurricane from dozens of interviews with survivors, diary entries, accounts from newspapers, government documents, and reports from the National Weather Service and the Red Cross. Immortalized in Zora Neale Hurston's classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, thousands of poor blacks had nowhere to run when the waters of Lake Okeechobee rose. No one spoke for them, no one stood up for them, and no one could save them. With historical photographs and heroic tales of survival and loss, this book finally gives the dead the dignity they deserve.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Basic Books (July 28, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786713860

ISBN-13: 978-0786713868

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,137,176 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #344 in— Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Atmospheric Sciences #701 in— Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters #1027 in— Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rivers

Customer Reviews

Hurricanes are part of the natural landscape of Florida. Having not grown up in this state (CA native), I was unaware of the historic frequency of storms and the consequences to so many unassuming souls who fell victim to the times, before technology such as we have on our laptops: timely and accurate information, could have given them a fighting chance. This book is hugely worth reading. I learned about the "taming" of Lake Okeechobee, and how the consequences of those actions in the 20th century have resulted in a seriously compromised Everglades, which was once a huge wetland ecosystem, now polluted and compromising the entire Florida Bay and its renowned

coral reefs. I learned that the early National Weather Bureau depended on information transmitted from ships in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico to learn of formation of storms. Those sailors performed the duties of our present day hurricane hunters. I learned that it may well have been a single hurricane that took out numerous British ships (18) that provided a chance for the immigrants into this country to win their fight for independence from British rule. I learned that real estate escalations, "flipping," and crashes have all happened before the present fiasco occurring in Florida at this time. And most importantly - I learned of the historic treatment of blacks in the deep south, yet despite these incredible sorrows, Kleinberg believes that Florida is the most integrated of all the southern states, which provides some hope for healing of race relations, at least here. I often feel that it is because of the influx of so many non natives to Florida, that we provide a consciousness that both uplifts and deeply contrasts with historic southern bigotry and racial hatred.

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