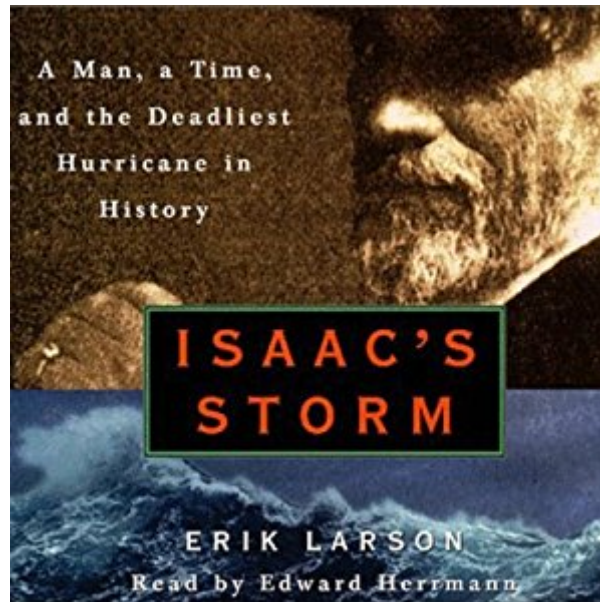




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Isaac's Storm



Synopsis

National BestsellerSeptember 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history--and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, Isaac's Storm is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the third book by Erik Larson I've read. I agree with many of the other reviewers, that this tale suffered mightily from not including any of the pictures which the author detailed in the narrative, and the only maps pictured left something to be desired. Wonder why this was so? I felt a little swamped by all the characters mentioned but realize there were so many people who died in this storm that Larson could likely only sketch some of them. He did explain in NOTES how difficult it was to gather accurate information from this disaster so long ago. I probably would've appreciated

more details regarding the soured relationship between Isaac and Joseph but wonder how much verifiable data there was on them. Overall I enjoyed the book and will recommend it to fans of Larson. I absolutely loved the other two books I read and will seek others.

Outstanding writing on the part of Erik Larson. He brings the story of the Galveston hurricane alive and introduces the reader to a variety of actors who ranged from pioneering weather researchers and scientists who furthered knowledge about weather to bureaucrats and agency heads who held back the advancement of meteorology and, through their ineptness and incompetence, caused the loss of countless lives. I particularly like the way the author brings into the story the lives of relatively minor figures in a way that gives the reader a sense of place and history that traditional history books writers seldom attempted. Mr. Larson describes how families with children tried to cope with the massive storm that wiped out entire sections of Galveston in a matter of hours. An excellent book that, like Larson's other books, made me want to read all of his books.

Warning - Before I write my review I need to tell you that my copy of "Isaac's Storm" is missing pages 212-245. Which is not cool - it means that I missed the "who lived and who died" portion of the book.----- Now for the review - Erik Larson has made quite a name for himself writing non-fiction tragedy/thrillers. "The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America" is one of the better non-fiction thrillers ever-written. "Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History" is written in a similar style. I will admit that the sections on how hurricanes are formed is a bit tedious, but as a whole (minus the 30 pages I was missing) the story is quite a page-turner. Some have complained in the accuracy of Larson's work. Too be honest all historical accounts have a certain degree of laxness with the "absolute truth". We must remember that Larson did not follow each person around with a high-definition video recorder, so in the 100 years since the storm you have to expect that the record leaves much open for interpretation. Things I enjoyed- - Fast paced non-fiction. This is not the easiest thing to do in non-fiction - A nice eye for scientific detail. I learned a great deal about the formation of hurricanes. - The story is very relevant to today's Gulf Coast. Areas for Improvement. - I wish my copy wasn't missing those 30 pages! Final Verdict - Fans of "The Weather Channel" may call this their all-time favorite book. For the rest of us this is still an entertaining and sobering account of the worst natural disaster in American history. 5 Stars

As usual, Erik Larson manages to capture the mood and feel of the time he is writing about. He

manages to immerse the reader into the time, place and society, and through character development gives the reader a nice sense of "being there". The story of the Hurricane's impact and the backstory of the petty bureaucratic jealousies and turf-wars are worthy of telling, and perhaps makes one compare how our government continues to dysfunction to this day. I am rating this book as a 4-star effort mostly in comparison to Larson's other books which I found to be much more compelling and engaging. Both *Dead Wake* and *The Devil in the White City* were much more complex and involved works, definitely 5-Star material, so I don't feel right in rating Isaac's *Storm* on a par with them. But....I enjoyed Isaac's *Storm* a good deal and would recommend it highly.

If not reviewed in the newspaper, I would not have discovered the writings of this author. He produces great accounts of historical events but written in such a manner that one would firmly believe it was a novel. In a way, it is a novel, but based on true facts. His description/narrative at the time the hurricane hit Texas and flooded the town was horrifying and felt so real. Even describing the prior weather conditions and some of his characters were very vivid. Definitely a fascinating read, but yet so informative historically. Again, a book that captivates the reader. I have since read some of his other writings and would also recommend them. His writings should be recommended reading for "History" classes.

I really like to read about history, or the historical reenacting of actual events that shaped our world, especially when history is presented in a way that makes the reader relive the event. So much historical narrative or nonfiction is unfortunately boring. Not this book. This book is meticulously researched and the story told in a mesmerizing way. I found it hard to put down. Since I enjoyed it so much, I then bought *Dead Wake* (the latest book from the same author), about the sinking of the *Lusitania*. It is also good, but of the two, Isaac's *Storm* is definitely my favorite. To me it was spellbinding. Of course I had heard of the Galveston storm, but could not have told anyone much about it. It's fun to enjoy the read so much and then know more than most about a powerful event that happened here in our doorstep. It was fun to learn quite a bit about the creation of weather forecasting in this country and the personalities involved.

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