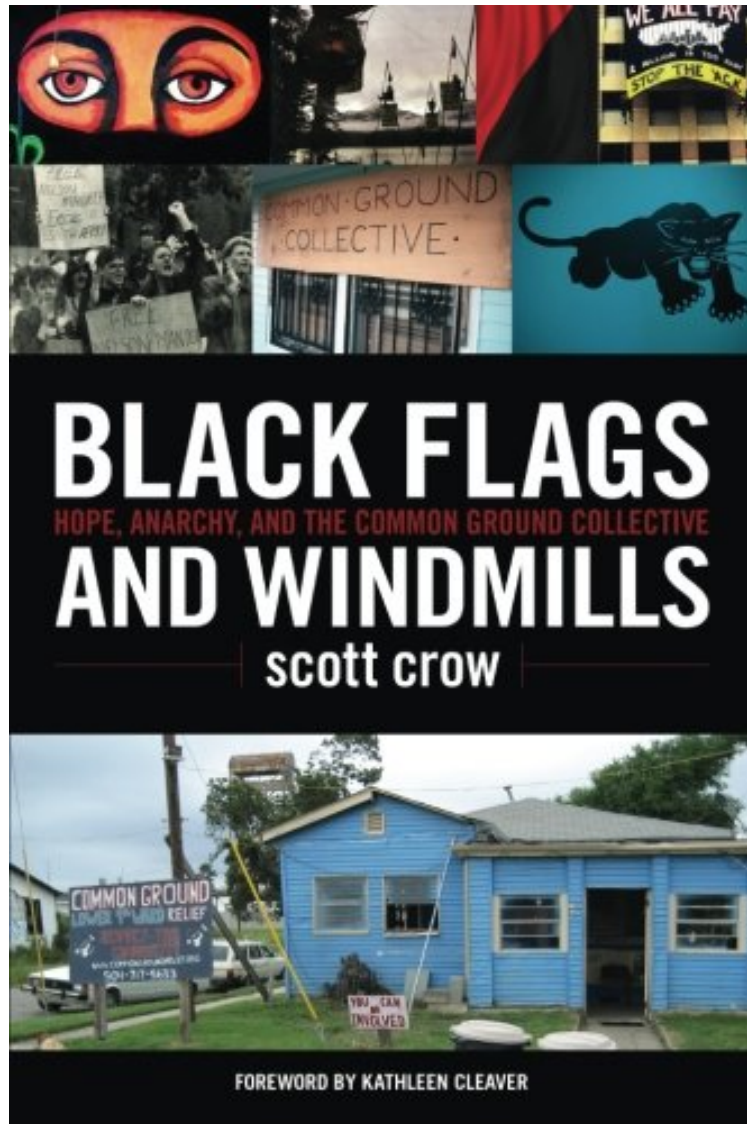


(Mobile pdf) Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective

Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective

scott crow

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1683084 in Books 2011-10-19 2011-10-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .64 x 6.00l, .75 #File Name: 1604860774256 pages | File size: 19.Mb

scott crow : Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Mixed Bag (Narrative, Memoir, Journal, Primer, Manifesto)...But It's All Good...By Truman Chipotle Black Flags and Windmills is scott crow's first-person account of his experiences

as one of the leaders of a volunteer group that assembled in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in an effort to directly help people and make a difference on the scene in Algiers. It is a harrowing narrative, and Crow (the author uses all lower case letters in his name) does an excellent job of conveying all the many emotions that he went through, as he became aware that a friend of his (a fellow activist for peace and civil rights) was among the many cut off from help in that section of the NOLA area. He takes the reader along for the ride as he experiences everything from compassion, fear, hesitation, heartbreak, feelings of helplessness, and then on through the fear to courage borne of outrage and righteous indignation, with the end result being effective, direct action. Along the way, Crow interweaves into his text a personal memoir that recounts the twists and turns of his life that led a lower-middle class kid who came of age in a dismal, intellectually stultified suburb of Dallas, TX during the Reagan 80s to eventually land with both feet in a sort of compassionate, collectivist socio-political movement that Crow describes as "'little a' anarchism". The author does a fair job of painting this picture for a general audience. (While I come from a similar socio-economic background to Crow's, I was largely unaware of the various activist and peace movements simmering right under my nose all these years). I get the impression that the various strands of these movements can be somewhat insular and operate (perhaps by necessity) in a rarefied environment, but Crow walks a careful balance for the reader, avoiding the temptation to be too didactic on the one hand, while at the same time trying not to talk in movement jargon that will alienate the general reader like myself. What we ultimately get with Crow's first full length publication, is an interesting mix of on-the-streets narrative, personal memoir, activist primer and perhaps even a bit of a manifesto (I mean that in a good way). Given the scope of what Crow is trying to convey and all that he is trying to recount, he can certainly be forgiven for a bit of unevenness in the book as a whole. Where the book truly takes off and soars is in the way it shows us the disaster of Katrina, and the disaster of our government's ham-fisted response to it, through the lens of a compassionate group of people who risked their health and safety to act directly, instead of sitting at home watching television in horror and waiting for others to act. The icing on the cake, is that we get an introduction to a very different way of looking at the world and its structures of power, a world-view that put Scott Crow and his colleagues in the right place, at the right time, to do the right thing by his conscience and for his friends in Algiers. This is a book that will shake up your ideas about your personal safety and security under the supposedly solid ground of America's infrastructure and the supposedly benevolent hand of federal government, and it is a book that will make you start thinking about where your own responsibility begins, in your own personal search for the right ways to do the right thing in a nation gone wrong.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. panthers, zapatistas, and anarchists! oh my! By James This book tells the story of the exhilarating first months of Common Ground Relief, an organization that formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to provide relief to the residents of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, in defiance of the bumbling government and non-profit bureaucracies that couldn't bear to step out from behind their desks and conventional wisdom to help desperate people out of the flood waters. It is a story of hope amid tragedy, as Common Ground succeeded in doing what FEMA and the Red Cross could not (at least on a localized scale in the Algiers neighborhood) with nothing more than a handful of volunteers, some donated bicycles and communications equipment, and a tremendous amount of courage, creativity, and perseverance. Crow traces the history of experiences, ideas, and philosophies that brought him to New Orleans and led him to help co-found Common Ground. His narrative is fast-paced and engaging, and some of his stories of the days and weeks after the storm are intensely dramatic and truly riveting. The narrative is intermixed with a dose of political theory that is well-grounded and very accessible. Some of the analysis stops short of blowing my mind or lifting me out of my seat to yell "amen!" and many of the bigger questions and lessons are left in the subtext for readers to extract themselves, rather than being made explicit and direct. But, with Occupy Wall St. capturing much of the country's imagination in response to seemingly permanent economic and social crisis, *Black Flags and Windmills* offers valuable insights, questions, and lessons about where we have been, where we might think about going, and ways we might get there. It challenges us to act big and dream bigger, because our lives depend on it.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. freedom is not free and requires great integrity By Vanessa The Vivacious even in the face of the most base, humanly reprehensible, conditions, we always have a choice. making the 'right' choice is painfully challenging at the worst of times and liberating at the best. Scott Crow faces impossible decisions and makes mistakes but stands with integrity and proves 'WE' don't need 'THEM' to save us, protect us, guard us, rule us.

Tracing a life of radical activism and the emergence of a grassroots organization in the face of disaster, this chronicle describes Scott Crow's headlong rush into the political storm surrounding the catastrophic failure of the levee in New Orleans in 2005 and the subsequent failure of state and local government agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It recounts Crow's efforts with others in the community to found Common Ground Collective, a grassroots relief organization that built medical clinics, set up food and water distribution, and created community gardens when local government agencies, FEMA, and the Red Cross were absent or ineffective. The members also stood alongside the beleaguered residents of New Orleans in resisting home demolitions, white militias, police brutality, and FEMA incompetence. This vivid, personal account maps the intersection of radical ideology with pragmatic action and chronicles a community's efforts to translate ideals into tangible results. Resisting indifference, rebuilding hope amidst

collapse, and independence from government entities emerge as persistent themes in this call to activism, demonstrating what can be done by determined individuals in extreme circumstances.

"Ultimately, Black Flags and Windmills is about envisioning a better world and trusting ourselves to believe that our dreams actually contain the paths to make it happen, not as voters, not as consumers, but as participants in a spontaneous, horizontal democracy that looks different everywhere but meets the needs of the people where they are."
The Independent (December 29, 2011)