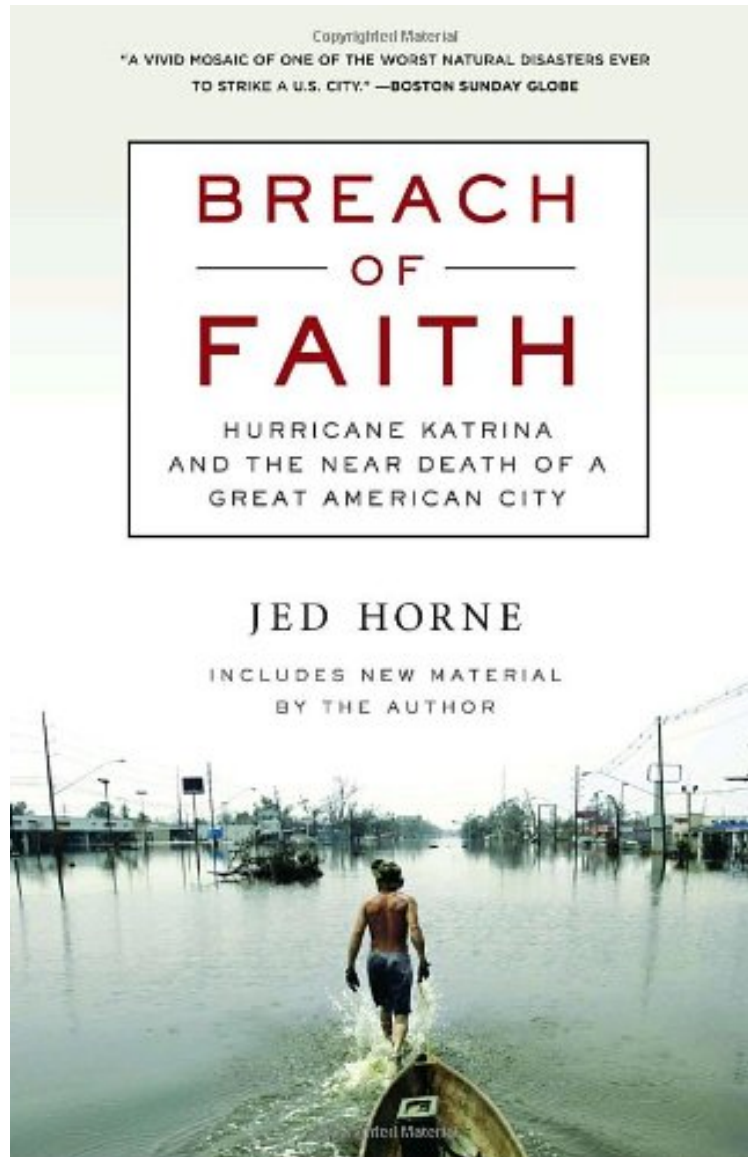


# Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City

Jed Horne

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#217198 in Books Horne, Jed 2008-07-15 2008-07-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.00 x 5.201, .76 #File Name: 0812976509464 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**Jed Horne : Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting ReadBy Patricia F. MckenzieMy interest in this book was

because I lived through the heartbreak of Katrina. I wanted to understand why it happened and why the response to the flooding was so slow and in many ways misguided. I found this book honest and direct in dealing with this complex story. Jed Horne humanized a complex story by weaving the experiences of several actual New Orleanians throughout the book. I found the book bogged down during the reporting of the recovery efforts, much like what happened in reality! The toxic mix of a hurricane and New Orleans produced a tragedy that changed lives forever. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy BeckyThis is quite a revealing book. For those who adore politicians and the business elite, I hope a lesson is learned. I have met many a displaced person from New Orleans, some good people and some not so great. I hope the city comes back as a better place to live for all concerned. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sad story. But great history of the Katrina storyBy Michael J. HardinSad story. But great history of the Katrina story. Just returned from New Orleans. Glad I read the book before the trip.

Hurricane Katrina shredded one of the great cities of the South, and as levees failed and the federal relief effort proved lethally incompetent, a natural disaster became a man-made catastrophe. As an editor of New Orleans daily newspaper, the Pulitzer Prizewinning Times-Picayune, Jed Horne has had a front-row seat to the unfolding drama of the city's collapse into chaos and its continuing struggle to survive. As the Big One bore down, New Orleanians rich and poor, black and white, lurched from giddy revelry to mandatory evacuation. The thousands who couldn't or wouldn't leave initially congratulated themselves on once again riding out the storm. But then the unimaginable happened: Within a day 80 percent of the city was under water. The rising tides chased horrified men and women into snake-filled attics and onto the roofs of their houses. Heroes in swamp boats and helicopters braved wind and storm surge to bring survivors to dry ground. Mansions and shacks alike were swept away, and then a tidal wave of lawlessness inundated the Big Easy. Screams and gunshots echoed through the blacked-out Superdome. Police threw away their badges and joined in the looting. Corpses drifted in the streets for days, and buildings marinated for weeks in a witches brew of toxic chemicals that, when the floodwaters finally were pumped out, had turned vast reaches of the city into a ghost town. Horne takes readers into the private worlds and inner thoughts of storm victims from all walks of life to weave a tapestry as intricate and vivid as the city itself. Politicians, thieves, nurses, urban visionaries, grieving mothers, entrepreneurs with an eye for quick profit at public expense—all of these lives collide in a chronicle that is harrowing, angry, and often slyly ironic. Even before stranded survivors had been plucked from their roofs, government officials embarked on a vicious blame game that further snarled the relief operation and bedeviled scientists striving to understand the massive levee failures and build New Orleans a foolproof flood defense. As Horne makes clear, this shameless politicization set the tone for the ongoing reconstruction effort, which has been haunted by racial and class tensions from the start. Katrina was a catastrophe deeply rooted in the politics and culture of the city that care forgot and of a nation that forgot to care. In *Breach of Faith*, Jed Horne has created a spellbinding epic of one of the worst disasters of our time. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers WeeklyHorne, metro editor of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, writes with the clipped, raw urgency of a thriller writer in this humanist account of what happened after the levees broke. As already widely reported, residents who ignored the mandatory evacuation order (thinking "Katrina... had all the makings of a flop") quickly found themselves surrounded by bloated corpses floating in toxic floodwaters and without a consolidated rescue effort. Horne quickly moves past the melodrama of a striking disaster to recount the stories of individuals caught in the storm's hellish aftermath or mired in the government's hamstringing response: a Louisiana State University climatologist goes head-to-head with the Army Corps of Engineers over inadequate flood protection and faulty levees; a former Black Panther provides emergency health care at a local mosque. Horne saves his sharpest barbs for President Bush and the Department of Homeland Security ("if Homeland Security... was what stood between America and the next 9/11, then... America was in deep trouble") for failing to muster an appropriate response. Big disasters spawn big books, and though Horne's isn't the definitive account, it's an honest, angry and wrenching response to a massively bungled catastrophe. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks MagazineJed Horne, metro editor for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, uses his knowledge of the devastated area to his advantage. In *Breach of Faith*, he tells some compelling, important stories, despite the amount of coverage that Hurricane Katrina has received over the past year. While the book dutifully describes the events surrounding the disaster, Horne's journalistic skill works against him on occasion. He renders his scenes sharply, if sometimes without passion (as Ceci Connolly puts it, "I found myself yearning for the soul of the Katrina story, the smelly, quirky, gut-wrenching, deadly truth of a city disintegrating"). Most critics find that Horne has created a readable and sometimes powerful record of the event. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From BooklistHorne, metro editor of the Times-Picayune, brings the enormous tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding of New Orleans down to a human scale by following several people swept up in the devastation from the day of the hurricane through the aftermath and recovery. They include a diabetic woman and her daughter trapped on a rooftop; a teenage son who evacuated then felt guilty about leaving his mother and sister; the social worker assisting victims in the Dome who was a mentor to the boy and later found his family; the university researcher who doggedly

investigated the breaches and whose computer models had predicted the catastrophe that would befall the city if the levees were breached; the Charity Hospital doctor who worked to restore order when the hospital lost its power and watched as wealthier patients from nearby facilities were rescued ahead of her poor patients. Horne also steps back to analyze the factors that led to the catastrophe, including a long history of city and state political shenanigans, federal inattention and incompetence, and blatant racism. In the aftermath, he chronicles the social, political, legal, and psychological fallout--the lawsuits, suicides, and brain drain suffered by the city that was "one of America's last, fully intact regional cultures." Horne brings fresh insights in this engrossing account of the tragedy that uncovered a national disgrace of poverty and racism and raised questions about our nation's ability to address disasters wrought by nature. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved