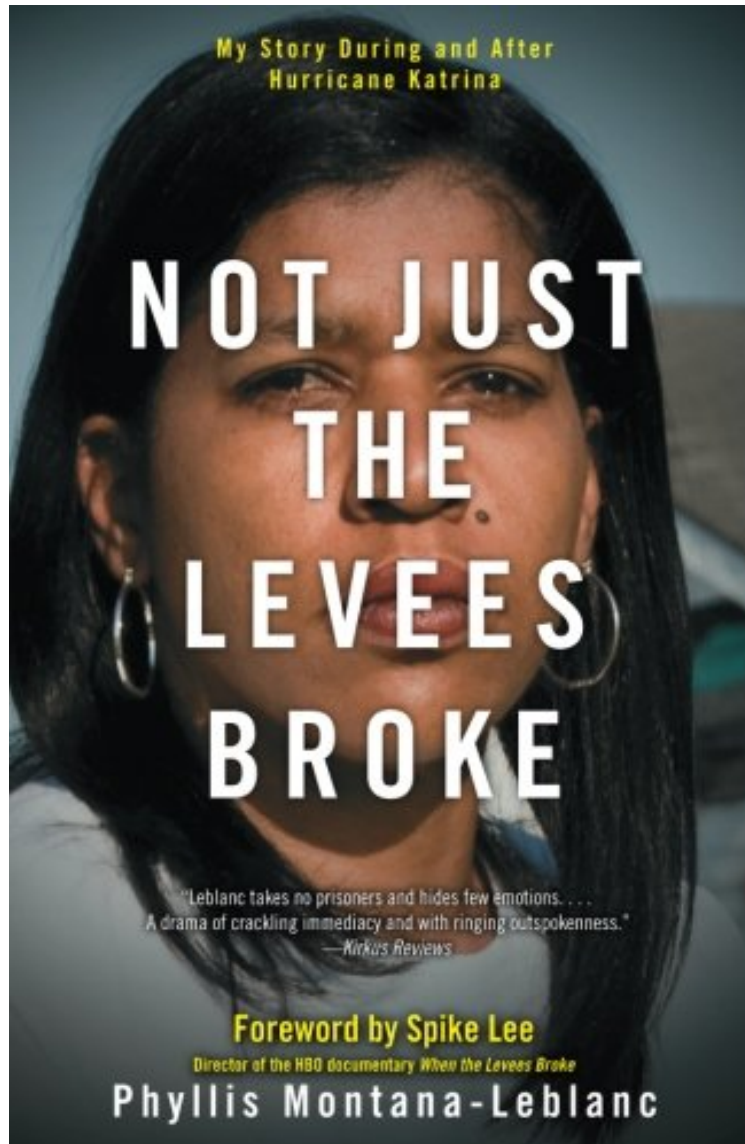


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# Not Just the Levees Broke: My Story During and After Hurricane Katrina

*Phyllis Montana-Leblanc*

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**Phyllis Montana-Leblanc : Not Just the Levees Broke: My Story During and After Hurricane Katrina** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not Just the Levees Broke: My Story During and After Hurricane Katrina:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Hurricane Katrina-A birdseye viewBy D. CouncilWhen the HBO

documentary about Hurricane Katrina first aired, I found that I focused so much on Mrs. Montana-Leblanc because she was so matter-of-fact and her poem was written from her heart. I wondered about her for years and when I saw she had written a book about her Hurricane Katrina experience, I was relieved that she had become a true survivor. This book explains how she was able to survive the trauma and answers any questions left unanswered. She gives a lot of insights into what did and didn't happen that were not covered by the documentary. Anyone interested in information about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath from the point of a true survivor should read this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a read! By Joan109 Reading Not Just the Levees Broke was a powerful experience for me. As a native New Orleanian, I was taken on that journey with the author. My heart broke as I read about the horrors she and her family encountered during the aftermath of Katrina. All the newsfeed in the world couldn't have described the intense grief, terror and eventually numbness that happened to New Orleanians during and after the storm. I have read a lot of books and articles about Katrina but none that took me on that emotional journey like this one. I am just grateful that Ms. LeBlanc survived to bring us her story in Spike Lee's documentary and now acting in her role in Treme'. Great book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very moving, an eye opener By Regina Ann Morgan I live in New Orleans now and at the time of this tragedy. I was fortunate that I did not have to endure what happened to my fellow New Orleanians went through and it is sad that those who have not can not or will not see past their own privileges to know that no one was and is begging for hand outs but or asking for the help they deserve as Americans and taxpayers and hard working people. It broke my heart, her story and the many more like it. For those who do not have a clue, you need to read the book.

Now in paperback, the astounding and poignant account of how a Katrina survivor and her husband lived through one of our nation's worst disasters and continue to put their lives back together today. A driving force in Spike Lee's acclaimed and hard-hitting HBO documentary When the Levees Broke, Phyllis Montana-LeBlanc became the outspoken voice of Katrina survivors everywhere. In her gut-wrenching memoir, Not Just the Levees Broke, she reveals the impending doom that she and her family experienced during one of the greatest disasters in contemporary American history. From the initial weather forecast to the public warnings from officials, and the increasingly devastating developments the winds, rain, and rising waters LeBlanc takes readers into the eye of the storm. With unrelenting vigor, Not Just the Levees Broke continually begs the question: What would you do in a life-and-death situation with your family and neighbors facing the ultimate test of character? Filled with the generosity of family, neighbors, and strangers; the depth of love that one can hold for another; and the power to help and heal others, Not Just the Levees Broke is a profound portrayal of the human spirit at its very best and what happens when it is pushed to the absolute limits.

From Booklist LeBlanc, one of the Hurricane Katrina survivors featured in Spike Lee's HBO documentary When the Levees Broke, offers her own extended recollection of the destruction of New Orleans Ninth Ward. LeBlanc details the decision her family made to stay in their apartment and ride out the storm and the preparations they made for what they thought would be just another hurricane. LeBlanc, her husband, Ron, her mother, and a young nephew with autism were among the Ninth Ward residents mired in filthy water and inhuman conditions following the storm. LeBlanc recalls, in very human flashes of selfishness, not wanting her more altruistic husband to risk his life helping others. She, a more reluctant hero, plotted to punish political figures she held responsible, as she struggled along atop the levee, overcoming her own fears to help strangers and try not to judge those who took advantage. All the while, LeBlanc wondered about the politics of the city and the nation that would allow such a tragedy. A very plain-spoken and personal look at a tragedy with national consequences. --Vanessa Bush From the Author Hello. I would like to thank my many supporters for reading and understanding the trials and tribulations of survival. Writing "Not Just The Levees Broke" My Story During and After Hurricane Katrina was very painful, but cathartic. It literally, saved my life being able to release all that we endured during one of the most painful times in my life. When I am asked about giving Glory to God, some readers have pointed out the profanity in my memoir. I simply tell them, "I Pray more than I Cuss." God knows my heart and I survived for a reason. My next memoir I am hoping to have published is also a journey of survival. Only this time, this one began as a teenager of 16 years old, into my young womanhood of being abused by a boyfriend. It is a story that I am hoping reaches parents to communicate with their children on both sides. The abused and the abusers, so that we can somehow bring to light this "Secret Society" that not only affects adults, but young people. Thanks again for the support and those who choose to criticize me for my being so direct and to the point. Phyllis Montana-LeBlanc. About the Author Phyllis Montana-LeBlanc is a beloved star of Spike Lee's documentary When the Levees Broke. A Hurricane Katrina survivor, she still makes her home in New Orleans, Louisiana.