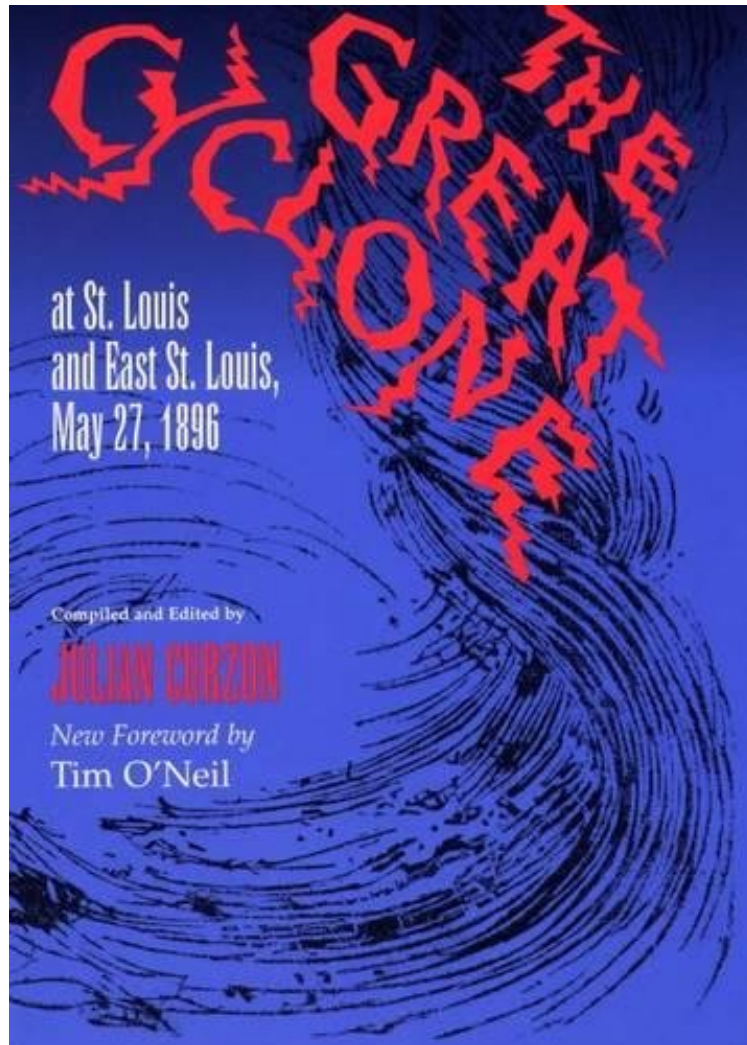


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From Brand: Southern Illinois University Press : The Great Cyclone at St Louis and East St. Louis, May 27, 1896 (Shawnee Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Cyclone at St Louis and East St. Louis, May 27, 1896 (Shawnee Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read and real surprise to this life long MissourianBy Kelly KeefeI was born and raised in Missouri and I'm ashamed to say I'd never heard of this tornado before I ran across a reference to it, and this book, on another web site. I immediately ordered the book to find out more.It answered a lot of questions I'd always had. My GGGrandfather had come down from Canada and settled in St. Louis a few years before

the events depicted in the book happened. He was a building contractor and somehow, I always wondered how, managed to amass a fair amount of wealth before moving on to bigger and better things in Colorado (where he worked on the Denver Mint) and later managed to own just about half of what is now downtown Tulsa, OK. Now I have an inkling how he managed to do so, but am saddened at the how. As you can imagine for accounts written so long ago, the language is a bit awkward by today's standards, yet the book is still a good read. Filled with pathos and a great deal of detail. It tends to repeat itself a bit, but that's not totally surprising since it's based on multiple newspaper accounts. All in all a good read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. fascinating story By Thomas P. Mcauliffe Fascinating reprint of a extremely interesting famous disaster in Saint Louis Missouri. Great for weather buffs! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TOO MANY BUILDINGS, TOO LITTLE CYCLONE By Severin Olson In 1896 St Louis was hit by a powerful tornado claiming 255 lives and millions in losses. While largely forgotten now, it was one of the great disasters of the 19th Century and put paid to the belief that tornadoes never hit cities. I have very little material on this storm and was pleased to see a book of over 400 pages available, written just after the catastrophe. The most enjoyable and interesting parts here are descriptions of the strange storm events, like rooms destroyed with undisturbed dinner on the table. One can never get enough of such accounts. Curzon refers to the storm as a tornado, a cyclone and even a hurricane! Contemporaries were just not quite sure what they were dealing with. Unfortunately, most of the book is less good. Page after page describes damage to individual buildings, of little use to anyone unacquainted with 1890's St Louis. And while it is always interesting to read books from the distant past, there is nothing to make this one especially noteworthy or controversial. Still, it would have earned five stars if it had only had more on the tornado itself.

Shortly after 5:00 P.M. On Wednesday, May 27, 1896, a Herculean tornado shattered the St. Louis Area. Within twenty minutes, 137 people had perished in St. Louis, with 118 dead across the river in East St. Louis. Along a ten-mile swath of devastation, the tornado destroyed 311 buildings, heavily damaged 7,200 others and caused significant harm to 1,300 more. Even today, that powerful cyclone of a century ago "remains the single deadliest incident to befall the St. Louis area," according to Tim O'Neil of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who wrote the foreword for this historic reprint of a book originally published by the Cyclone Publishing Company. Heavily illustrated by photographs of the damage, The Great Cyclone was compiled from stories in the city's daily newspaper—the Globe-Democrat, the Post-Dispatch, and, most notably, the old St. Louis Republic. O'Neil points out that "the book's compilers are not identified, but their glowing praise of the superb descriptive composition in the Republic provides a good guess about where most of them worked."

From the Back Cover Shortly after 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 27, 1896, a Herculean tornado shattered the St. Louis area. Within twenty minutes, 137 people had perished in St. Louis, with 118 dead across the river in East St. Louis. Along a ten-mile swath of devastation, the tornado destroyed 311 buildings, heavily damaged 7,200 others, and caused significant harm to 1,300 more. Even today, that powerful cyclone of a century ago "remains the single deadliest incident to befall the St. Louis area", according to Tim O'Neil of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who wrote the foreword for this historic reprint of a book originally published by the Cyclone Publishing Company. The Great Cyclone at St. Louis and East St. Louis, May 27, 1896 was compiled and published at a speed that rivals some of today's quickie publications. The Cyclone Publishing Company obtained its copyright in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 1896, only nine days after the tornado had churned like a killer turbine through the two cities. But a disaster in a major metropolis demanded speed. The public was ravenous for news of what the winds had wrought in St. Louis, at the time the nation's fourth largest city. The Great Cyclone is remarkable for more than the speed with which it was published. Filled with interviews and a great array of illustrations, with factual accounts of where the damage occurred, with lists of the dead and injured, and with the colorful descriptive passages popular among newspapers of the day ("Fire King", "Storm King", "Situation sufficiently horrible to unman the hardiest"), this book presents the best available picture of what happened a hundred years ago in St. Louis. It is, as O'Neil says, a "work of reporting from brick-strewn streets".