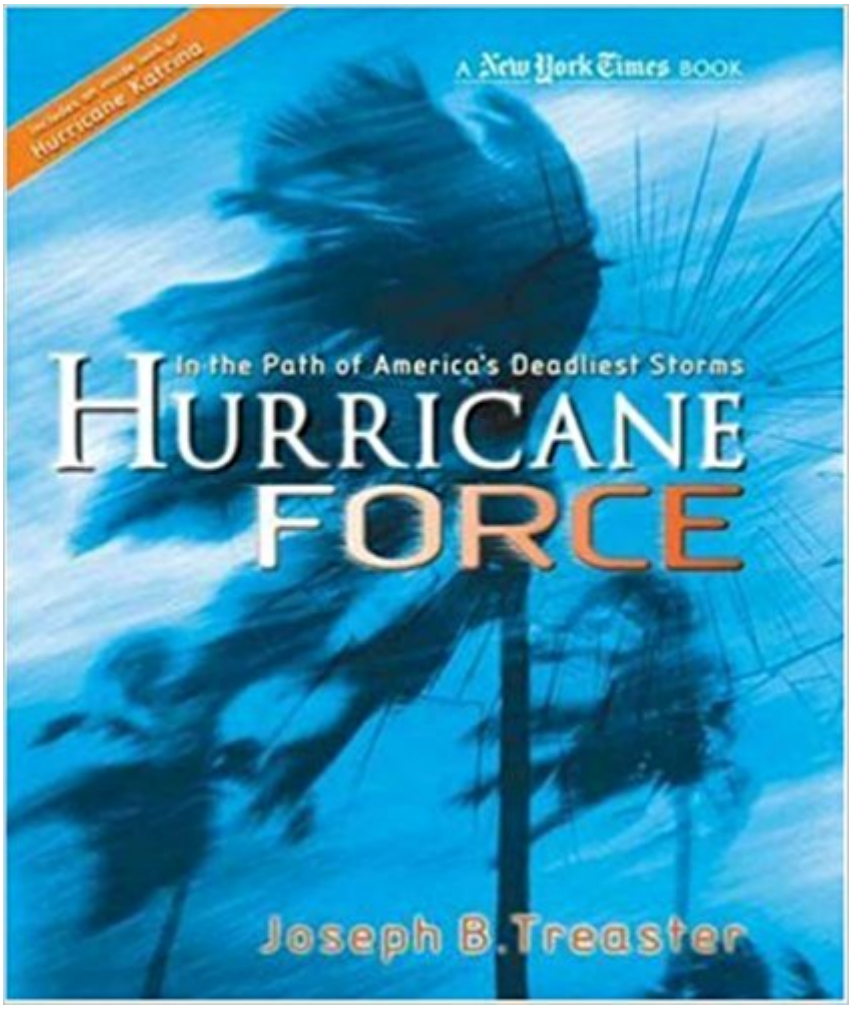
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# Hurricane Force: In The Path Of America's Deadliest Storms (New York Times)




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## Synopsis

August 29, 2005Peering through the latticed brickwork of The New Orleans police headquarters parking garage, New York Times journalist Joseph B. Treaster is watching the devastating power of a hurricane up close. Packing winds of 118 miles per hour, Hurricane Katrina is attacking New Orleans, uprooting trees, tearing down power lines, and flattening homes. Inside headquarters, phones are ringing off the hook as more and more people, trapped by the rising floodwaters, call for help. But rescue workers cannot leave the safety of the building until the hurricane has passed. From this harrowing vantage point, Treaster is poised to report on what may prove to be the most infamous storm in American history.But as with all hurricanes, the story of this storm began weeks before, off thecoast of North Africa. Treaster details the evolution of the storm as it unfolds in the sky above the Caribbean Sea and is anxiously tracked by the National Weather Bureau in Florida before it strikes. This is a complete behind-the-scenes account of one of nature's most terrifying and fascinating disasters.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 4-8Ã¢â ¬â œUsing books and other resources listed in his source notes, personal experiences growing up in South Florida and as a reporter for the New York Times, and

material garnered from the newspaper, Treaster has created a serious scientific and socioeconomic look at one of nature’s deadliest forces. From the tragic Galveston storm of 1900 to Katrina and Rita in 2005, he investigates the weather factors necessary to spawn these meteorological monsters, how scientists define their possible paths and potential power, and the drastic effects and aftermaths when they impact coastal areas. His follow-up includes precautions for the future (building more hurricane-proof housing) and a time line for Katrina. Sidebars touch on such topics as global warming and the disaster of the use of the Superdome as a hurricane shelter. For visual stimulation there are a number of colorful maps and diagrams, and photos aplenty (mostly in color). While the focal point is Hurricane Katrina and the lessons to be learned from it, the book contains other valuable data on fierce storms and the social upheaval engendered by them. If you already own such well-researched and attractive titles as Patricia Lauber’s Hurricanes (Scholastic, 1996) and/or Seymour Simon’s Hurricanes (HarperCollins, 2003), you might think you could do without this. Think again.Ã¢â ¬â œPatricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

*Starred Review* Journalist Treaster reported on Hurricane Katrina from New Orleans for the I^ New York Times, and his gripping photo-essay blends particulars of the tragedy with an in-depth overview of America’s hurricane history--including both the science of meteorology and the grim human drama. Treaster is not exploitative as he tells about the disaster and the heroic rescues, then confronts the facts about what technology can and cannot do: "for all the gadgetry and experience and devotion, scientists still don’t know exactly where a hurricane will strike and with how much force." His warning is clear: there is a dire need for advanced planning and better methods for evacuation. Along with weather diagrams, there are lots of full-color photographs that bring close the high winds and surging seas of hurricanes, the shattered homes, and pictures of people rescued or lost. The extensive back matter is an integral part of the book with detailed source notes, including subject references to I^ Times

My son had got this book from the local public library and it ended up being lost and I just replaced it directly myself at a responsible price.

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As a reporter, Treaster’s job required him to head not away from Hurricane Katrina, but right into the

heart of it. After the storm, he was asked to turn his experiences into a book, which he has done. The result is a quite readable book about Hurricane Katrina and the science and tracking of hurricanes in general.He starts with a brief look at the history of hurricanes and the human reactions to them. He follows that up by talking about some of his own experiences with hurricanes and the horrific damage they do. Then he explores the science of hurricanes and the technology developed to monitor and study them, including the dangerous job of flying into the heart of hurricanes. He moves on to discuss the ways that people react to hurricanes, everything from evacuation to sitting it out.This book provides a very readable account of what it's like to live through and study hurricanes, as well as giving an introduction to the nature of hurricanes. The book would make a nice complement to a study of the weather by giving students a spectator's eye view of this most devastating of storms. The photographs, charts, diagrams, and sidebars provide supporting information. Recommended to those who like me are fascinated with the weather.

I've never had to live through a hurricane. Living in the Midwest, I don't see it happening in the near future, and after reading HURRICANE FORCE I can say that I'm glad! If you've ever wondered about the destructive force of these massive storms, this is definitely the book for you.Although a large portion of the book focuses on the August 2005 arrival of Hurricane Katrina to the Gulf Coast, references are also made to hurricanes dating as far back as the early 1900's. Chapters are also spent on the work done by the National Weather Service in tracking, reporting, and identifying hurricanes, as well as how NWS strategies have changed over the years.Maps and photos of actual radar images are prevalent throughout the book, tracking the progress of well-known hurricanes such as Katrina, Rita, and Charley. Photos of horrific damage resulting from these hurricanes, especially that of Katrina, are also shown, making the devastation seem that much more personable.I would recommend HURRICANE FORCE to anyone interested in hurricanes, Katrina in particular, but also to those looking for more insight on how hurricanes form and what causes them to strike where they do. A highly informative book!Reviewed by: Jennifer Wardrip, aka "The Genius"

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