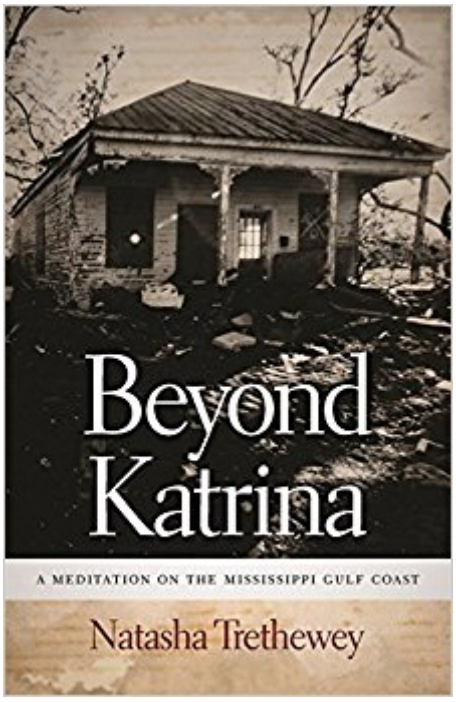
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# Beyond Katrina: A Meditation On The Mississippi Gulf Coast (Sarh Mills Hodge Fund Publications)




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## Synopsis

Beyond Katrina is poet Natasha TretheweyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s very personal profile of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and of the people there whose lives were forever changed by hurricane Katrina.Trethewey spent her childhood in Gulfport, where much of her motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s extended family, including her younger brother, still lives. As she worked to understand the devastation that followed the hurricane, Trethewey found inspiration in Robert Penn WarrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book Segregation: The Inner Conflict in the South, in which he spoke with southerners about race in the wake of the Brown decision, capturing an event of wide impact from multiple points of view. Weaving her own memories with the experiences of family, friends, and neighbors, Trethewey traces the erosion of local culture and the rising economic dependence on tourism and casinos. She chronicles decades of wetland development that exacerbated the destruction and portrays a Gulf Coast whose citizensÃ¢â ¬â ¢particularly African AmericansÃ¢â ¬â ¢were on the margins of American life well before the storm hit. Most poignantly, Trethewey illustrates the destruction of the hurricane through the story of her brotherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s efforts to recover what he lost and his subsequent incarceration.Renowned for writing about the idea of home, TretheweyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s attempt to understand and document the damage to Gulfport started as a series of lectures at the University of Virginia that were subsequently published as essays in the Virginia Quarterly Review. For Beyond Katrina, Trethewey has expanded this work into a narrative that incorporates personal letters, poems, and photographs, offering a moving meditation on the love she holds for her childhood home.A Sarah Mills Hodge Fund Publication.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Trethewey opens her powerful meditation with "You can get there from here, though there's no going home," a line taken from her Pulitzer Prize-winning 2007 book, Native Guard. When she wrote that line she was "thinking figuratively" about the passage of time; now "the poem had become quite literal." Trethewey combines poetry, prose, and correspondence to paint a poignant picture of the effects of Katrina on her family and on the black community in which she grew up. She writes of her 92-year-old grandmother who didn't eat for weeks after she was evacuated from her home. Disoriented, she moved to Atlanta to live with the author before entering the nursing home where she would soon die. Trethewey also relates the sad story of her brother, Joe. When some homes he owned were destroyed in the flood, he took what odd jobs he could get on the coast before eventually transporting cocaine for an acquaintance. He was caught and sentenced to 15 years in prison. By looking at the vast devastation with sober and poetic eyes, Trethewey has written a hauntingly beautiful book. (Sept.) (c) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Within this book's quiet thoughts lies a powerful story of things long gone that will never come back. What is lost can only be captured by memory. And Trethewey's prose captures memory with poetic precision. (W. Ralph Eubanks All Things Considered)By looking at the vast devastation with sober and poetic eyes, Trethewey has written a hauntingly beautiful book. (Publishers Weekly  (starred review))Heartfelt, righteous, humane, Ã¢â ¬Å“Beyond KatrinaÃ¢â ¬Â• richly deserves to become one of the indispensible Katrina books. (Mobile Press-Register )Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is more about the stormÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sociological and psychological results for the Coast and its people, North Gulfport in particular, than its physical damage. But itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s seldom about generalizations. . . . This is a powerful, sometimes painful, book that gets underneath comfortable memories Ã¢â ¬â ¢ wherever the reader lives. (Biloxi and South Mississippi Sun Herald)Beyond Katrina examines both the public and personal impact of the tragedy from the perspective of a writer uniquely qualified to undertake such a fraught and challenging project. She brings to the volume an insiderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s knowledge and deep-felt affection for the place and its culture, but also an expatriateÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sense of wary detachment. On a grander scale, the book is permeated with the sense that memory and the past can only exist as ruin. This book offers

continuing evidence that Natasha Trethewey is one of our most indispensable poets, and tell us as well that she is a prose writer of the first order. (David Wojahn author of Interrogation Palace: New and Selected Poems 1982Ã¢â ¬â œ2004)With BellocqÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ophelia and Native Guard, Natasha Trethewey demonstrated an uncanny and urgent empathy for overlooked but crucial persons and events in the American past. Beyond Katrina extends that nuanced vision and compassion into multiple dimensions of the past, present, and future of this immeasurable national tragedy. It is a great interpretive pleasure and a significant emotional experience to follow her as she sifts the personal, historical, political, and geographic modes of experience to reveal what hurricane Katrina has meantÃ¢â ¬â ¢and can and must meanÃ¢â ¬â ¢for the Gulf Coast and the nation as a whole. (Anthony Walton author of Mississippi: An American Journey)

Much like 9/11, most people can remember the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s lasting effects. In times of crisis and natural disaster, America seems to come together and join as one unit, despite differences. People from other states come to the relief and offer help and however big or small that help may be, those on the receiving end are grateful. Natasha Tretheway touches on the devastation that was caused by Katrina in her memoir, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and how people stepped up to offer help, while others could only help themselves in the midst of the tragedy. In her book, Tretheway sheds light on the wreckage and aftermath of the hurricane in her hometown. She also lets the reader have a peak into the Gulf Coast pre-Katrina, because there are many who are ignorant or naÃƒÆ'Ã Â ve as to what it was actually like. It was said after the hurricane hit that ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“They deserved itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• or ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“It is a cleansing of the coastÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and it is comments such as this that cause Tretheway to defend her hometown with such conviction and also why she feels the need to enlighten the reader on the lives of real people there. While Tretheway was not living in Mississippi at the time of the hurricane, her family was so she saw itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s effects in great detail. She doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t let it go unsaid, though, that the people of America banded together to help. The relief efforts after Katrina were unbelievable and really pulled at the localÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hearts strings. The gambling town was quickly restored and made to draw more tourists in by building monuments of Katrina, but there were many families who did not have such luck and struggled to get on their feet. Houses were torn down, against the ownersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ will, because they were condemned and people didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have the money to fix them in the amount of time that was required. But, despite all of this, the

people of the Gulf pressed forward, Tretheway explains. It was not all bliss after the hurricane. Tretheway tells about her brothers girlfriend AeshaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s experience. She lived in an apartment, was a model tenant and had a son who lived with her. Despite her never being late on rent, never causing any problems or anything, after the hurricane she got kicked out by her landlords, because they needed room to house their own family. This is an example of how in ways Katrina was almost a survival of the fittest scenario for the locals. Everyone had to take care of his own before he could worry about anyone else. Despite situations like that one, it is pretty unanimous that the people who experienced the detrimental effects of hurricane Katrina felt the help and love offered by others. Tretheway warns the reader that you can never be so sure about home. It is always temporary and there is no way to secure it. Home changes and can never be re-found once it is lost. A new one can be rebuilt, but the old one is forever just a memory.

Natasha Trethewey's narrative keeps the reader engaged from cover to cover. It highlights the cavalier treatment and governmental mismanagement of our society and our relationship with the environment. This book could easily reach the status of required reading for middle-school through university curriculae. Without a doubt, it should be mandatory reading for every elected public official.

Trethewey is correct. We heard little about the Mississippi coast and a great deal about New Orleans. What I found the most intriguing within a highly interesting narrative was the way she touched upon why her beloved grandmother had played such an important role in her and her brother's life. I was unaware of the 1985 tragedy that Trethewey included only in her brother's writing, not her own. She was so subtle about an issue so obviously important that I went to the internet to do my own research in order to understand it. Her poetry added greatly to the understanding she intended to convey about how devastating and life-changing Katrina was to everyone but most harmfully to the poor.

Difficult read. Not easy to follow.

These books came just as order and detailed, nice neat and compact.They were right on point, and right on time, inexpensive compared to the school pricel would recommend them.Yolanda

Took a while to understand where she was going, but once you put all the pieces together it was

emotionally powerful and moving. Thanks for another story aside from what the public has seen, that of the same images of the initial storm aftermath.

Great buy

I got this book for this semester English class. And I am learning a lot from it.Obviously it explains in depth about how Mississippi, suffered during the aftermath of Katrina.

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