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A.D.: New Orleans After The Deluge (Pantheon Graphic Novels)



Synopsis

Now in paperback, The New York Times best-selling graphic nonfiction masterpiece depicting the lives of seven New Orleanians before, during, and just after Hurricane Katrina. • Best American Comics, 2010 Mother Jones Top Books of 2009 Daily Beast Recommends New York Best Comics of 2009, Runner Up MTV.com Best Nonfiction Comic of 2009 San Francisco Chronicle • Best in Comics • A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge is a masterful portrait of a city under siege. Cartoonist Josh Neufeld depicts seven extraordinary true stories of survival in the days leading up to and following Hurricane Katrina. Here we meet Denise, a counselor and social worker, and a sixth-generation New Orleanian; • The Doctor, • a proud fixture of the French Quarter; Abbas and Darnell, two friends who face the storm from Abbas's family-run market; Kwame, a pastor's son just entering his senior year of high school; and the young couple Leo and Michelle, who both grew up in the city. Each is forced to confront the same wrenching decision • whether to stay or to flee. As beautiful as it is poignant, A.D. presents a city in chaos and shines a bright, profoundly human light on the tragedies and triumphs that took place within it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not really sure what more can be said about this book that hasn't already been said in many of the larger media outlets (New York Times, LA Times, etc. etc. etc.). But I can say this... up until now, I have only placed -- on prominent display -- two other so-called "graphic novels" among my collection of great literary works: Art Spiegelman's "Maus" and Joe Sacco's "Palestine." Rarely do

cartoonists tackle such weighty issues so deftly, illustrating relevant and often painful subject matters with the deepest empathy while managing to avoid becoming pedantic and maudlin. Like Spiegelman and Sacco, Mr. Neufeld has brought to life, in his own unique and inimitable way, a chapter in human history that cannot be ignored, and in fact must be discussed and remembered. And he has done so not by playing it safe -- by churning out yet another trite and overly egregious account of events that might cheapen the subject matter (after all, the visual devastation of Katrina has been thoroughly played out on television, so much so that it has been somewhat diminished into yet another voyeuristic reality show, transforming it into stale and vulgar entertainment). Instead, Mr. Neufeld does the unexpected: he brings it down to earth, makes it intimate, allows those of us who lived safely thousands of miles away to hear, see and perhaps feel the hurricane's impact as it was felt by the people who experienced it firsthand. He has essentially retold a familiar story, but in such a way to make it fresh and even more poignant than before. Not an easy task, but with "A.D." it is absolutely achieved. If you are looking for a superficial and one-dimensional cheap thrill -- to find entertainment in the blood, guts, and other viscera of a natural catastrophe -- perhaps you'd do better watching the Weather Channel.

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