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Storm of the Century: The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935

Willie Drye

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On Labor Day, 1935, at the height of the Great Depression, the fiercest hurricane in the history of the United States tore through the Florida Keys. In the heart of its fury lay a group of down-and-out World War I veterans who had been sent to the Keys on a federally sponsored work project. Living in hastily built shacks just yards from the Atlantic Ocean, the men were completely unprepared for the 200-mile-per-hour winds and massive waves that would assail them on the night of September 2, 1935.

In *Storm of the Century,* journalist Willie Drye creates a vivid account of the storm's rampage. DryeÂ¼s bracing narrative, featuring previously undisclosed documents from the official government investigation, delivers the first comprehensive explanation of how the economic crisis of the Depression, the need for political expediency, and the violent storm led to the loss of life of innocent workers and great political turmoil. Told from the alternating viewpoints of storm survivors, government officials, and locals, *Storm of the Century* is a haunting tale of the devastating power of nature and politics.

Praise for *Storm of the Century:*

"Engrossing....Vividly captures the hurricane's monstrous energy." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A stirring tale of nature's power and an exposé of government ineptitude....Compelling reading." —*BookPage*

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