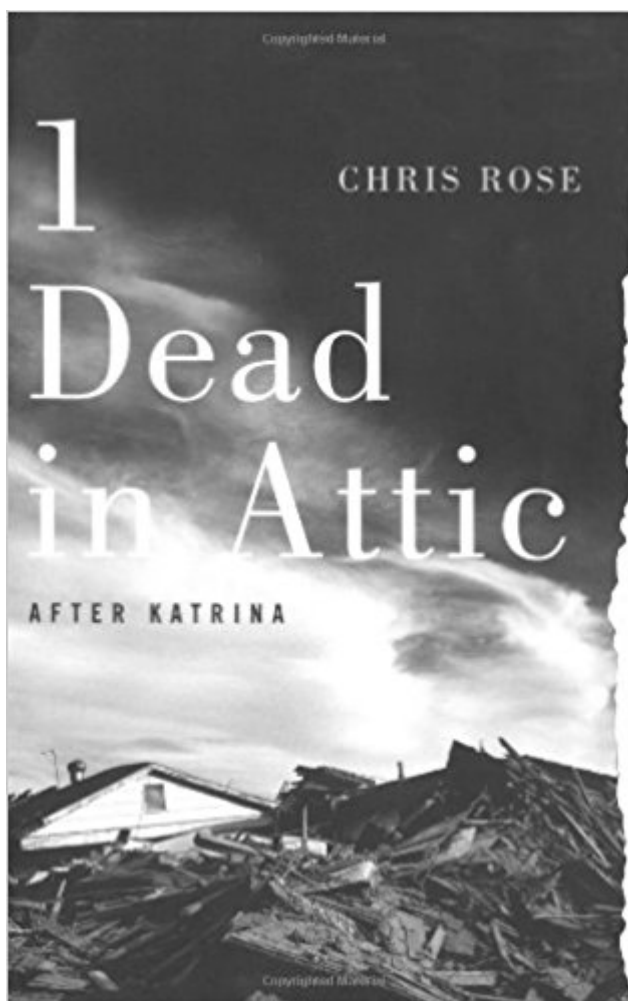


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# 1 Dead In Attic: After Katrina



## Synopsis

Originally a self-published sensation by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, *1 Dead in Attic* captures the heart and soul of New Orleans in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. *1 Dead in Attic* is a collection of stories by Times-Picayune columnist Chris Rose, recounting the first harrowing year and a half of life in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Celebrated as a local treasure and heaped with national praise, Rose provides a rollercoaster ride of observation, commentary, emotion, tragedy, and even humor—*in a way that only he could find in a devastated wasteland. They are stories of the dead and the living, stories of survivors and believers, stories of hope and despair. And stories about refrigerators. 1 Dead in Attic freeze-frames New Orleans, caught between an old era and a new, during its most desperate time, as it struggles out of the floodwaters and wills itself back to life.*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The physical and psychic dislocation wrought by Hurricane Katrina is painstakingly recollected in this brilliant collection of columns by award-winning New Orleans Times-Picayune columnist Rose (who has already hand-sold 60,000 self-published copies). After evacuating his family first to Mississippi and then to his native Maryland, Rose returned almost immediately to chronicle his adopted hometown's journey to "hell and back." Rose deftly sketches portraits of the living, from the cat lady who survives the storm only to die from injuries sustained during a post-hurricane mugging, to the California National Guard troops who gratefully chow down on steaks Rose managed to turn up in an unscathed French Quarter freezer. He's equally adept at

evoking the spirit of the dead and missing, summed up by the title, quoting the entirety of an epitaph spray-painted on one home. Although the usual suspects (FEMA and Mayor Ray Nagin, among others) receive their fair share of barbs, Rose's rancor toward the powers that be is surprisingly muted. In contrast, he chronicles his own descent into mental illness (and subsequent recovery) with unsparing detail; though his maniacal dedication to witnessing the innumerable tragedies wrought by "The Thing" took him down a dark, dangerous path ("three friends of mine have, in fact, killed themselves in the past year"), it also produced one of the finest first-person accounts yet in the growing Katrina canon. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Hurricane Katrina boosted Rose's career and damn near destroyed his life. A columnist for the Times-Picayune, Rose wrote disarmingly direct, funny, and fully loaded essays about the horrific aftermath of the storm, the terror and loss, injustice and irony. An intrepid explorer of the wreckage, Rose chronicles the decimated city's horrible smell, daunting debris, and Twilight Zone atmosphere. Rose jokes about how Survivor should have been set in New Orleans and tells jaw-dropping and heartwarming stories about chance and stoicism, brutality and heroism. Readers love and rely on his column, which earns him a Pulitzer, and when he self-publishes a collection of his essays, it promptly sells 65,000 copies. But as a conduit for all the sorrows of the lost city, Rose experiences a catastrophic inner storm and candidly reports on his plunge into depression. This frank and compelling collection combines Rose's original book with later dispatches from hell covering all of 2006 and adding up to a vivid and invaluable testimony to the true repercussions, public and personal, of the devastation of a city. Seaman, Donna

Don't let the title put you off. This book, although about a tragedy, is full of humor that reminded me of David Sedaris in its bite, but was like no-one else I'd read in its passionate anger for a city that's struggling to breathe after a disaster. I recently asked two writers I work with which authors they would like to emulate and why. Chris Rose was one of mine. Where he takes the reader at the end, in terms of his personal story, was surprising and the perfect way to end one of the best books I've read in years. If I had another star this would have gotten six.

A must read... He captured the chaos felt by all effected by Hurricane Katrina and he does perfectly. It took me 10 years after the storm to be able to read a word about it again. I'm so glad I did.

Reading the words of someone who knows the city and was there during Katrina was surprisingly healing. The dark thoughts...everyone had them. Chris Rose validated our dark thoughts by putting those thoughts into words.

Being from South Louisiana, I was familiar with Chris Rose's sensibilities and interesting observations on life. I was totally captivated by his telling of the devastation waged against Nola by The Thing. While this isn't a chronicle of the storm details, Mr. Rose makes you see it, smell it, taste it, hear it and feel it.....I could literally feel the author's desperation to tell this story and could feel him slipping into depression. Glad to know he survived all that Katrina was to him and New Orleans, and all that it will be for years to come! Kudos for sharing with us Mr. Rose.

1 Dead in Attic and HBO's Treme came late to understanding post-Katrina New Orleans, because I didn't visit the city again until last winter. But Chris Rose's collection of essays "1 Dead in Attic" retains its immediacy. Here was essentially a lifestyle columnist one of the few standing-broadcasting from the belly of the beast. It tells you the power of being a trained observer. And the limits-Rose descends into a breakdown, addiction, and divorce. The dedication says it all: "This book is dedicated to Thomas Coleman, a retired longshoreman, who died in his attic at 2214 St. Roch Avenue in New Orleans' 8th Ward on or about August 29, 2005. He had a can of juice and a bedspread at his side as the waters rose. There were more than a thousand like him." Which takes me to "Treme"-the wonderful HBO series. My New Orleans informant who recommended it said-it starts three months after Katrina, or as you can see, it might be three years..." Lacking television, I watched the first series all at once, with its elaborate weaving and back weaving of plot worthy of a nineteenth century novel. There is a lot to like-not to mention the music-but the thing I might have found the hardest to understand is the self-destruction of writer/intellectual Cray. However, having read "1 Dead in Attic" I saw it coming. Of interest to writers, the book was originally self-published. Of interest to us all, the opening quote from Judy Deck: "If there was no New Orleans, America would just be a bunch of free people dying of boredom."

A very special, well-written account of Hurricane Katrina and its effect on the people of New Orleans. The raw emotion and compassion of Chris Rose's account is extremely moving and has remained with me even after these 11 years have passed. I would highly recommend this book, not only as account of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, but also as a true reflection of the human spirit.

This is writing at its best. have just published a post I wrote to tout this book. You can find my review at [Stephenyhoughtlin.com](http://Stephenyhoughtlin.com) I hope you will take time to read and celebrate the accomplishment of this reliable witness, Chris Rose, when it comes to Katrina and the series of amazing columns reproduced in this book. Can't say enough as a writer, and addicted reader, about this book.

Great book: terrific writer.

It's a great read from someone who was there during Katrina and the aftermath. I've never read a book that took me through the pain and loss of this great city and the horrors of the cleanup.

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