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# When The Mississippi Ran Backwards Empire Intrigue Murder And New Madrid Earthquakes Jay Feldman

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*These Precious Days*  
Columbia University Press  
Published in refutation of  
Captain Willard Glazier's  
claim of having discovered  
the true source of the  
Mississippi River.

A Spark of Light  
University of Chicago  
Press

The first book in  
English by an  
acclaimed Danish  
writer: "beautiful,  
faceted, haunting  
stories . . . [from] a  
rising star" (Junot  
Díaz) Karate Chop,  
Dorthe Nors's  
acclaimed story  
collection, is the debut  
book in the  
collaboration between  
Graywolf Press and A  
Public Space. These  
fifteen compact stories  
are meticulously  
observed glimpses of

everyday life that  
expose the ominous  
lurking under the  
ordinary. While his wife  
sleeps, a husband  
prowls the Internet,  
obsessed with female  
serial killers; a  
bureaucrat tries to  
reinvent himself,  
exposing goodness as  
artifice when he  
converts to Buddhism  
in search of power; a  
woman sits on the edge  
of the bed where her  
lover lies, attempting to  
locate a motive for his  
violence within her own  
self-doubt. Shifting  
between moments of  
violence (real and  
imagined) and mundane  
contemporary life,  
these stories  
encompass the  
complexity of human  
emotions, our capacity

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for cruelty as well as compassion. Not so much minimalist as stealthy, Karate Chop delivers its blows with an understatement that shows a master at work.

Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement  
Simon and Schuster

A century after Appomattox, the civil rights movement won full citizenship for black Americans in the South. It should not have been necessary: by 1870 those rights were set in the Constitution. This is the story of the terrorist campaign that took them away. Nicholas Lemann opens his extraordinary new book with a riveting account of the horrific events of Easter 1873 in Colfax, Louisiana, where a white militia of Confederate veterans-turned-vigilantes attacked the black community there and massacred hundreds of people in a gruesome killing spree. This was the start of an insurgency that changed the

course of American history: for the next few years white Southern Democrats waged a campaign of political terrorism aiming to overturn the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments and challenge President Grant's support for the emergent structures of black political power. The remorseless strategy of well-financed "White Line" organizations was to create chaos and keep blacks from voting out of fear for their lives and livelihoods. Redemption is the first book to describe in uncompromising detail this organized racial violence, which reached its apogee in Mississippi in 1875. Lemann bases his devastating account on a wealth of military records, congressional investigations, memoirs, press reports, and the invaluable papers of Adelbert Ames, the war hero from Maine who was Mississippi's governor at the time. When Ames pleaded with Grant for federal troops who could thwart the white terrorists violently disrupting Republican political activities, Grant wavered, and the result was a bloody, corrupt

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election in which Mississippi was "redeemed"—that is, returned to white control. Redemption makes clear that this is what led to the death of Reconstruction—and of the rights encoded in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. We are still living with the consequences.

The New Madrid Earthquakes  
Oxford University Press

In *Only in St. Louis!*, Charlie Brennan shares the most incredible, strange and inspiring stories he has come across in his three decades talking about the Gateway City. Readers will learn: Wilt Chamberlain was traded in a St. Louis restaurant. Jesus Christ Superstar was first staged in St. Louis, not New York. A St. Louis Cardinal pitcher beat Randy Johnson while drinking vodka. A St. Louis mayor was buried three times. Supreme Court Justices laughed aloud while hearing a St. Louis case. A St. Louis woman woke up when she heard an intruder...who turned out to be a national celebrity. Kenny Wayne Shepherd's worst moment on stage was in St. Louis. A St.

Louis man found \$1,200 in his ceiling. J.S. Bach's personal bibles are in St. Louis. A St. Louis high school name is actually misspelled. Why Kurt Warner listed his name and address in the phone book. The Air Force's biggest weapon is made in St. Louis. John Lennon's song "Imagine" has a St. Louis connection. The NFL's "lowest blow" has ties to St. Louis. Twinkies were named in St. Louis. A lost wallet led to one of the best-selling songs of the 1960s. The woman who injected John Belushi with a fatal dose hid in St. Louis. A St. Louis man swam 292 miles of the Mississippi River without stopping. Why General William Tecumseh Sharman could defeat the south but not City Hall. The only company to prepare cocaine for medicinal use is in St. Louis. A St. Louis barista became a billionaire. A man was attacked by a shark in downtown St. Louis. A St. Louis man played basketball for St. Louis Community College, football for Yale and is now a top national journalist. Brennan, host of "The

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Charlie Brennan Show" on KMOX and provocateur of "Donnybrook" on KETC-TV, curates these and other stories for the first time in one volume. *Freedom's Main Line* Oxford University Press

Most Americans imagine the Civil War in terms of clear and defined boundaries of freedom and slavery: a straightforward division between the slave states of Kentucky and Missouri and the free states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kansas. However, residents of these western border states, Abraham Lincoln's home region, had far more ambiguous identities-and contested political

loyalties-than we commonly assume. In *The Rivers Ran Backward*, Christopher Phillips sheds light on the fluid political cultures of the "Middle Border" states during the Civil War era. Far from forming a fixed and static boundary between the North and South, the border states experienced fierce internal conflicts over their political and social loyalties. White supremacy and widespread support for the existence of slavery pervaded the "free" states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, which had much closer economic and cultural ties to the South, while those in Kentucky and

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Missouri held little the western border identification with states as they the South except over struggled with slavery. Debates questions of raged at every level, nationalism, racial from the individual politics, secession, to the state, in neutrality, loyalty, parlors, churches, and even place-as the schools, and public Civil War tore the meeting places, among nation, and families, neighbors, themselves, apart. In and friends. this major work, Ultimately, the Phillips shows that pervasive violence of the Civil War was the Civil War and the more than a conflict cultural politics pitting the North that raged in its against the South, aftermath proved to but one within the be the strongest West that permanently determining factor in reshaped American shaping these states' regions. regional identities, *The New Madrid* leaving an indelible *Earthquake* Graywolf imprint on the way in Press which Americans think From Jay Feldmen of themselves and comes an others in the nation. enlightening work The Rivers Ran about how the most Backward reveals the powerful complex history of

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earthquakes in the Mississippi River's history of America first steamboat, united the Indians piloted by Nicholas in one last Roosevelt, powered desperate itself toward New rebellion, reversed Orleans on its the Mississippi maiden voyage. The River, revealed a sky grew hazy and seamy murder in the red, and jolts of Jefferson family, electricity flashed and altered the in the air. A course of the War prophecy by of 1812. On Tecumseh was about December 15, 1811, to be fulfilled. He two of Thomas had warned Jefferson's nephews reluctant warrior- murdered a slave in tribes that he cold blood and put would stamp his his body parts into feet and bring down a roaring fire. The their houses. Sure evidence would have enough, between been destroyed but December 16, 1811, for a rare act of and late April God—or, as some 1812, a believed, of the catastrophic series Indian chief of earthquakes Tecumseh. That same shook the day, the Mississippi River

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Valley. Of the more destroyed, an  
than 2,000 tremors eighteen-mile-long  
that rumbled across by five-mile-wide  
the land during lake was created,  
this time, three and even the  
would have measured Mississippi River  
nearly or greater temporarily ran  
than 8.0 on the not-backwards. The  
yet-devised Richter quakes uncovered  
Scale. Centered in Jefferson's  
what is now the nephews' cruelty  
bootheel region of and changed the  
Missouri, the New course of the War  
Madrid earthquakes of 1812 as well as  
were felt as far the future of the  
away as Canada; New new republic. In  
York; New Orleans; When the  
Washington, DC; and Mississippi Ran  
the western part of Backwards, Jay  
the Missouri River. Feldman expertly  
A million and a weaves together the  
half square miles story of the slave  
were affected as murder, the  
the earth's surface steamboat,  
remained in a state Tecumseh, and the  
of constant motion war, and brings a  
for nearly four forgotten period  
months. Towns were back to vivid life.



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Tecumseh's widely believed prophecy, seemingly fulfilled, hastened an unprecedented alliance among southern and northern tribes, who joined the British in a disastrous fight against the U.S. government. By the end of the war, the continental United States was secure against Britain, France, and Spain; the Indians had lost many lives and much land; and Jefferson's nephews were exposed as murderers. The steamboat, which survived the earthquake, was sunk. When the

Mississippi Ran Backwards sheds light on this now-obscure yet pivotal period between the Revolutionary and Civil wars, uncovering the era's dramatic geophysical, political, and military upheavals. Feldman paints a vivid picture of how these powerful earthquakes made an impact on every aspect of frontier life—and why similar catastrophic quakes are guaranteed to recur. When the Mississippi Ran Backwards is popular history at its best.

*When the Mississippi*

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*Ran Backwards* Simon and Schuster  
In the winter of 1811-12, a series of large earthquakes in the New Madrid seismic zone—often incorrectly described as the biggest ever to hit the United States—shook the Midwest. Today the federal government ranks the hazard in the Midwest as high as California's and is pressuring communities to undertake expensive preparations for disaster. Disaster Deferred revisits these earthquakes, the legends surrounding them, and the predictions of doom following in their wake. Seth Stein clearly explains the techniques seismologists use to study Midwestern quakes and estimate their danger.

Detailing how limited scientific knowledge, bureaucratic instincts, and the media's love of a good story have exaggerated these hazards, Stein calmly debunks the hype surrounding such predictions and encourages the formulation of more sensible, less costly policy.

*Empire of the Summer Moon* Icon Books

A riveting and unsettling history of the assault on civil rights and liberties in America—from World War I to the War on Terror—by the acclaimed author of *When the Mississippi Ran Backwards*. In this ambitious and wide-

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ranging account, Jay Feldman takes us from the run-up to World War I and its anti-German hysteria to the September 11 attacks and Arizona's current anti-immigration movement. What we see is a striking pattern of elected officials and private citizens alike using the American people's fears and prejudices to isolate minorities (ethnic, racial, political, religious, or sexual), silence dissent, and stem the growth of civil rights and liberties. Rather

than treating this history as a series of discrete moments, Feldman considers the entire programmatic sweep on a scale no one has yet approached. In doing so, he gives us a potent reminder of how, even in America, democracy and civil liberties are never guaranteed.

**Jefferson's Nephews**

University of Missouri Press

"On August 13, 1969, two men picked up Tina Marie Andrews, a twelve-year-old girl, in downtown McComb, Mississippi, a city with a notorious history of racial violence. The men took Andrews and

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a friend just outside crime, the lengthy town to an oil field, investigation into where they shot her. it, and the two Andrews' friend extended trials that escaped and later followed. Brown also identified the two explores the public killers as McComb shaming of the police officers. A state's main witness grand jury indicted - a fifteen-year-old both for the murder, unwed mother - and but no one was ever the subsequent convicted of the desecration of the crime: one officer victim's grave. His was acquitted; the study deftly other had charges reconstructs various against him dropped. accounts of the Other than in murder, explains why contemporary local the juries reached newspaper coverage, the verdicts they the story of Andrews' did, and explores the murder has not been broader forces that told. Indeed, to this shaped the community day, many people in in which Tina Andrews the community lived and died. One hesitate to speak of of the features that the matter. Trent distinguishes Brown's Brown's 'Murder in work from other McComb' is the first accounts of civil comprehensive rights era violence examination of the is the fact that the

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murder of Tina Andrews was not a racially motivated killing. Everyone involved in this story was white. However, Tina Andrews and her friend Billie Jo Lambert, the state's main witness, were 'girls of ill repute,' as one of the defense attorneys put it. To some people in McComb, they were trashy children of undistinguished families who got little more than they deserved. In the end, Brown suggests that Tina Andrews had the great misfortune to be murdered in a town where local people were eager to support law and order and stability after the challenges of the

civil rights movement"  
*Disaster Deferred*  
Liveright  
Publishing  
Best Book Award •  
Mormon History  
Association A  
brilliant young  
historian excavates  
the brief life of a  
lost Mormon city,  
uncovering a  
"grand,  
underappreciated  
saga in American  
history" (Wall  
Street Journal). In  
Kingdom of Nauvoo,  
Benjamin E. Park  
draws on newly  
available sources  
to re-create the  
founding and  
destruction of the  
Mormon city of  
Nauvoo. On the  
banks of the

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Mississippi in Illinois, the early Mormons built a religious utopia, establishing their own army and writing their own constitution. For those offenses and others—including the introduction of polygamy, which was bitterly opposed by Emma Smith, the iron-willed first wife of Joseph Smith—the surrounding population violently ejected the Mormons, sending them on their flight to Utah. Throughout his absorbing chronicle, Park shows how the Mormons of Nauvoo

were representative of their era, and in doing so elevates Mormon history into the American mainstream. **Vicksburg** LSU Press From December 1811 to February 1812, massive earthquakes shook the middle Mississippi Valley, collapsing homes, snapping large trees midtrunk, and briefly but dramatically reversing the flow of the continent's mightiest river. For decades, people puzzled over the causes of the quakes, but by the time the nation began to recover from the Civil War,

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the New Madrid earthquakes had been essentially forgotten. In *The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes*, Conevery Bolton Valencius remembers this major environmental disaster, demonstrating how events that have been long forgotten, even denied and ridiculed as tall tales, were in fact enormously important at the time of their occurrence, and continue to affect us today. Valencius weaves together scientific and historical evidence to demonstrate the vast role the New Madrid earthquakes played in the United States in the early nineteenth century, shaping the settlement patterns of early western Cherokees and other Indians, heightening the credibility of Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa for their Indian League in the War of 1812, giving force to frontier religious revival, and spreading scientific inquiry. Moving into the present, Valencius explores the intertwined reasons –environmental,

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scientific, social, and economic—why something as consequential as major earthquakes can be lost from public knowledge, offering a cautionary tale in a world struggling to respond to global climate change amid widespread willful denial. Engagingly written and ambitiously researched—both in the scientific literature and the writings of the time—*The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes* will be an important resource in environmental history, geology,

and seismology, as well as history of science and medicine and early American and Native American history. Counting Backwards: A Doctor's Notes on Anesthesia LSU Press  
A Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the mistreatment of black Americans. In this 'precise and eloquent work' - as described in its Pulitzer Prize citation - Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history - an 'Age of Neoslavery' that thrived in the aftermath of the



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Civil War through the dawn of World War II. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude thereafter. By turns moving, sobering and shocking, this unprecedented account reveals these stories, the companies that profited the most

from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

*The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes* University of Chicago Press  
Code: Team Zebra is a small top secret organization funded by Congress as a fictitious research group, it is designed to subvert and destroy international drug cartels responsible for degrading American lives. One senator is aware of its existence. The story focuses on the assassination of an informant and his Zebra contact, and the death of the senator's son, which is believed to be at the hands of a cartel.

Redemption U of

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Nebraska Press  
From Paralympic ski  
racer and YouTube  
star Josh  
Sundquist, comes an  
always-funny (and  
sometimes-awkward)  
memoir about  
teenage  
misadventures. When  
I was twenty-five  
years old, it came  
to my attention  
that I had never  
had a girlfriend.  
At the time, I was  
actually under the  
impression that I  
was in a  
relationship, so  
this bit of news  
came as something  
of a shock. Why was  
Josh still single?  
To find out, he  
tracked down each  
of the girls he had  
tried to date since

middle school and  
asked them straight  
up: What went  
wrong? The results  
of Josh's semi-  
scientific  
investigation are  
in this book. From  
a disastrous Putt-  
date involving  
a backward  
prosthetic foot, to  
his introduction to  
CFD (Close Fast  
Dancing), and a  
misguided "grand  
gesture" at a Miss  
America pageant,  
this story is about  
looking for love—or  
at least a  
girlfriend—in all  
the wrong places.  
Poignant,  
relatable, and  
totally hilarious,  
this memoir is for  
anyone who has ever

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wondered, "Is there something wrong with me?" (Spoiler Alert: the answer is no.)

**We Should Hang Out**

**Sometime** Anchor  
The untold story of the massacre of a Southern town's freedmen and a white lawyer's battle to bring the killers to justice: "Riveting."  
—The New York Times Book Review  
Following the Civil War, Colfax, Louisiana, was a town, like many, where African Americans and whites mingled uneasily. But on April 13, 1873, a small army of white ex-Confederate soldiers, enraged after attempts by freedmen to assert their new rights, killed more than sixty African Americans who had occupied a

courthouse. With skill and tenacity, the Washington Post's Charles Lane transforms this nearly forgotten incident into a riveting historical saga. Seeking justice for the slain, one brave US attorney, James Beckwith, risked his life and career to investigate and punish the perpetrators—but they all went free. What followed was a series of courtroom dramas that culminated at the Supreme Court, where the justices' verdict compromised the victories of the Civil War and left Southern blacks at the mercy of violent whites for generations. *The Day Freedom Died* is an electrifying piece of historical detective work that captures a gallery of characters

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from presidents to townspeople, and re-creates the bloody days of Reconstruction, when the often-brutal struggle for equality moved from the battlefield into communities across the nation. "Thoroughly readable, carefully documented."

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"Fascinating." —New Orleans Times-Picayune  
"An electrifying piece of historical reporting." —Tucson Citizen

Quakeland Macmillan + ORM

The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays. "The elegance of Patchett's prose is seductive and

inviting: with Patchett as a guide, readers will really get to grips with the power of struggles, failures, and triumphs alike." —Publisher's Weekly "Any story that starts will also end."

As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth in these wise essays that afford a fresh and intimate look into her mind and heart. At the center of *These Precious Days* is the title essay, a surprising and moving meditation on an unexpected friendship that explores "what it means to be seen, to find someone with whom you can be your best and most complete self." When Patchett

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chose an early galley of actor and producer Tom Hanks' short story collection to read one night before bed, she had no idea that this single choice would be life changing. It would introduce her to a remarkable woman—Tom's brilliant assistant Sooki—with whom she would form a profound bond that held monumental consequences for them both. A literary alchemist, Patchett plumbs the depths of her experiences to create gold: engaging and moving pieces that are both self-portrait and landscape, each vibrant with emotion and rich in insight. Turning her writer's eye on her own experiences, she transforms the private into the universal, providing us all a way to look at our own worlds anew, and reminds how fleeting and enigmatic life can be. From the enchantments of Kate DiCamillo's children's books (author of *The Beatryce Prophecy*) to youthful memories of Paris; the cherished life gifts given by her three fathers to the unexpected influence of Charles Schultz's *Snoopy*; the expansive vision of Eudora Welty to the importance of knitting, Patchett connects life and art as she illuminates what matters most. Infused with the author's grace, wit, and warmth, the pieces in *These Precious Days* resonate deep in the soul, leaving an indelible mark—and demonstrate why Ann Patchett is one of the most celebrated writers of our time.

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*Only in St. Louis!*  
Oxford University  
Press  
The arrival of the  
first steamboat, The  
New Orleans, in early  
1812 touched off an  
economic revolution in  
the South. In states  
west of the  
Appalachian Mountains,  
the operation of  
steamboats quickly  
grew into a booming  
business that would  
lead to new cultural  
practices and a  
stronger sectional  
identity. In  
Steamboats and the  
Rise of the Cotton  
Kingdom, Robert  
Gudmestad examines the  
wide-ranging influence  
of steamboats on the  
southern economy. From  
carrying cash crops to  
market to contributing  
to slave productivity,  
increasing the  
flexibility of labor,  
and connecting  
southerners to

overlapping orbits of  
regional, national,  
and international  
markets, steamboats  
not only benefited  
slaveholders and  
northern industries  
but also affected  
cotton production.  
This technology  
literally put people  
into motion, and  
travelers developed an  
array of unique  
cultural practices,  
from gambling to boat  
races. Gudmestad also  
asserts that the  
intersection of these  
riverboats and the  
environment reveals  
much about sectional  
identity in antebellum  
America. As federal  
funds backed railroad  
construction instead  
of efforts to clear  
waterways for  
steamboats,  
southerners looked to  
coordinate their own  
economic development,  
free of national

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interests. Steamboats and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom offers new insights into the remarkable and significant history of transportation and commerce in the prewar South.

*The Great Deluge*

Triumph Books

"An engaging and illuminating exploration of the invisible medical specialty that is anesthesia....

Counting Backwards pulls back the veil on the very act of being alive."

-Danielle Ofri, MD, PhD, author of *What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear* For many of the 40 million Americans who undergo it each year, anesthesia is

the source of great fear and fascination. In *Counting Backwards*, pediatric anesthesiologist Dr. Henry Jay Przybylo delivers an unforgettable account of the procedure's daily dramas and fundamental mysteries. Przybylo has administered anesthesia more than 30,000 times over his thirty-year career: on newborn babies, screaming toddlers, sullen teenagers, even a gorilla. Filled with intense moments of near-disaster, life-saving successes, and simple grace,

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Counting Backwards  
is for anyone  
curious about what  
happens after we  
lose consciousness.

Kingdom of Nauvoo:  
The Rise and Fall of  
a Religious Empire

Frontier U of  
Nebraska Press

The dramatic story  
of fugitive slaves  
and the antislavery  
activists who defied  
the law to help them  
reach freedom. More  
than any other  
scholar, Eric Foner  
has influenced our  
understanding of  
America's history.

Now, making  
brilliant use of  
extraordinary  
evidence, the  
Pulitzer  
Prize-winning  
historian once again  
reconfigures the

national saga of  
American slavery and  
freedom. A deeply  
entrenched  
institution, slavery  
lived on legally and  
commercially even in  
the northern states  
that had abolished it  
after the American  
Revolution. Slaves  
could be found in the  
streets of New York  
well after abolition,  
traveling with owners  
doing business with  
the city's major  
banks, merchants, and  
manufacturers. New  
York was also home to  
the North's largest  
free black community,  
making it a magnet  
for fugitive slaves  
seeking refuge. Slave  
catchers and gangs of  
kidnappers roamed the  
city, seizing free  
blacks, often  
children, and sending



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them south to secrecy by hostile  
slavery. To protect laws, courts, and  
fugitives and fight politicians, the  
kidnappings, the city's underground-  
city's free blacks railroad agents  
worked with white helped more than  
abolitionists to 3,000 fugitive slaves  
organize the New York reach freedom between  
Vigilance Committee 1830 and 1860. Until  
in 1835. In the 1840s now, their stories  
vigilance committees have remained largely  
proliferated unknown, their  
throughout the North significance little  
and began understood. Building  
collaborating to on fresh  
dispatch fugitive evidence—including a  
slaves from the upper detailed record of  
South, Washington, slave escapes  
and Baltimore, secretly kept by  
through Philadelphia Sydney Howard Gay,  
and New York, to one of the key  
Albany, Syracuse, and organizers in New  
Canada. These York—Foner elevates  
networks of the underground  
antislavery railroad from  
resistance, centered folklore to sweeping  
on New York City, history. The story is  
became known as the inspiring—full of  
underground railroad. memorable characters  
Forced to operate in making their first

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appearance on the historical stage—and significant—the controversy over fugitive slaves inflamed the sectional crisis of the 1850s. It eventually took a civil war to destroy American slavery, but here at last is the story of the courageous effort to fight slavery by "practical abolition," person by person, family by family.

### **Minn of the**

**Mississippi** Harper Collins

In the span of five violent hours on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed major Gulf Coast cities and flattened 150 miles of coastline. But it

was only the first stage of a shocking triple tragedy. On the heels of one of the three strongest hurricanes ever to make landfall in the United States came the storm-surge flooding, which submerged a half-million homes—followed by the human tragedy of government mismanagement, which proved as cruel as the natural disaster itself. In *The Great Deluge*, bestselling author Douglas Brinkley finds the true heroes of this unparalleled catastrophe, and lets the survivors tell their own stories, masterly allowing them to record the nightmare that was

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Katrina.