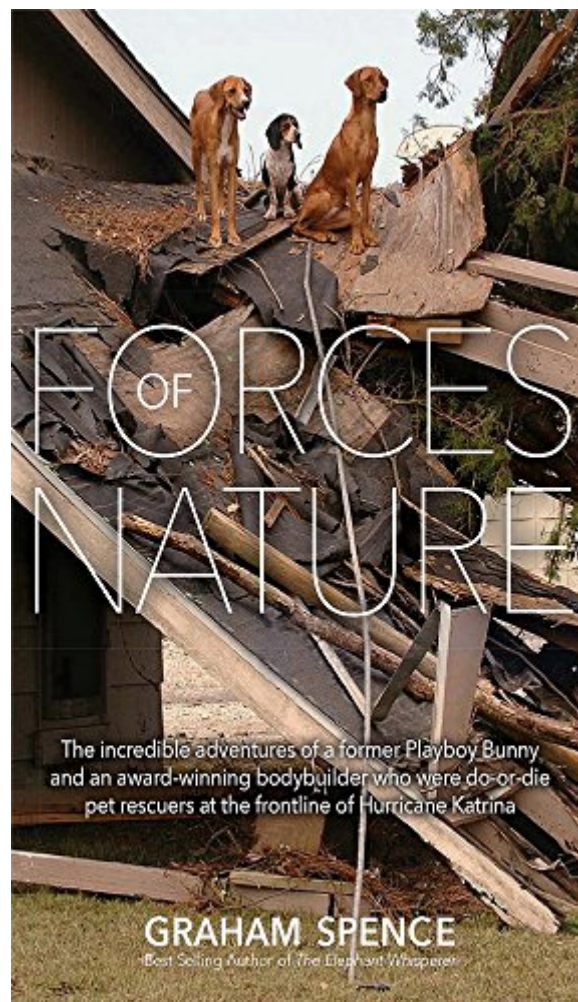


The book was found

Forces Of Nature: The Incredible And Courageous Story Of Two Pet Rescuers After The Devastation Of Hurricane Katrina. By Graham Spence, Joanne Greene And Penny Koncz





Synopsis

Forces of Nature is the remarkable story of the courage and commitment of two ordinary women who put their lives, jobs and families on hold to rescue hundreds of thousands of pets fighting for their lives when Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans. Joanne Greene, a former Playboy Bunny, and Penny Koncz, an award winning Michigan body builder, watched with horror as almost the entire pet population of one of America's most iconic cities was abandoned and some even shot in the aftermath of the third most powerful Atlantic storm in history. While humans were ordered to evacuate New Orleans in 2005, no provision was made for the estimated 300,000 pets. Many were left in homes with a bowl of food and water, as their owners expected to return soon. No one was prepared for the apocalypse looming on the horizon. As the levees broke, thousands of animals had no choice but to sink or swim. Even more, locked in homes, drowned as the raging waters burst through buildings, flooding rooms up to the ceiling. Tragically, even more who survived marathon swims to dry land, or who could flee to roofs and attics, later perished drinking toxic water from the city's ruptured sewers and petrochemical industries. Unable to stomach what was happening, Joanne and Penny dropped everything and reported to the Lamar Dixon Animal Rescue Center at Gonzales, Louisiana. Every day they travelled into the wreckage of New Orleans to rescue terrified animals, many now semi-feral after the horrors they had been through. They waded through foaming polluted waters, crawled under homes knowing there were venomous snakes slithering nearby, stepped on bodies and bones, gagged on the stench of corpses rotting in sub-tropical heat, saw horror and honor in equal measures and witnessed firsthand an unconquerable will to survive by even the humblest of creatures. It was not just the field rescues they were involved in. After bringing animals to safety, they worked tirelessly to reunite them with their owners. What these gallant people did is now a blueprint for domestic animal rescue in disaster zones. Hurricanes will come and go, but it is unlikely that defenseless creatures will ever again be so callously abandoned by bureaucratic collapse as they were during Katrina. This book is a tribute to all animal rescuers, the unsung heroes of America's most famous natural disaster is only now being fully told. Written by best selling author of The Elephant Whisperer, Graham Spence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you like stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things, this is a book for you. It's a quick read with equal parts happy and sad, but definitely lots of adventure. I saw the Katrina tragedy through a new lens; things I had never considered beyond what was reported in the news. I'm in awe of Joanne and Penny's passion and dedication and was glad to learn of the positive changes that have been made legally and procedurally to help limit the pet-related tragedies experienced during Katrina in future natural disasters. PS - Graham Spence's writing is beautiful and vivid. Look forward to reading more of his books!

If you had told me that I would spend the major part a Bank Holiday Weekend, when the sun was shining and I could have been outside or even inside watching cricket or rugby, or even painting the kitchen, reading about two women wandering up to their armpits in muck rescuing animals, I would have called you crazy, but that's what I did

Forces of Nature is a fun read about Joanne's and Penny's adventures rescuing animals after Katrina. But it's also an informative and heart-wrenching look (from the unusual perspective of animal rescuers) at the ways a natural disaster tears communities apart and how important it is for us to be prepared for these events.

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