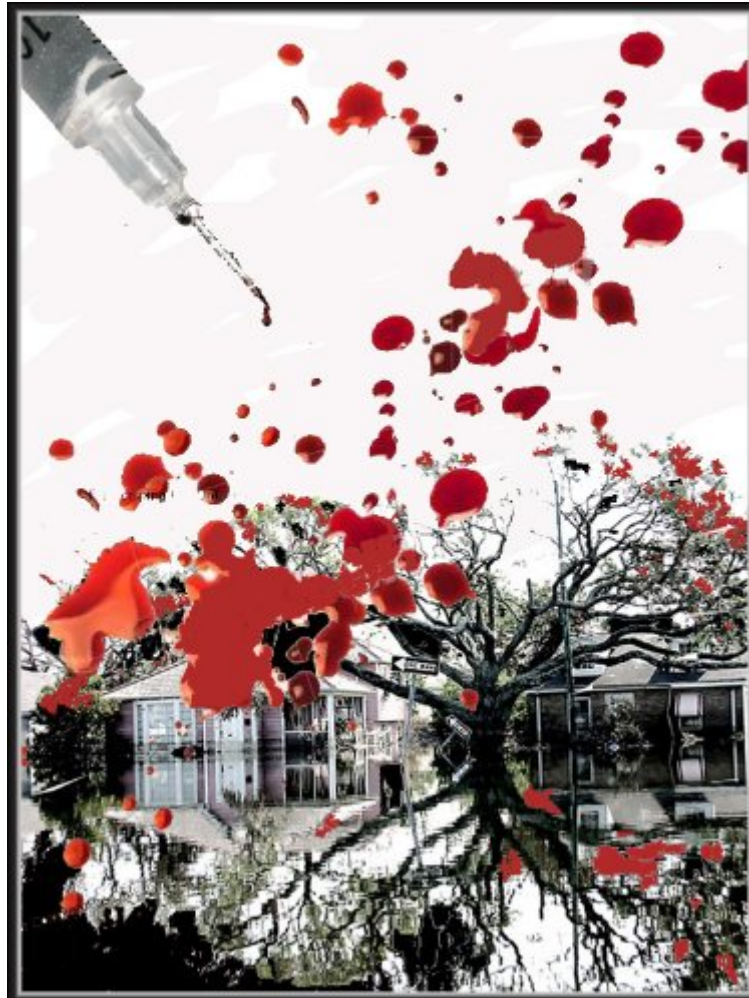


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# Heroin, Hurricane Katrina, And The Howling Within: An Addiction Memoir



## Synopsis

"As I walked up the giant stairs, the hallway seemed to get brighter and brighter. I emerged onto the balcony. The sunlight was so blinding to my eyes that had been locked closed from insanity and pain or the weight of the Seroquel that I did not take in the whole scene at first. I looked at the sky. It was blue with small hints of grey, and the breeze was still while the clouds were large and puffy. The sky was calm and peaceful and fucking gorgeous. My eyes squinted from brightness and slight nausea; I looked down from the second floor of the raised old house and realized the streets had morphed into rivers. I looked on with both disbelief and amazement."As the whispers of Hurricane Katrina swirled through New Orleans, I did not even consider evacuating. The reason is simple. I did not have enough heroin to make it very far out of the city, without facing the impending doom of dope sickness. This is my story of the storm of the century. Follow me, sloshing through the storm's flood waters, searching for my next fix, with the slow realization that things will never be the same again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was very intrigued by the title of this book for two reasons. First, I live and lived during Katrina in

Walker, Louisiana about 60 miles from New Orleans. Secondly, we lost my husband's son, my stepson to a massive drug overdose in 2009. Eliza is very typical of the young girls you see on the streets of New Orleans, they have a "lost" look about them, maybe a little too loud or nodding, and a look of desperation in their eyes thinking of where they will find the money for and their next fix. To think that she and her friends rode that hurricane out so doped that they didn't even know what happened was very wild, how doped they must have been. We all heard about the looters on TV but to think about the pharmacy being looted just blew my mind. How I don't know b/c I know if Joey (stepson) had a chance to loot for drugs he would be the first one in. Being picked-up and taken to a state where they had no family or friends could have been a chance to start over but things just went differently. The story of Eliza's trying so hard to become clean but over and over slipping back was a familiar scene to me. Eliza's spirit was beaten time and time again. For Eliza to end up in the place she is now made my spirit soar. One of the good ones made it...I am proud of you Eliza. I look at Eliza's picture on her webpage and thank God that beautiful, beautiful young lady will now live the life God has planned for her. I am proud of you Eliza and although I don't personally know you, I love you. I think that anyone who reads her story will find themselves loving her too. Please read the book...it is so worth your while.

Memoirs tend to go one of two ways...good or bad with little gray area. This one is on the side of good to the point I couldn't put it down! Bluntly honest, bittersweet and written so well you find yourself reading in a New Orleans accent!! I was overjoyed that the author made the book relevant to those who haven't faced an addiction problem themselves, but still painted a clear picture of the emotional and physical pain of someone living with this affliction! Please take the time to read this book, and tell all of your friends sorry in advance; you won't be talking to anyone until you finish the last word!

Great read, couldn't put the book down once I picked it up. The author does a great job of taking you through her journey through 'hell and high water'. Really puts you in the turmoil that addiction can put you through. Takes you through the emotional roller coasters of addiction and the emotions that were experienced in the aftermath of Katrina. Highly recommend it!

Fortunately I did not go through an experience as bad with addiction like this wonderful writer went through, I have demons in my past as well. I was at work tonight and I wanted a book to get lost in. I had downloaded several, read a few paragraphs of every one of them and wound up deleting them

all, except for this one. I was captivated from the beginning having grown up in our beautiful and unique city and familiar with most areas described including all the bars. I was immediately caught by the author's writing, the emotion, the experiences, the descriptions and the MEMORIES of the aftermath.....especially the smell that was everywhere for MONTHS of rotting buildings, refrigerators, oil, mud and muck, and MEMORIES. I read the entire book in one sitting and can't wait to go through it again. Beautiful memoir and I believe it would make a wonderful Indie film. To the author, Thank you for letting us in to your life. Although you are no longer in the "Big Easy" (but is it really so easy?) I know the love for the city never fades. I too am fellow mother of young boys, I wish you and your son nothing but the best.

I'm convinced that no better account of ground level addiction exists. Told with an excruciatingly beautiful level of prose that captures the shine and the underlying grime of New Orleans and the atmosphere on the street as Hurricane Katrina advanced, Eliza Player takes the reader with her on arduous journey through heroin addiction, and leaves nothing untouched. She takes you through the intricacies of the street, the hustle, the characters, the shady locales, and situations, while perfectly capturing the scene and the mood of her world throughout it all. From "...before the storm." and the fight of an addict just after, to evacuation, new life, insanity, and back again, this memoir of an ex-New Orleans heroin addict is an absolute 'must read' for anyone interested in not just addiction and/or recovery, but life, and redemption, and the struggle, and the stories that shape who we become.

A well written tale of addiction, and just when you think things are bad it gets worse. Hurricane Katrina was devastating to many, but to be in New Orleans right after the storm, and all you know is dope sickness makes for a haunting take on survival. You never know what your in for, and what you're made of until you face death itself, and the author danced with death many times. I suppose in some ways it was her addiction that got her through the devastation because the drugs shielded her, cushioning her against her own suffering. And yet it also in some ways forced her to do things any normal person would be repulsed by, which can be a good thing in survival mode. I guess it's really true when they say that which doesn't kill you makes you stronger. I highly recommend this book.

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poker, blackjack)

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