



Thelonious Rising

Judith Richards

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Over the hot tropical waters of West Africa a fitful breeze flung salt spray in the faces of fishermen. Storms are common in the Atlantic between June and November. Most weather disturbances falter and die, no sooner born than ended.

Wind blowing from the east six miles high may collide with wind blowing from the opposite direction, creating a shear that will decapitate a storm and rip it apart before an eye can solidify. Warm waters fuel a hurricane, but cold ocean currents can destroy the system before it gains strength.

For the moment, this particular disturbance has no name. Meteorologists say she is a tropical depression that should be watched, but five days east of Florida, with gale force winds, she is worthy of no more than a warning to seafaring ships. When winds reach hurricane force, they will dignify her with a name: Katrina.

Nine-year-old Thelonious Monk DeCay lives in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward with his grandmother. His mother dead and his father missing, Monk is determined to find his father.

With their harmonicas and bottle-cap taps, Monk and his best friend entertain the tourists in Jackson Square under the watchful eyes of eccentric historian Quinton Toussaint, who knows where to find Monk's father.

Hurricane Katrina changes everything. Left homeless and alone after the storm, Monk befriends a deranged man and survives by sneaking across the rooftops and courtyards of the French Quarter, stealing food and supplies while hiding from both a murderer and the police.

In the midst of the storm and its aftermath, a woman Monk has never met appears in New Orleans with answers to his questions about his long-lost father.

Thelonious Rising Details

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Author : Judith Richards

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From Reader Review Thelonious Rising for online ebook

Sheryl Parbhoo says

Thelonious Rising is an honest and emotional tale of the resilience of the human spirit and the power of love. Hurricane Katrina created a disaster that I watched on the news from the comfort of my living room, without understanding the deep human impact it made on the people of New Orleans. Thelonious, a nine year old biracial child, gave me that insight. Throughout the book, Thelonious takes the reader on a ride of tragedy, hope, and sheer determination to survive through vivid description of New Orleans before and after Katrina, and honest characters who allowed me to experience the societal impact of racism and the power of individual love that overcomes. The book is honest, it is beautiful, it is necessary.

Lia Frederick says

I Can't say enough positive things about this book. Judith Richards has captured me with her story. It is a MUST READ book. The reader is lured into Thelonious's world and is most happy to stay. I would LOVE to see this written into a screen play as there are wonderful characters and being set in New Orleans it would be a winner!

Beth Hermes says

I couldn't put this one down! Judith Richards weaves a story of characters in New Orleans in the days leading up to Hurricane Katrina, and take us into the storm and beyond. I've recommended this book to everyone!

Julie Pfennig peter says

A powerful story that you can't put down.

Jennifer says

I thought this was a good book. I was excited to read the end and read it very quickly. But I don't feel like it's something that will stick with me. I don't give out 5 stars very often but this was good and I would totally recommend it to others!

Kerry Brooks says

Don't pick this book up unless you have time to finish it. Judith does a masterful job with this story.

Debbie Frazier says

Read Thelonious Rising completely, today. Wow...I can't begin to thank Judith Richards? enough. I couldn't put the book down. I felt so entwined in her characters and have ran the gamut today in emotions. I've laughed and cried and felt so connected to her story. What a wonderful, gifted writer. WELL DONE!

Carolyn says

Thelonius Rising is a fantastic book and I highly recommend it. I became completely caught up in the drama, and particularly the love between Thelonious and his doomed grandmother.

Against the backdrop of Hurricane Katrina, Judith Richards has brought to life a host of fascinating characters, particularly Thelonius, nicknamed "Monk", who drives the book with his love and his quest to meet his father. Richards has tapped in to all it means to be human: love between the generations, and between man and woman, race, sexual orientation, mental illness, crimes, humor, spirituality, jazz, and childhood.

Richards brings the setting of New Orleans to life, as well. And gives the reader a close up look at what it was like to endure and survive that dreaded hurricane.

I had difficulty putting the book down when it was time to sleep at night. A wonderful read.

Diane Billingsley-floyd says

One of the most beautiful books I've read. The characters are developed so well. I would recognize them walking the streets of New Orleans. Judith Richards took my emotions up and down. I laughed and cried through the whole book. This story touched my heart.

GailMJ says

Beautiful book. Loved the characters.

Shalini Boland says

A stunning read. I felt like I was there in New Orleans with this wonderful little boy who I wanted to scoop up and bring home with me. I didn't want the story to end. I'd give this story 10 stars if I could.

Margaret Cunningham. says

I loved this book. I've recommended it to tons of people and they all love it, too. It's a great story with wonderful characters set in fabulous New Orleans. It's well-paced but ends all too soon. Don't miss out on this one.

Cheryl says

A magical book with a colorful cast of characters. The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the Ninth Ward are brought to life. This novel delved into the characters lives, heartbreak, death and hope. I could not put this book down!

Donna Cotton says

Absolutely riveting! I could not put it down. Monk is in my heart now.

Caele says

All the feels. Definitely worth the read.
