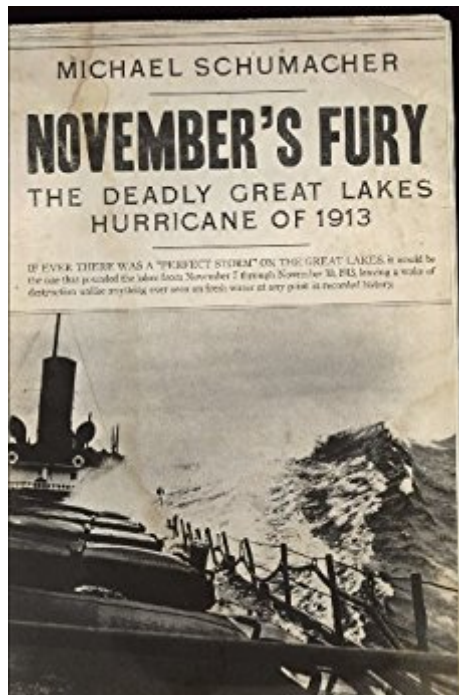




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November's Fury: The Deadly Great Lakes Hurricane Of 1913



Synopsis

On Thursday, November 6, the Detroit News forecasted “moderate to brisk” winds for the Great Lakes. On Friday, the Port Huron Times-Herald predicted a “moderately severe” storm. Hourly the warnings became more and more dire. Weather forecasting was in its infancy, however, and radio communication was not much better; by the time it became clear that a freshwater hurricane of epic proportions was developing, the storm was well on its way to becoming the deadliest in Great Lakes maritime history. The ultimate story of man versus nature, November’s Fury recounts the dramatic events that unfolded over those four days in 1913, as captains eager or at times forced to finish the season tried to outrun the massive storm that sank, stranded, or demolished dozens of boats and claimed the lives of more than 250 sailors. This is an account of incredible seamanship under impossible conditions, of inexplicable blunders, heroic rescue efforts, and the sad aftermath of recovering bodies washed ashore and paying tribute to those lost at sea. It is a tragedy made all the more real by the voices of men now long deceased who sailed through and survived the storm, and by a remarkable array of photographs documenting the phenomenal damage this not-so-perfect storm wreaked. The consummate storyteller of Great Lakes lore, Michael Schumacher at long last brings this violent storm to terrifying life, from its first stirrings through its slow-mounting destructive fury to its profound aftereffects, many still felt to this day.

Book Information

File Size: 6676 KB

Print Length: 240 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (November 1, 2013)

Publication Date: November 1, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GI6PGSG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #99,392 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22

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Customer Reviews

4.9 stars for this excellent work telling the complete story of one of the greatest disaster tragedies in American History, yet one that is known about by very few people even in the geographical area around the Great Lakes themselves. In early November of 1913, an incredible storm of great intensity and endurance lashed the entire Great Lakes Basin with what could only be described as a true inland hurricane, driving a dozen modern steel ships beneath the waves in an upheaval of wind, snow, plummeting temperatures, and a pure Hell's fury out on the Lakes. There was drama, heroism, tenacity, and marvelous stories of survival and of death. And, even a few bits of mystery, such as why were sailors from one of the sunken ships found with life jackets on them from another ship? Written and published just after the 100th anniversary of this incredible storm, the story is told fairly and well, and more completely than ever before.

This is a fascinating book about the unexpected storm that caused so much death and damage on the Great Lakes. A native of Chicago, I always thought the ocean was dangerous, but not the lake I swam in during my childhood. Even when the Edmund Fitzgerald song hit the airwaves, I really thought it was a singular sinking. Schumacher is an excellent non-fiction writer, including plenty of maps and identifying information about the multiple sailors as they appear and re-appear through the book. He tells his story, which bounces around in time and on various of the Great Lakes, in a non-linear manner that keeps the ships' identities and gives a face to the many crew members on them during that fateful period.

I have read a couple Michaels books. I like his writing style and you can tell he spent a lot of time doing his home work on the subject of this book, as he has done on his other books I have read. A added bonus in this book are several old photo's which actually help to give a clearer picture of the ships/boats involved and time period of this story. Michael weaves a great story in this book and I highly recommend reading it if you are interested in history and stories from the inland waters and waterways of the Great Lakes.

Schumacher's book on the Great Lakes Hurricane has all the information and captivation of the rest of his ship stories. He makes a commendable effort to cover the whole storm in a few hundred pages. Each lake is covered and all the mysteries are examined. This is a great overview of the storm and the terror it caused. I wish he had written more as the book could have easily been three times as long. Regardless I am not disappointed in the least that I purchased this book.

Excellent book. Makes you feel like you are there with the wind blowing and the snow beating against the pilot house windows. Really good follow up on what happened to each ship as far as what is known. Very interesting about some of the recent discoveries on the lake bottom. The story begins with things being sunny and pleasant and goes into the sudden and violent change in the weather. I had a hard time putting the book down. Great reading!

This book paints a vivid picture of the ferocity of the 1913 storm and the struggles of the mariners who, either through poor judgement or poor luck, were caught in it. It is a catalogue of the individual shipwrecks and the human suffering associated with each one. I recommend this book for anyone who is interested in history, the Great Lakes, or maritime disasters.

I'm from the great lakes region myself and so this particular history hit home for me. The author clearly researched his facts and presents them in a clear and engaging style. Although you may find yourself at times confusing one or more of the ships names, as there are several mentioned throughout the book, the story is engaging and keeps you moving along. I particularly enjoyed all the pictures of the storm as well as the ships. It was very interesting to see this era of my region's history.

As a longtime resident of Michigan and Ohio, I found this book fascinating. It can sometimes be dry and repetitive, but as nonfiction goes it was very good.

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