

Storm Surge: Hurricane Sandy, Our Changing Climate, and Extreme Weather of the Past and Future

By Adam Sobel

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Storm Surge: Hurricane Sandy, Our Changing Climate, and Extreme Weather of the Past and Future By Adam Sobel

A renowned scientist takes us through the devastating and unprecedented events of Hurricane Sandy, using it to explain our planet's changing climate, and what we need to do to protect ourselves and our cities for the future.

Was Hurricane Sandy a freak event—or a harbinger of things to come? Was climate change responsible? What connects the spiraling clouds our satellites saw from space, the brackish water that rose up over the city's seawalls, and the slow simmer of greenhouse gases? Why weren't we better prepared?

In this fascinating and accessible work of popular science, atmospheric scientist and Columbia University professor Adam Sobel addresses these questions, combining scientific explanation with first-hand experience of the event itself.

He explains the remarkable atmospheric conditions that gave birth to Sandy and determined its path. He gives us insight into the sophisticated science that led to the forecasts of the storm before it hit, as well as an understanding of why our meteorological vocabulary failed our leaders in warning us about this unprecedented storm—part hurricane, part winter-type nor'easter, fully deserving of the title "Superstorm."

Storm Surge brings together the melting glaciers, the shifting jet streams, and the warming oceans to make clear how our changing climate will make New York and other cities more vulnerable than ever to huge storms—and how we need to think differently about these long-term risks if we hope to mitigate the damage. Engaging, informative, and timely, Sobel's book provokes us to rethink the future of our climate and how we can better prepare for the storms to come.

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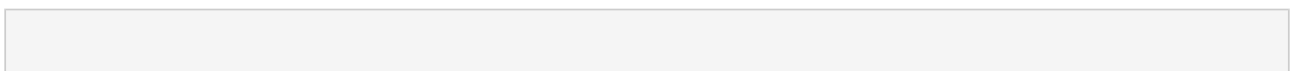
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Editorial Review

Review

"Sobel is able to navigate the complex science behind Sandy's twists and turns with accessibility, precision and authority... he describes his midnight walk from his Morningside Heights apartment down to the swollen Hudson River on the night of Sandy's landfall in a way that brings chills." (*The Washington Post*)

"An engaged and engaging examination of 'what current science allows us to say (or does not) about Sandy's relation to human-induced climate change.'" (*Kirkus*)

"Adam Sobel provides a fascinating overview of hurricanes, weather tracking, and climate change ... The narrative of Sandy's events, mixed with a commentary on the science behind it, provides an interesting bird's eye view in this unique book." (*S. Krishna's Books*)

"The author makes complex subject matter intelligible and intriguing." (*Library Journal*)

"It's a great read covering the meteorology of the event, the preparation, the response and the implications for the future." (*Realclimate.org*)

"In this comprehensive volume, [Sobel] looks at the science behind Sandy (and similar weather systems), examining the circumstances leading to it... and factors that made it a superstorm.... Topics like these make for interesting, if technical, reading, and Sobel manages to strike an effective balance." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"*Storm Surge* is a masterful account of the science and policy implications of Sandy. ... Sobel excels at answering our most burning question: What was that thing?... [and] is able to navigate the complex science behind Sandy's twists and turns with accessibility, precision and authority." (*Washington Post*)

From the Inside Flap

Was Sandy a freak of nature, or the new normal?

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy reached the shores of the northeastern United States to become one of the most destructive storms in history. But was Sandy a freak event, or should we have been better prepared for it? Was it a harbinger of things to come as the climate warms? In this fascinating and accessible work of popular science, atmospheric scientist and Columbia University professor Adam Sobel addresses these questions, combining his deep knowledge of the climate with his firsthand experience of the event itself.

Sobel explains the remarkable atmospheric conditions that gave birth to Sandy and determined its path. He gives us insight into the science that led to the accurate forecasts of the storm from genesis to landfall, as well as an understanding of why our meteorological vocabulary failed our leaders in warning us about this unprecedented weather system--part hurricane, part winter-type nor'easter, fully deserving of the title "Superstorm."

Storm Surge brings together the melting glaciers, the warming oceans, and a broad historical perspective to explain how our changing climate and developing coastlines are making New York and other cities more vulnerable. Engaging, informative, and timely, Sobel's book provokes us to think differently about how we

can better prepare for the storms in our future.

From the Back Cover

Advance praise for *Storm Surge*:

"In *Storm Surge*, Adam Sobel --- at once a top-notch tropical meteorologist and a New York City resident --- draws us into a highly engaging and superbly informative account of Hurricane Sandy, one of New York's most devastating natural calamities and a wake-up call for what lies in wait for coastal residents."

--- Kerry Emanuel, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Atmospheric Science, MIT

"Through this fascinating tale of Hurricane Sandy and its place in the cycle of storms wreaking havoc on the world's inhabited coastlines, atmospheric scientist Adam Sobel builds an irrefutable case for the reader to separate politics from science when it comes to changing climate. Warning for deniers: *Storm Surge* will blow you away."

--- Jonathan Waterman, Author of *Running Dry: A Journey from Source to Sea Down the Colorado River*

"Here is the still-devastating story of Hurricane Sandy, born in the atmospheric disturbance near the equator, recharged on its way to the northeastern United States, destined to wreak havoc on the Eastern Seaboard --- a swath of death and destruction that killed hundreds of people in more than half a dozen countries, and set the East Coast on edge with a question: What's next? In *Storm Surge*, Adam Sobel supplies some answers by taking us back to the dawn of modern weather forecasting. It's a thrilling story --- with satellites and supercomputers and planes dropping probes into the eyes of hurricanes --- in part because of how terrifying it is, in part because of how simple the weather is for the public and government leaders to misunderstand. And along the way, we see the field of atmospheric science straining to bend its ear to the frequency of the earth's winds --- to learn to hear, in a sense, a storm coming. Sobel leaves us on the edge of our seat, not just with storytelling, but with a better understanding of what needs to be done and why. In this personal account, we see there's maybe enough time to change the way we think of cities in the new climate, but not enough time to wait."

---Robert Sullivan, Author of *Rats* and *My American Revolution*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Sanchez:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. In your case who want to start reading any book, we give you this specific *Storm Surge: Hurricane Sandy, Our Changing Climate, and Extreme Weather of the Past and Future* book as starter and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Wendell Darnell:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even an issue. What people must be consider whenever those information which is within the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously

which one would work to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Storm Surge: Hurricane Sandy, Our Changing Climate, and Extreme Weather of the Past and Future as the daily resource information.

Nicol Thomas:

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Betty Bobbitt:

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