



The Storm and the Tide: Tragedy, Hope, and Triumph in Tuscaloosa

Lars Anderson

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On April 27, 2011, a powerful tornado ripped through the heart of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, leaving 53 dead and a path of unimaginable devastation. In the aftermath, Alabama coach Nick Saban and his football team went out into the community, sharing its grief and aiding the recovery. They forged an unbreakable bond, and in a place where Saturdays are dedicated to the Crimson Tide, "Let's Play for Tuscaloosa" became a rallying cry, an emotional touchstone that transcended the playing field.

Barrett Jones, a 302-pound tackle, went street by street with a chainsaw clearing debris. Diehard fans Bob and Dana Dowling survived but lost their home. Long-snapper Carson Tinker, whose girlfriend Ashley Harrison died in the storm, emerged as the public face of Tuscaloosa's resilience. The rebuilding effort became a personal crusade; the football team was now competing for a cause much greater than a national championship. In *The Storm and the Tide*, Lars Anderson chronicles the rise of a team, the building of a dynasty and the resurgence of a town.

The Storm and the Tide: Tragedy, Hope, and Triumph in Tuscaloosa Details

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From Reader Review The Storm and the Tide: Tragedy, Hope, and Triumph in Tuscaloosa for online ebook

Katrina says

This is a non-fiction account of a devastating tornado that rocked the college (University of Alabama) town of Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 2011. The writing was solid but I was surprised by the lack of objectivity by Anderson, clearly a fan of U of A football. It is understandable that alumni, students and townies are over-the-top fans of Coach Saban, but it appears that Anderson believes Saban "walks on water" too. Some of the paragraphs in this book are cringe-worthy because of unabashed hero worship of Saban and his players. Geeze, the coach and the players helped in the post tornado recovery effort by handing out Gatorade, providing clothing, signing autographs and EVEN talking to the town people. Amazing! The story just isn't that compelling to deserve a book....a book on U of A football, sure, but not this.

Bethany Turner says

The personal stories from those involved in the tornado that hit Tuscaloosa on April 27th, 2011, are powerful and inspiring. Unfortunately, this book does not do them justice. The writing is very poor and really took away from the story. This book should pull at the emotional heartstrings, but it just doesn't.

Russell Winn says

This was an extremely difficult book to read for anyone who lived in Alabama on April 27, 2011.

This is a superb read. I don't usually love sports journalism, but this book is astonishingly powerful.

If you care about Alabama football, the events of April 27, 2011, or even just life, family, and surviving, this book is for you.

I highly recommend it.

Adrith Bicchieri says

I was a student in my second to last semester in Alabama's distance education MLIS program on April 27, 2011. Cohorts full of students watched the news like hawks from afar, breathing sighs of relief when it was announced that everyone in the Library Studies department had come through the storm safely, rejoicing when first responder classmates were honored for their work.

This book ... I am so glad, so grateful, that this book exists on a deeply personal level.

Kelly Cowan says

The book concentrates on several individuals that are linked to the University of Alabama through being students, former football players or some other connection. The book tells how their lives were changed by the storm. Several of the featured individuals lost family members or close friends in the storm. The book tells of how these people were able to cope with their losses and follows their lives for several years. The book also profiles Nick Saban and how he became the Alabama coach. It tells of his life as a young man, his relationship with his father and how he met Miss Terry. I thought the book was great!

Kacper Parobi says

“The Storm and the Tide” by Lars Anderson is a book about a tragedy that took place in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It tells a story about a powerful twister that ripped right through Tuscaloosa, leaving many dead and wounded, and how the town managed to physically and morally rebuild itself. In my opinion, the book is mainly good because of the storyline, how it tells the individual stories of people that survived, but the thing I disliked is the writing, which could have been better. One part I liked is when the author thoroughly described what someone was going through after the tornado. “Yes, oh dear lord, it was her. He realized then that the wrapped body at the back of the tractor was that of his daughter.” This book made me think that people elsewhere may be having much bigger problems than I do, for example having a tornado destroy the town you live in, and take the lives of your loved ones.

Martha Vaughn says

This book is an emotional recount of how the tornado of 4/27/11 changed the lives of many by leaving a path of death and destruction through Tuscaloosa and how the hope and determination to help in any way possible by the Alabama Crimson Tide football team and coach Nick Saban helped the town to heal and rebuild. The story is well written and a must read for any Crimson Tide fan.

Sean Kelly says

This is touching, detailed, and interesting account of the horrific twister that ripped through Tuscaloosa and the impact Alabama football has on the state and the town. I was impressed by the emotion Anderson evokes in the Tuscaloosa residents but the more of this book I read, the more it became evident that evoking emotion on the topic of a) Football and b) Twisters is pretty easy. Sentiments about these two subjects never sit too far beneath the surface as they are such a common thread of life in the Yellowhammer state. I also enjoyed the portrayal of Nick Saban throughout the novel. He comes across quite often as aloof and difficult to know, but he made some generous, thoughtful, and touching gestures to players, former players, and complete strangers in the aftermath of the tornado. While I admit to cheering for the Tide in pretty much any NCAA sport, I also believe that you don't have to be an Alabama fan to enjoy this book.

Rob says

Wow! I always find myself so involved in the lives of the people Lars writes about...I literally cringe when the storm comes thru this college town. He's right up there with Erik Larson.

Theresa says

The Storm and the Tide....

It took me several months to read and finish this book. It was not fun easy reading. As a parent I can only imagine the heartbreak. As a football fan with limited understanding of the game I was filled with pride. My heart aches for the town of Tuscaloosa and swells with pride at the same time. ROLL TIDE!

Mary Shafer says

I'm no big sports fan, but I have been reading other books about the Tuscaloosa tornado of April 27, 2011. I went storm chasing two months later for the first time, and the tour group I go with was down in Joplin when that big one hit in between, and I wanted to learn more. But this book is unique in that it does cover the storm a bit, but more it's about the recovery from the storm, and the very large part that Tuscaloosa's pride and joy, the Crimson Tide, played in it. And apparently still plays in it, as the city continues to recover.

I kept thinking while I was reading this amazingly well-researched account of all the stuff that gets left out, depending on the angle one takes. I'd read two other books on this storm and seen several interviews of some of the people mentioned in this story on The Weather Channel's "Storm Stories" segments. But this book just fills in so many of those gaps and gives the real human story that none of those other formats was able to capture.

Very well written, sensitively so, and a really interesting angle on the whole story. I'd recommend this book to anyone interested in this particular tornado disaster, storm stories in general, or fans of the Tide. You can't walk away from this book unscathed yourself. And that's a huge compliment to the author.

Bobbi says

I think you have to be a Alabama fan to really appreciate this book although it seemed thoroughly researched and interesting. The writing was not particularly good, however, which took away from the story a bit.

Michael Stoudt says

A powerful book about the April 27, 2011 tornado and its aftermath in Tuscaloosa. How it devastated so many lives and how the Alabama football team helped rebuild from the destruction; both emotionally and physically. The book goes into depth what the SI article initially built upon after the tornado's impact. A

good read.

Samantha Gunter says

I absolutely loved this book. Having lived in Tuscaloosa and being in town on April 27, 2011, it touched me on a level that many other people may not truly understand not having been there. Plus, I'm such a big Alabama fan, that I'll read just about anything involving Alabama football! I love that the book featured stories of people that weren't as well known along with how the Crimson Tide athletes helped to come together and rebuild the town and the spirit of Tuscaloosa. It's something I feel so strongly about that I wrote an article for USA Today's College blog.

Brittani says

3.5 stars. I would have rated it higher, but I wanted more weather than football
