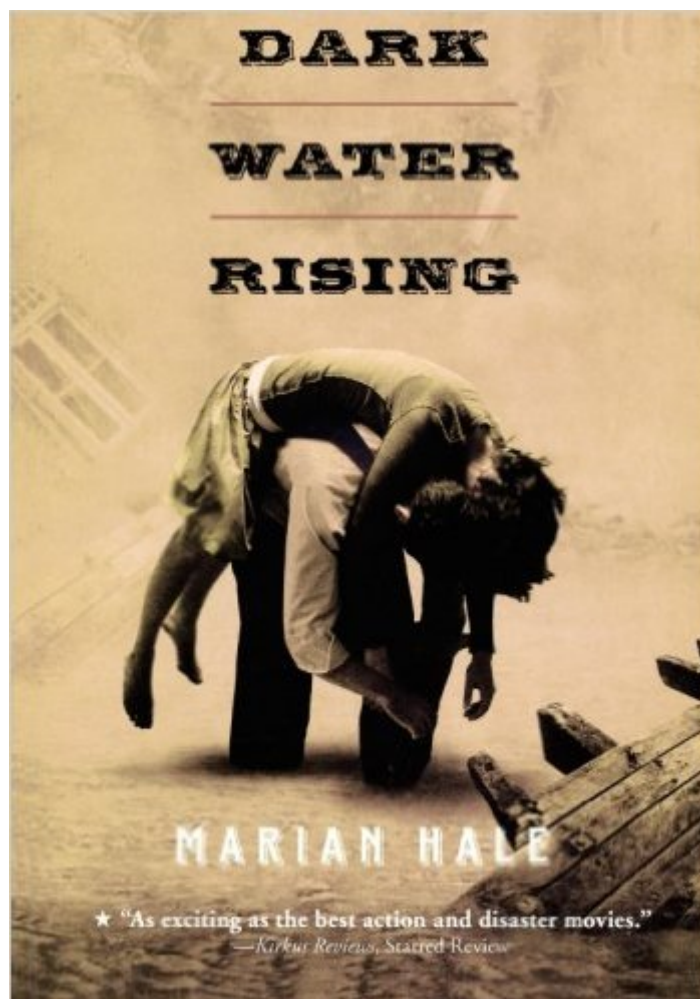


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# Dark Water Rising



## Synopsis

I looked and saw water rushing in from Galveston Bay on one side and from the gulf on the other. The two seas met in the middle of Broadway, swirling over the wooden paving blocks, and I couldn't help but shudder at the sight. All of Galveston appeared to be under water. Galveston, Texas, may be the booming city of the brand-new twentieth century, but to Seth, it is the end of a dream. He longs to be a carpenter like his father, but his family has moved to Galveston so he can go to a good school. Still, the last few weeks of summer might not be so bad. Seth has a real job as a builder and the beach is within walking distance. Things seem to be looking up, until a storm warning is raised one sweltering afternoon. No one could have imagined anything like this. Giant walls of water crash in from the sea. Shingles and bricks are deadly missiles flying through the air. People not hit by flying debris are swept away by rushing water. Forget the future, Seth and his family will be lucky to survive the next twenty-four hours. *Dark Water Rising* is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After enjoying the author's first novel, *The Truth About Sparrows*, I wasn't sure I wanted to read yet another book about the great Galveston storm of 1900. I've visited Galveston often and heard the stories all my life, so I wondered whether this novel could offer anything fresh. But within a few pages of *Dark Water Rising*, I was hooked and finished the novel in one sitting. Seventeen-year-old Seth, the oldest of four children, resents moving to Galveston with his family on a hot August day in 1900. His father hopes the move will push Seth closer to a dream of going to medical school. The

trouble is, that's Papa's dream, not Seth's. Seth wants to become a master carpenter, just like Papa. With the help of their Uncle Nate, Seth and his family settle into life in Galveston. Seth soon forms a friendship with Ben, son of his uncle's caretaker, despite barriers of race and position. In the hot, airless days that lead up to the storm, Seth finds work on a construction project, samples the delights of life on the Galveston Boardwalk, and argues with his father about his future. This story shines with realism and historical detail. On every page, the reader experiences the sights, smells, textures, sounds, and mood of life in the bustling, turn-of-the-century island boomtown. As I was reading it, I was tempted to get in my car and drive to Galveston so I could walk along the beach and imagine the town as it existed in August of 1900. Just as Seth settles into his new job and starts accepting life in Galveston, the first storm warning flags go up. Seth and Ben are separated from other members of the family, and they experience a day and night of terror as a hurricane changes life forever on Galveston island.

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