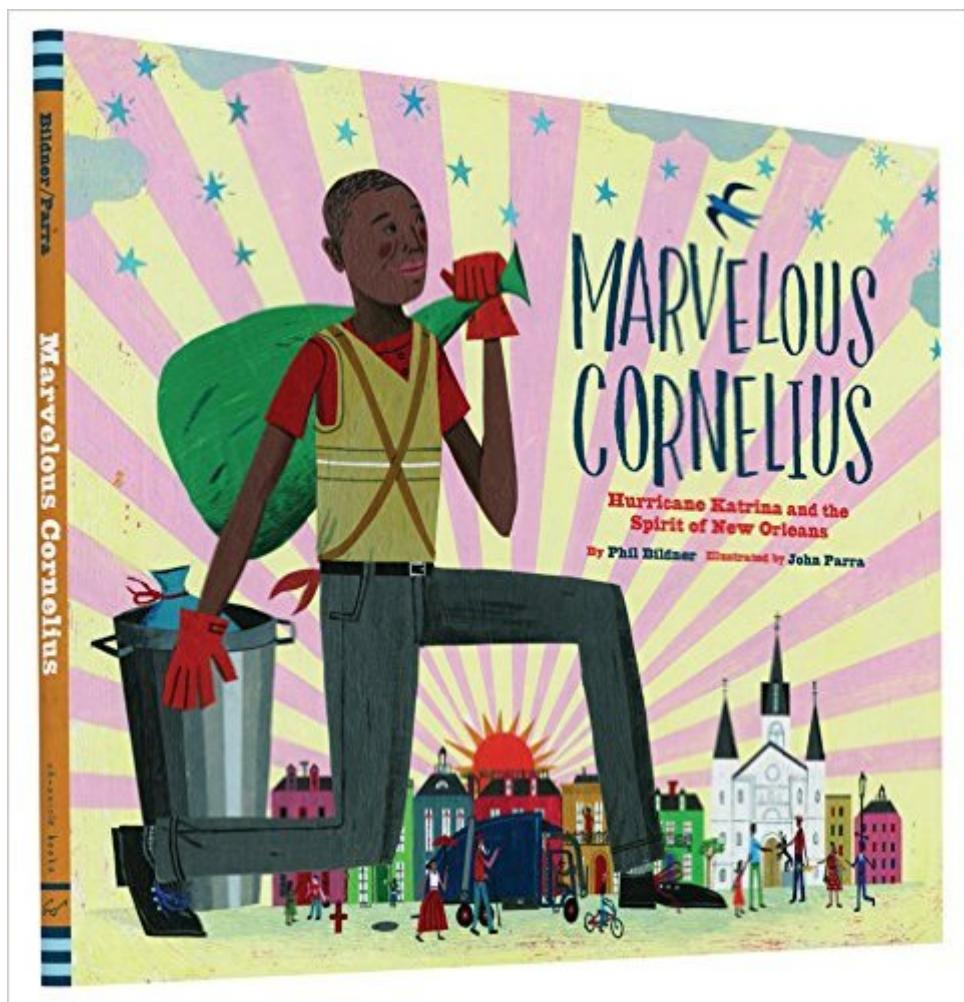


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# Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina And The Spirit Of New Orleans



## **Synopsis**

In New Orleans, there lived a man who saw the streets as his calling, and he swept them clean. He danced up one avenue and down another and everyone danced along. The old ladies whistled and whirled. The old men hooted and hollered. The barbers, bead twirlers, and beignet bakers bounded behind that one-man parade. But then came the rising Mississippiâ "and a storm greater than anyone had seen before. In this heartwarming book about a real garbage man, Phil Bildner and John Parra tell the inspiring story of a humble man and the heroic difference he made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD560L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (August 4, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452125783

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Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.3 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #53 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #87 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Based on the life of a friendly, hardworking, energetic, fun-loving man named Cornelius Washington, the story is about a trash collector in the French Quarter and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He did his job well taking pride in keeping streets on his route clean. When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the trash pickup became a monumental task. But that didnÃ¢Â™t stop Cornelius because he was a monumental man. Everyone he greeted on his morning route pitched in, and people came from all over the United States to help.Ã¢ÂœCornelius rose. He dried his eyes. For his spirit and will were waterproof.Ã¢Â•Phil Bildner creates a tall tale

depicting the life of Cornelius Washington into a modern American folk hero. The art of John Parra is authentic; filled with humanity and emotion. Neither the story nor the art shy away from the pain suffered as a result of the storm. Yet it brilliantly captures that joie de vivre of the people and New Orleans culture. It saddens me to know that Cornelius Washington died at age 48, a few years after the storm, and before the story was written. Many of us who are native New Orleanians have untold stories that include our own personal heroes during that difficult time who showed unbridled courage. And there were those from afar who came to help that showed tremendous kindness. Thanks to Phil Bildner and John Parra we are reminded that they too are Marvelous Cornelius. For more resources see <http://www.keiladawson.com/marvelous-cornelius/>

The is a beautiful book celebrating the human spirit in a modern-day folk hero style. I love that this book shows how a single, humble man who just took pride in his work was able to spread joy in his community. Even in the Katrina aftermath, Cornelius' spirit was still strong and so was the spirit of New Orleans. The text brings to life Cornelius' energy by using lyrical phrases such as "œsashyaed to the curb" and "œclapped the covers like cymbals and twirled the tins like tops". Also be sure to checkout the Author's Note where the author explains how he came upon this regional story. The combination of evocative language with bold, colorful folk art style, and the theme of community make this a winning trifecta. One which I hope will keep this book around for a long time.

A Must Read Book !!Thanks for writing Marvelous Cornelius, Mr. Bildner.& Mr. Parra. Yes Cornelius touch so many people in the great city of New Orleans Louisiana, The life as a garbage worker you explain its so well, JOB WELL DONE.May God Bless you two with Great Success !Special thanks to Katy this wouldn't have been without you !Lou,CA.

Ten years ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans. Some questioned whether it would ever be rebuilt. Yet, the efforts of many determined people—residents and volunteers from around the country and the world—have brought the city back from the brink and restored many of the areas that were affected. Phil Bildner celebrates the recovery and the efforts of everyone who wouldn't give up on New Orleans with a picture book called *Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans*. The story is about Cornelius Washington, a sanitation worker in the French Quarter who captivated residents with singing, dancing, and performing tricks. Bildner shows how before the storm Cornelius' pride in his

work inspired those around him. After Katrina, that same can-do spirit and pride got people to pitch in on the clean up. John Parra's compelling illustrations capture the French Quarter scene, with the pigeons, iron-lace-work balconies, street cars, brick sidewalks, and lively residents. A note at the end talks about the life of the real Cornelius and the author's experience in New Orleans. I recommend *Marvelous Cornelius* for readers aged 3 to 6 and their parents. The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

My second grader and I read this together as well as had a meaningful discussion surrounding the story. It is a great book!

I love stories like this that lift up everyday people who make a positive difference in their corner of the world. Well worth reading.

Such wonderful and inspiring story. Great for all ages.

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