



Pushing the Limits of Change Suggested reading and Discussion Questions

When devastating developments force us into a corner, we have to choose. Will we give up or push back? If we expand our thinking - and imagine a new reality for ourselves - we might just find a way to thrive in that new space.

Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938

R. A. Scotti, Nonfiction. Using the stories of dozens of eyewitnesses as well as documented reports from local newspapers, libraries and archives, author and former journalist R.A. Scotti weaves a thrilling, chilling tale of a day that would go down in infamy for thousands of Northeasterners: September 21, 1938. Most folks along the Atlantic seaboard woke up to another morning of sharply clear skies and calm seas, but soon people were sensing a disturbance in the air and the water, reporting unusual sky coloration, a bizarre and brain-piercing "echo" off the waters, unseasonal high swells, and other such phenomena that indicated something big -- really big -- was moving quickly toward their shores. Within hours, lives were turned upside down, along with most of the coastal lands along Long Island, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as the hurricane bore down with a fury no one had ever witnessed or dared imagine before.

You can't stop turning the pages as Scotti's urgent writing style builds to an emotional peak that leaves you breathless but begging for more. The storm is described in full detail from its quiet, unassuming origin miles out in the Atlantic through its path of destruction toward Florida and ultimately up the Northeast where it struck land -- and beyond to its final demise as it moved into Canada and petered out. All the while we are introduced to people we come to care about, root for and grieve for as they deal with the loss and fear the mighty winds and ruthless storm surges bring. Hundreds were killed in this storm, and thousands became homeless in what history now describes as the fastest hurricane on record, and one of the five most devastating to ever strike the mainland United States. *curledup.com*

- Had you heard about the Great Hurricane of 1938 before reading this book?
- What did you think about the mix of personal story and science in this book? Was it an effective method to deliver information?
- Do you think that our cities are making effective changes to protect against hurricanes?
- How did this book make you think about the Weather Service and bureaucracies in general? Were you inspired to think creatively about preparing your own community for natural disaster?

