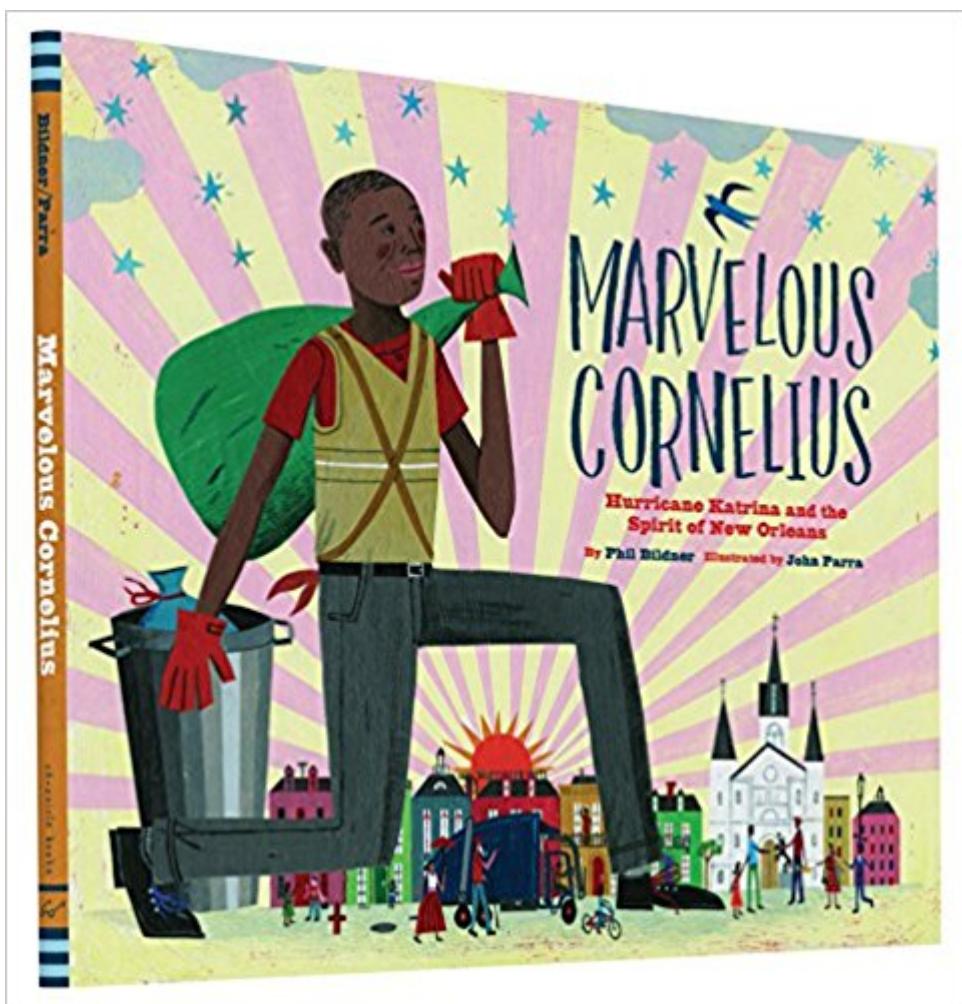


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# Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina And The Spirit Of New Orleans



## **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 Mississippi "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

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

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,280 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 2000s #47 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #82 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

K-Gr 2 "A modern-day folktale about Cornelius Washington, a real-life figure who was a dynamic street sweeper in New Orleans. The working man, aka Marvelous Cornelius, can be seen doing fun tricks and flips while sweeping the streets of the Quarter. When Hurricane Katrina hits the city, Cornelius is overwhelmed by the cleanup, but volunteers come from everywhere to help. He soon finds his NOLA spirit and begins cleaning again in the aftermath of the great storm. Parra's paintings are modern and fresh, with bright colors paired with repetition of phrases and sounds. Children will enjoy both listening to the story read aloud as well as poring over the beautiful pages to learn about

a slice of New Orleans history. VERDICT A stirring story of resilience in the face of adversity.â "April Sanders, Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL

"A fine tribute to an unsung African-American hero."-Kirkus Reviews"Trumpets the power of one person's efforts in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds to inspire an entire community."-Shelf Awareness, starred review"This is a beautiful little book that any young person would love to have. And would be great for any adult to have on their coffee table, another artistic expression of the tens of thousands of stories about Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans."--OnNewOrleans.com"The heroics of a street cleaner - what a refreshing topic."--USA Today"Emphasizes the vibrant life before Hurricane Katrina and makes the impact of the terrible flood."-Booklist"A stirring story of resilience in the face of adversity."-School Library Journal"A new American folk hero."-School Library Connection"A modern day folktale of an ordinary man who helped us become better people through his example."--Books and Whatnot"A lovely new American folk tale."--Imagination Soup

Marvelous Cornelius is a beautifully bright, colorful story about the life of one of New Orleans' most inspirational trash collectors. Every page turn reveals an uplifting full page spread detailing how Marvelous Cornelius lit up the life of the city. The illustrations are done like murals, and even the text moves across the page the same way Marvelous Cornelius would dance his way along his route every day. This book is a joy for readers of every age, reminding us that there is music and love to be found everywhere and no matter our work we can always take pride in it!Visit us at [...]

My son thought that Cornelius--the singing, dancing, and hooting garbage man--looked like a giant on the cover, which I think must have been intentional.I told him that anyone can seem like a giant if you look at them closely enough and it's true. This is a wonderful story about an everyday hero who came to New Orleans' rescue in its darkest hour, just be being himself!

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.

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

Such wonderful and inspiring story. Great for all ages.

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

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 didn'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. 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's spirit was still strong and so was the spirit of New Orleans. The text brings to life Cornelius's energy by using lyrical phrases such as "shayaed to the curb" and "clapped 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.

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