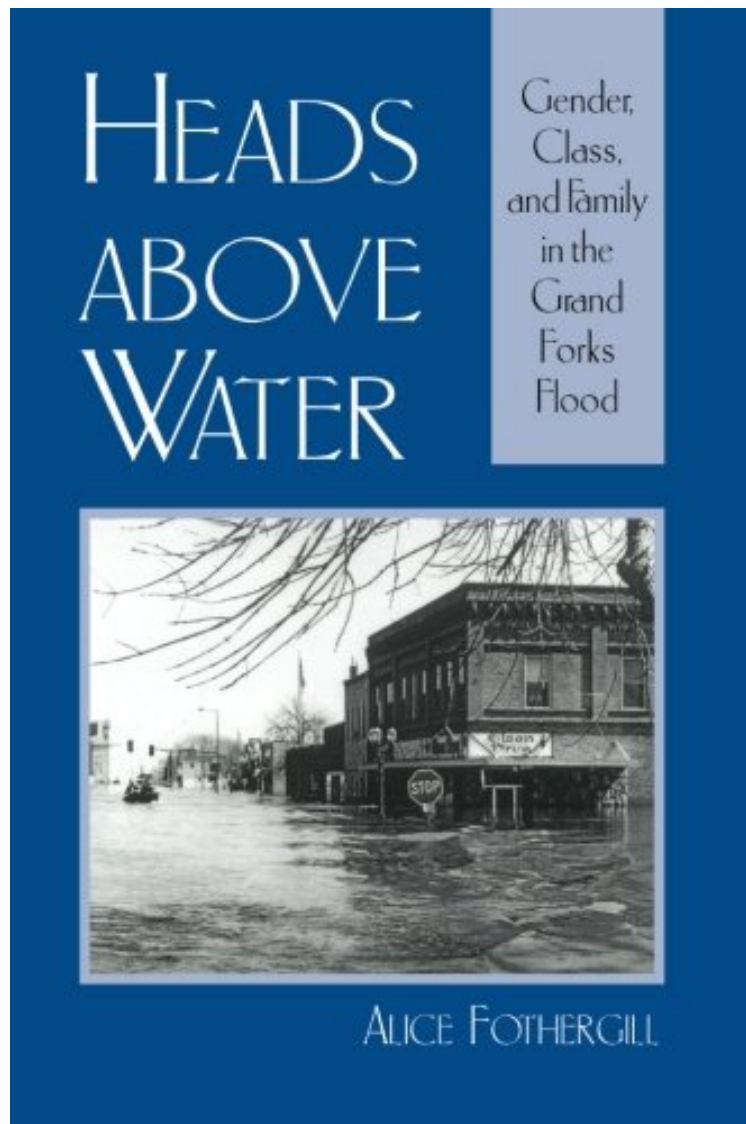


[Download free ebook] Heads above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood

Heads above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood

Alice Fothergill

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Alice Fothergill : Heads above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heads above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Suffering can depend on many factors By W Boudville The black and white photo in the book's cover suggests a decades-past flood. But the episode studied is very recent. The 1997 Grand

Forks flood in North Dakota. Fothergill found a neat way to look at the tribulations of those townspeople. She shows how the experiences were very inhomogeneous. Normally, one might facetiously think that in a natural disaster, suffering might be, if not uniformly distributed, then at least randomly so. But here we see that the gender, social class, race and even sexual orientation, can play marked effects on what difficulties a person experiences, and for how long these are endured. She focuses on women. Since many families suffered, and often, these families had the mothers as the core, holding them together.

An in-depth exploration of women's lives after a natural disaster. *Heads above Water* tells the stories of women and their families who survived the Grand Forks, North Dakota, flood of 1997, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. This book describes the challenges women faced and explores the importance of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, and disability in their disaster recovery. The women found themselves face-to-face with social and familial upheaval, emotional and physical trauma, precarious economic and social status, and feelings of loss and violation. By exploring the experiences of these women, author Alice Fothergill contributes to broader sociological discussions about women's changing roles, the stigma of needing and receiving assistance, family relationships under stress, domestic violence, downward mobility, and the importance of "home" to one's identity and sense of self. *Heads above Water* offers poignant insight into women's everyday lives in an extraordinary time. It makes a major contribution to the growing literature on gendered impacts of disaster, both at the scale of the individual/the body and at a larger community scale. This book makes for very compelling reading. Fothergill weaves together individual women's own stories with a deft hand. Her empirical observations and theoretical insights would be of value to feminist geographers, as well as to those interested in natural disasters and planning. Her book should also inspire further geographical analysis of the gendered impacts of disaster. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Alice Fothergill has performed a great service by reporting about events often overlooked, glossed over, or discounted as fiction that resulted from the 1997 Grand Forks, North Dakota, flood and its impact on local women. *Great Plains Quarterly* does much to advance what is known about women's experiences in a natural disaster. *Teaching Sociology* [Fothergill] charts the physical, psychological, social, and economic effects of the flood on 40 women and their families, using evidence gathered primarily from oral interviews. Fothergill is an engaging writer, and she incorporates the voices of her 40 women frequently in the text. The book provides an important new perspective for a growing field of scholarship. CHOICE "This is the first book of its kind based on the experience of women in disaster. It is an interesting read, and at the same time it has a strong theoretical grounding. This is a rare combination." Betty H. Morrow, Florida International University

"This is the first book of its kind based on the experience of women in disaster. It is an interesting read, and at the same time it has a strong theoretical grounding. This is a rare combination." About the Author Alice Fothergill is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Vermont.