

KATRINA'S SANDCASTLES

New Hope From the Ruins of New Orleans Schools by KAYCEE ECKHARDT

"Reminds us that it's kids that are important, it's a story of why teachers do what they do. . . . It's a gem. . . . an important book, and I'm so glad it has been written." —Davis Guggenheim, director, Waiting for Superman, An Inconvenient Truth, The Shield

"A riveting and nuanced look at one of the most important education stories of our time. Kaycee Eckhardt adds a desperately needed front-line perspective to our understanding of this complex and important story. Passionate and dedicated, Eckhardt writes from the heart." —Sarah Carr, author, Hope Against Hope

"With uncompromising candor, she vividly describes the hard-won successes and gut-wrenching failures of a teacher's work. You won't forget the young people in her classroom and what she learned from them." —Mike Rose, author, Possible Lives: The Promise of Public Education in America

"Beautiful, brave, and honest. Kaycee shows us the complexity of good

teaching—the commitment, the skills, the heart, the humility. A testament to the possibility, difficulty, and challenge of improving education that should be read by anyone considering teaching in urban school systems." —Lisa Wilde, author, Yo Miss

Katrina's Sandcastles is Kaycee Eckhardt's harrowing and hopeful journey of becoming an effective teacher and building a new school in post-Katrina New Orleans. Beginning as a first year teacher, Eckhardt recounts her path through four different schools in the New Orleans neighborhoods of Holly Grove, Algiers, Treme, and the 9th Ward, planting the seeds of literacy in the most dire of circumstances. With affection and brutal honesty, she relates the circumstances of several children, the belief in all things possible, and finally, her most difficult decision of all. Filled with heartbreaking stories, teacher survival strategies, and an excess of heart, Katrina's Sandcastles is a story of sacrifice and struggle, belief and failure, despair and ultimate redemption in the heart of the Crescent City.

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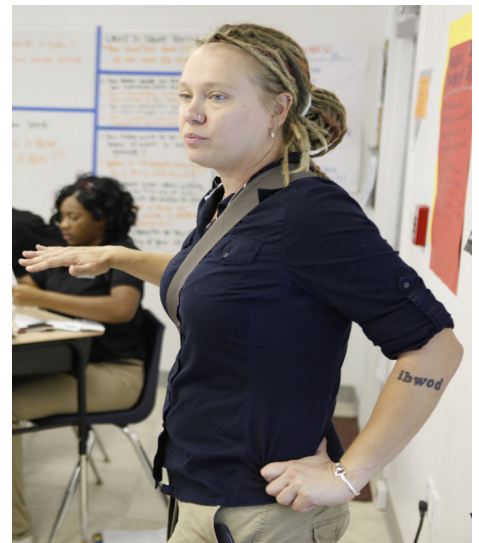
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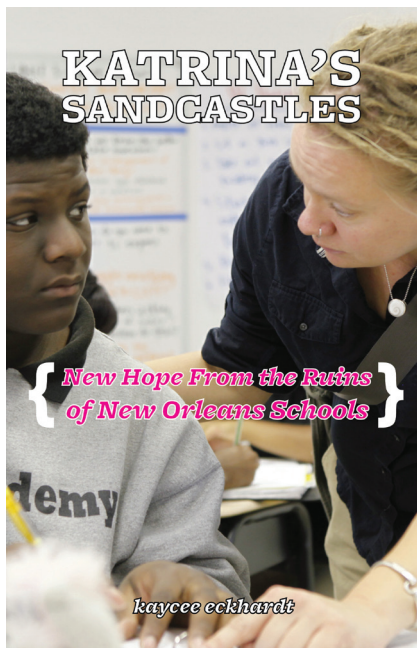
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An award-winning speaker and education pioneer tells the story of overcoming her struggles as a teacher.



Kaycee Eckhardt created the reading program for innovative New Orleans charter school Sci Academy where students' reading levels improved by an average of over 3.5 years. Eckhardt was the Louisiana Charter Teacher of the Year in 2009. She has gone on to do national education, Common Core advocacy, and teaches literacy development. She was interviewed by Brian Williams on NBC's Teacher Town Hall and the subject of the viral documentaries School Works: The Committed Teacher and America Achieves: Symbolism in the Lottery. She continues to work in education policy and lectures to motivate and inspire first year teachers. She lives in New Orleans.

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