



A MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICK for June!



F5

DEVASTATION, SURVIVAL, AND THE MOST VIOLENT TORNADO OUTBREAK OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Mark Levine

Miramax Books

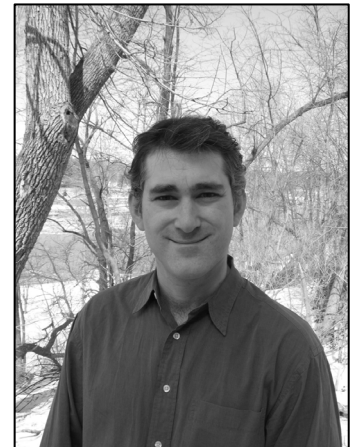
The most devastating outbreak of the century occurred on April 3, 1974, when 148 tornados touched down in 13 states from Michigan to Mississippi, killing hundreds and damaging thousands of homes. This super-outbreak is the subject of **F5: Devastation, Survival and the Most Violent Tornado Outbreak of the 20th Century** (Miramax Books; June 6, 2007), the gripping new book by award-winning magazine writer Mark Levine.

On the day of the 1974 tornado catastrophe, the social and political climate of the country was no more stable than the weather: the military failure in Vietnam was at the forefront of people's minds; Nixon's approval ratings were a mere 65% (the lowest ever for a sitting president); crime was way up and the economy—in the midst of oil rationing—was in the doldrums. And, like the weather, history has a way of repeating itself. Today we are once again faced with a grim and uncertain war, historically low presidential approval ratings, and an oil crisis. As a nation with many parallel concerns, we are in a prime position to view the circumstances surrounding the 1974 outbreak through empathetic eyes.

F5 expertly examines the atmospheric ingredients of the disaster, but at its heart it's less about science and more about a collision between everyday life and broad, uncontrollable forces. In the foreground of **F5** is Limestone County, Alabama, where two tornados (a category 4 and a category 5—the most severe) struck within 30-minutes. In Limestone, we meet a number of ordinary people whose lives are dramatically changed by the storm and its aftermath. These include a pair of teenage lovers, a small-town Sheriff, a preacher, and an aerospace technician given to religious visions. It is the struggle of these people—to hold their lives and their families together under sudden, enormous pressure—that drives the book.

Mark Levine teaches at the Iowa Writers Workshop in Iowa City. He is a featured author at the MBA Spring Meeting Reception in Omaha on April 21.

We hope you'll enjoy reading and selling this new book. We'd love to have your comments about it. Thanks for your support for **F5** and author **Mark Levine!**



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June 6 pub date

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[currently distributed by Hachette, but switching with Hyperion to HarperCollins this summer]

Contemporary US History / Current Affairs

Hardcover, \$25.95

ISBN-13 978-1-4013-5220-2, ISBN-10 1-4013-5220-0

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