

## SYNOPSIS

### THE SCYTHE by Terrance Mitchell Thibodeaux

A massive hurricane slashes across the Gulf of Mexico toward New Orleans, taking direct aim at the city and its people..

Gina and Clara Dupre are close sisters sharing a home with their young children. As the advanced edges of the hurricane reach the city, Gina wants to flee to the shelters. But Clara, fearing crime and danger to their children, stubbornly insists that they would be safer at home.

Pete and Jenny Winters are newlyweds. Both are pressed into service in preparation for the approaching storm; Jenny is an on-call nurse tending to elderly patients at a local infirmary, while Pete serves on a Coast Guard helicopter, performing search and rescue missions in the Gulf.

Clara's volatile ex-boyfriend Ronald Evans, and his buddy Preston Bouchard, are cops on the New Orleans police force. As the hurricane draws closer, both men begin to weigh increasing concern for the safety of their own families against their sworn duty to protect and serve their city.

All their fates become intertwined when Pete's helicopter answers a distress call from a vessel floundering in the Gulf: He and his crew discover the Scythe -- a pack of cunning and voracious saurians driven up from the depths by the hurricane. The Scythe are racing toward the coast to find a new nesting ground, and wiping out every species they encounter along the way...

Pete and his crew mount a fierce, brutal onslaught against the Scythe. But they fatally underestimate their opponents; the smart, swiftly adaptive Scythe bring down the helicopter and sweep north to the coastline. They start carving a lethal swath up the Mississippi, slaughtering a research team at the delta before streaking upstream to overtake a caravan of suburbanites fleeing north from the storm.

A living hell descends when the hurricane slams into New Orleans and breaches the fragile levee system; the Scythe swim into the city's flooded neighbourhoods and stake a bloody claim to their new habitat.

Gina and Clara, along with dozens of other families, are now trapped on rooftops across New Orleans. They huddle with their children, isolated and running out of time -- before finally being forced to flee for their lives when the Scythe attack their neighbourhood and pursue them across the city.

Jenny is haunted by the rising floodwaters -- and increasingly terrified by her inability to contact Pete. Yet she clings to hope, struggling to stretch dwindling stocks of medicine among her dying patients, even as a co-worker plots a more sinister way to alleviate the shortages.

Ronald and Preston venture out into the flood itself, fanning across the city with the police force. The crisis deepens when Ronald confronts a gang of armed and murderous looters, while Preston's squad fights a running, roiling battle against the Scythe at an abandoned pumping station.

The story unfolds in horrific, cinematic scale as darkness and water engulf New Orleans. At the very end, it climaxes as a battle for survival: A grieving Clara and a wounded, exhausted Preston find themselves trapped on an isolated stretch of highway. As the Scythe close in, Clara and Preston decide to stop running: They turn to make one last, fearless stand in a desperate gambit to save Clara's children...