

# The Last Train to Key West: A Haunting Journey Through the Aftermath of Hurricane Irma



In September 2017, Hurricane Irma ravaged the Florida Keys, leaving behind a trail of devastation and heartbreak. Amidst the wreckage, a single train stood stranded, forever etched as a poignant symbol of the storm's wrath. This is the story of the "Last Train to Key West," a haunting journey through the aftermath of Irma.

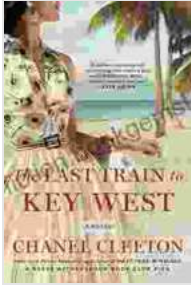
**The Last Train to Key West** by Chanel Cleeton

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4933 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 314 pages



## **The Journey Begins**

On September 10, 2017, the CSX train 288 made its final run to Key West. Little did the passengers know that this would be their fateful journey. As the train approached the Overseas Highway, the eye of the storm bore down upon them.

## **The Fury of Irma**

Hurricanes are forces of nature unlike any other. Irma's winds howled with unrelenting fury, tearing into the train like a banshee. Water surged over the tracks, inundating the carriages and trapping the terrified passengers inside.

## **Stranded in the Storm**

For hours, the train remained stranded, battered by the relentless storm. The windows shattered, and the roof began to buckle beneath the weight of the water. Passengers clung to their seats in desperation, praying for deliverance.

## **Aftermath and Recovery**

As the storm subsided, the extent of the damage became clear. The train had been severely damaged, and the tracks were washed away in places. The passengers had miraculously survived, but they were stranded in a wasteland of shattered hopes.

In the days that followed, an extraordinary rescue operation took place. Helicopters airlifted the survivors to safety, while crews worked tirelessly to repair the shattered infrastructure. It would take months before the train service to Key West could be restored.

### **The Legacy of the Last Train**

The Last Train to Key West became a poignant reminder of the destructive power of nature. It served as a testament to the resilience of human spirit, even in the face of unimaginable adversity.

Today, the train carriages remain on display as a permanent exhibition at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. They stand as a silent witness to the storm's wrath and the indomitable spirit of those who survived it.

### **The Key West Express**

In the aftermath of Irma, the Key West Express was established to provide a lifeline to the isolated islands of the Florida Keys. This high-speed ferry service connects Miami to Key West in just 3.5 hours, offering a convenient and scenic alternative to the traditional train journey.

The Last Train to Key West is a haunting tale of survival and resilience in the face of adversity. Its legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of community, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of the human soul.



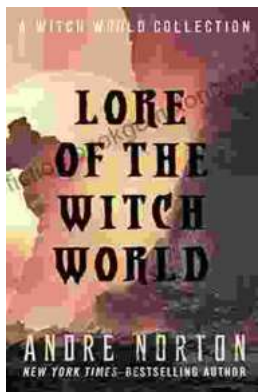
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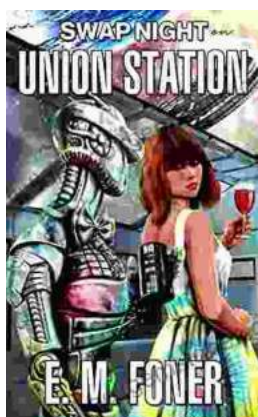
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