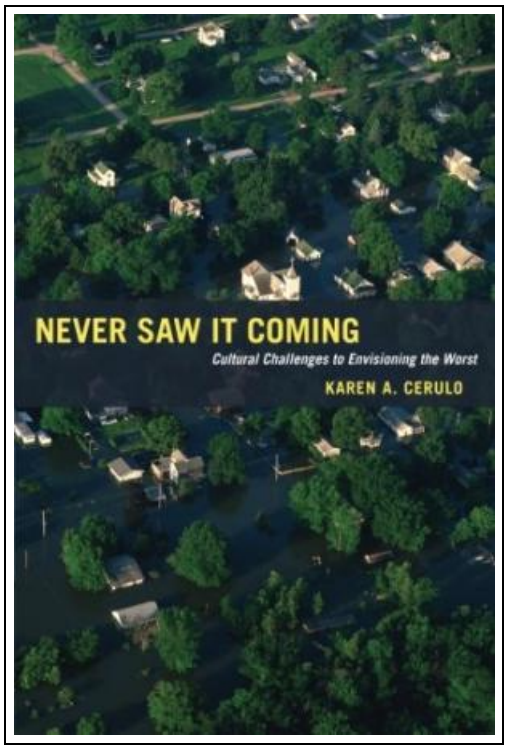
Never Saw It Coming Cultural Challenges to Envisioning the Worst



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Reviews

Extremely helpful to any or all category of men and women. It really is rally exciting throgh reading time. I am just happy to let you know that this is basically the greatest pdf i have got go through in my personal existence and may be he finest book for at any time.
(Carroll Greenfelder IV)

NEVER SAW IT COMING CULTURAL CHALLENGES TO ENVISIONING THE WORST

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University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 336 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.8in. x 0.8in.Peopleespecially Americansare by and large optimists. Theyre much better at imagining best-case scenarios (I could win the lottery!) than worst-case scenarios (A hurricane could destroy my neighborhood!). This is true not just of their approach to imagining the future, but of their memories as well: people are better able to describe the best moments of their lives than they are the worst. Though there are psychological reasons for this phenomenon, Karen A. Cerulo, in Never Saw It Coming, considers instead the role of society in fostering this attitude. What kinds of communities develop this pattern of thought, which do not, and what does that say about human ability to evaluate possible outcomes of decisions and eventsCerulo takes readers to diverse realms of experience, including intimate family relationships, key transitions in our lives, the places we work and play, and the boardrooms of organizations and bureaucracies. Using interviews, surveys, artistic and fictional accounts, media reports, historical data, and official records, she illuminates one of the most common, yet least studied, of human traitsa blatant disregard for worst-case scenarios. Never Saw It Coming, therefore, will be crucial to anyone who wants to understand human attempts to picture or plan the future. In Never Saw It Coming, Karen Cerulo argues that in American society there is a positive symmetry, a tendency to focus on and exaggerate the best, the winner, the most optimistic outcome and outlook. Thus, the conceptions of the worst are underdeveloped and elided. Naturally, as she masterfully outlines, there are dramatic consequences to this characterological inability to imagine and prepare for the worst, as the failure to heed memos leading up to both the 911 and NASA Challenger disasters, for instance, so painfully reminded us. --Robin...

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