

*Mangroves interview*

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Q: When and how was Miami after the major hurricane

A: I believe the year was 2020, when the hurricane hit Miami beach killing off thousands and displacing all on the island. The US was at a very isolationist point and even though just about everyone on the island was an American citizen the mainland still didn't want to accept us as refugees. They said that we were violent criminals, that the country was full, and that we would take jobs and housing if we moved onto the mainland, there was a strict border control on the mainland stopping us from entering, this created incredible chaos on the skyscrapers that were dipped in the ocean water, land that was still arable and above water because of the mangroves, land that was above ground was owned by powerful wealthy people. These powerful people were usually in Miami since before its collapse or were entrepreneur type people sent in by large corporations to create an overpriced market for the thousands of starving people. Miami at this point was a very harsh place to live in and I wanted to desperately leave, I like most others just wanted to get to mainland US, we didn't care that this was our home, that this was a place that holds a special place in our hearts, we just wanted to feel safe like we did before, we wanted proper meals, we really just wanted to live a normal life. Just about everyone including me had to ransack old stores and restaurants like Publix, art deco market, or the countless restaurants in Española way, we didn't care about others we only cared about ourselves this may sound selfish but we had to think this way if we wanted to survive. Sometimes when I think back to what I had to do survive I cry and feel miserable, I was like a man with no morals, I robbed from hundreds of people and I've even killed people with families, I had a family of my own to take care of, I needed lots of food far more than the people that were living alone. I wish I could've bought food like I did back when the island wasn't all destroyed but the cost was far too much, only a few people still bought food it was enough for the wealthy to stay wealthy, enough for them to keep on abusing us. I remember though that were people that wanted to bring justice to Miami to take from the wealthy and give it to the people but none of these attempted revolutions worked, all that was created was riots and even more chaos which made the position of the wealthy even stronger because they could use these failed riots as propaganda to support them.

Q: Was there anything you liked about Miami around that time?

A: The small amount of food that could be fished and the food made from the local farms was really good, much better than the food that is produced nowadays. There really weren't that many positives about Miami around this time, I guess you could say how united we all miserably felt brought a strong sort of comradeship, we all had to try and live for ourselves in a very primal way, hunting and stealing from each other, this sort of very simplistic way of life far disconnected from the very complex world that just about everyone has gotten far too used to made me feel emotions and feelings I didn't know I had. I know was a terrible person but we were all just as terrible, we all had to fight and kill for our lives, life was very primal for quite a few years. While I did say that no one really cared about Miami having a

sort of special place in our hearts since we had lived in the city for pretty much all of lives, still seeing places that have a special place for me like the Fillmore theater, the local stores which I used to always buy from, even my old school, being around and seeing these places all the time made me feel comfortable and homely, something that I would lose if I migrated somewhere else that I don't know.

Life may have been very harsh and crude and I can't even forgive myself or just about everyone I know that did me and others wrong in the city, I still recognize that Miami and the Miami before it as home in a way that no other place or city does.