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Fire On The Horizon: The Untold Story Of The Gulf Oil Disaster



Synopsis

"A phenomenal feat of journalism. . . . I tore through it like a novel but with the queasy knowledge that the whole damn thing is true." —Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm* and *War*

Blending exclusive first-person interviews and penetrating investigative reporting, oil rig captain John Konrad and veteran *Washington Post* writer Tom Schroder give the definitive, white-knuckled account of the Deepwater Horizon explosion—as well as a riveting insider's view of the byzantine culture of offshore drilling that made the disaster inevitable. As the world continues to cope with the oil spill's grim aftermath—with environmental and economic consequences all the more dire in a region still rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina—Konrad and Schroder's real-time account of the disaster shows us just where things went wrong, and points the way to a safer future for us all.

Book Information

File Size: 1352 KB

Print Length: 381 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books (March 1, 2011)

Publication Date: March 1, 2011

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B0042FZVT4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #329,963 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #43

in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction >

Drilling Procedures #51 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation >

Engineering > Industrial, Manufacturing & Operational Systems > Safety & Health #51 in Kindle

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Customer Reviews

I always had a hard time trying to explain to people in my family or friends outside the industry

exactly what it is I do. This Book really is a good description of rig life. Very accurate. My son and I read this book together. He is 10. He was very interested in the book and could not wait to get to the next chapter. The technical and historical parts in the book were very interesting. Some parts of the book made me laugh, some were very emotional. Especially the time when the families were not being promptly notified about their loved ones. The not knowing must have been hell. Then either the happiness that your loved one made it or the sadness that followed revelations of the end. Even the ones that did survive are changed either physically, emotionally or both for ever. Some parts really pissed me off to know that in this day of safety and work practices that the managers made such poor choices on cutting corners to save a penny. The thing that sticks out for me is the loss the families endured. It seemed like their loss and suffering took a back seat to the enormity of the event itself. The report of the moments leading up to the blow out and explosion, during the fire and after the abandonment were so intense I could not put the book down. I try to put myself in their shoes. What would I do? I can not imagine and refuse to speculate. I just wanted to pass on my gratitude to John for such a Book. I really could not put it down. I am going to read it again to make sure I did not miss anything. I also plan on sending copies of this book to family members as gifts.

I was looking forward to reading this book since I first heard rumors of it on gcaptain.com. As a working mariner and someone who has spent years working in the oilfield I was looking forward to learning more about what really happened out there that night. I enjoyed reading the book. It was a real page turner. I got a lot out of the explanations of how the drilling operations worked and what exactly went on while they were drilling the well. It was interesting to find out more about what the rig used all that cement and barite we would carry out to them for. I thought the best part of the book was how the writers tried to get across to readers what it is really like offshore. No one really gets it unless they have experienced it. Its a small world out here and crews become like family. I think they could have improved the story by writing a little more about more of the crewmembers and thier daily life onboard the rig. I was a little confused about some of the more technical aspects of the drilling operations, I could have benefited from more simple explanations and pictures of how they pumped the cement down to flush out the mud, etc. All in all, the book was a good read. It was interesting to learn some of the history of the rigs and the companies and how that all tied into what happened on the Deepwater Horizon. I hope there will be some important "lessons learned" from this accident and we will never see anything like this again.

Given that I'm working in the gas industry, this one hits a little too close to home.

As a member of gCaptain, I received an email about this book when it came out. I was excited to see a book written by a fellow mariner, so I bought it for my next hitch. Currently I am working tugs for the better schedule to be home with my family, while trying my best to get into a Gulf job, which would be even better. When I started my hitch, I set the book down on the table in the galley, I figured the crew would enjoy reading it, I usually stick to sleeping to movies in my off time. I had to pick up a really long watch and decided I would pick the book up and give it a try, if I don't get sucked into a book within the first 10 pages, I won't finish it. Needless to say, I was excited reading the book, I had to take breaks to tell my wife she needed to read it. It's hard to describe going to an academy and going out to sea to the layperson. My wife is slowly learning, and her family has no clue what I go through, or my family goes through. This book took the words right out of my mouth, was like the author was describing my life. I wanted her and her family to read the book, just to understand my life. The description of the characters, giving their backgrounds, showing the type of person they were, painted a perfect picture of most the guys I know. The way it was written really sucks you into the lives of the crew, you feel as though you had known them for years. I believe these men and one woman convey the image of the epitome of seafarers. When disaster struck, it happened suddenly, kind of caught me off guard. Maybe I was so engulfed in the story and the peoples lives that I felt like I was there. Then once the alarm sounds, it brought out all the times I've been jolted by a sudden odd alarm. Im pretty sure my heart was racing, and I'm actually amazed I didn't white knuckle the book to pieces. Thank God I didn't hear any alarms from the engine room, or I would've been running for the turnout gear. I finished the book in 2 sittings, which for me is rare. It would have been 1 if I hadn't been working 15+ hour days. There never was a dull moment in the book, it got me hooked right away, kept me going the whole time, and almost kept me from getting some sleep. After I finished the book, it spend maybe a solid hour on the table before getting snatched up by the mate. Im sure this book will be read and enjoyed by all on the boat. After finishing the book, I did tell my wife not to read it, reason being she worries too much. So I would highly recommend this book to anyone, except those attached to the men and women who go out to sea (if they worry like my wife does). If you are not in the maritime community, this is a must read, as you will gain a lot of knowledge from this book. If you made it through the entirety of my review, then I'll leave you with 2 things: 1. Don't listen to anybody that gives this book poor reviews, they don't know what they are talking about. and 2. If you work in the gulf and need a damn good licensed engineer, I'm available.

Nicely written in a way that the reader remains engaged. I also appreciated the explanation of the various mechanical aspects of offshore drilling, done in a way that was understandable to a non-PE major like me! Good read!!

Read the book after I saw the movie, book better

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