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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.

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Customer Reviews

When the Deepwater Horizon suffered a blowout, caught fire and sank in the Gulf of Mexico last April, it was only forty miles off the coast of Louisiana. Yet, in many respects, the world aboard the

ill-fated rig was as alien to most of us as if it had been dropped from outer space. Even within the shipping industry, deep-water offshore drilling is often poorly understood, a world wholly unto itself. Nevertheless, the catastrophe on the Deepwater Horizon touched us all. The explosion and fire killed eleven, injured seventeen and resulted in the worst accidental marine oil spill in history. The impact, on both the environment of the Gulf of Mexico and on offshore oil policy, is likely to be far reaching. This is why John Konrad's and Tom Schorder's new book, *Fire on the Horizon: The Untold Story of the Gulf Oil Disaster*, is so timely and so welcome. Konrad knows of what he writes. He is a veteran drill rig captain and a former employee of Transocean, the company that owned the Deepwater Horizon. He also is the founder of the excellent maritime industry blog, gCaptain.com. Konrad is assisted by Tom Schoder, who was the editor of the *Washington Post Magazine* when the magazine won, not one, but two Pulitzer Prizes. The Deepwater Horizon was one of the most powerful industrial machines ever built. A semi-submersible, dynamically-positioned, ultra-deepwater rig - it was part ship and part drilling platform. The rig was 367' long and 256' wide and was 395' tall from the thrusters to the top of the derrick, roughly as tall as a 40 story office tower. When she was built in 2000 in Korea, she was the state of the art in deep water drilling.

As a member of [gCaptain](http://gCaptain.com), 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.

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