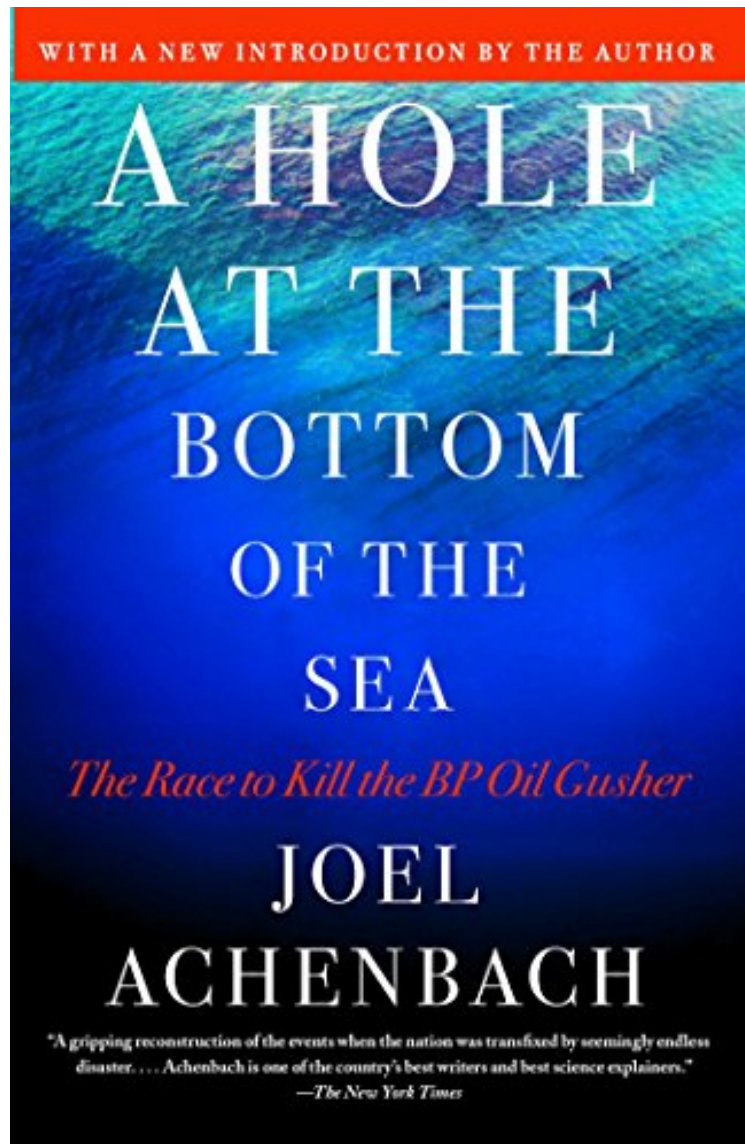


(Download) A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher

A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher

Joel Achenbach

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Joel Achenbach : A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is less about the details of how the the ...By D. CostelloThis book less about the details of how the the blow-out happened and how the problems were solved than about how BP and the government presented the problems to the public and some of the public reactions. Some pictures and diagrams would have been enormously helpful. Henry Petroski in another book on engineering failures

notes that the sheer ram in the blowout preventer did not function correctly because the riser pipe was slightly tilted. Petroski notes that this was clearly a design failure since it would be expected that if you were going to activate the sheer ram, you knew that things had gone badly wrong. While the failure of the sheer ram was not the cause of the disaster, the failure was symptomatic of the sloppy approach taken in both the engineering and the activities in drilling this well. None of this is described in this book. In the end, this book is more of a public relations critique and a description of the politics of the disaster than about what actually happened in the gulf. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Decent book...repetitive and overly technical for the average reader By HMWI enjoyed parts of the book. At a time when the movie of the accident brought BP deep water drilling back into discussion, this book certainly covered interesting parts of the entire incident. However, I found the author repetitive and overly technical, even for someone around the Texas oil patch for a long time. In my opinion, this book will lose a lot of readers in miniscule details rather than the real issues. I would still read it, but it lost some of my rating due to the way it was written 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and insightful By Erwin C. Pantel A very interesting telling of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, with particular focus on the efforts after the blowout and sinking of the rig to stop the oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico. Very interesting look at the overall complexity of modern technological systems that make serious problems like the blowout and oil rig disaster that killed 11 men and possibly fully unknowable environmental damage should not be unexpected.

It was a technological crisis in an alien realm: a blown-out oil well in mile-deep water in the Gulf of Mexico. For the engineers who had to kill the well, this was like Apollo 13, a crisis no one saw coming, and one of untold danger and challenge. A suspense story, a mystery, a technological thriller: This is Joel Achenbach's groundbreaking account of the Deepwater Horizon disaster and what came after. The tragic explosion on the huge drilling rig in April 2010 killed eleven men and triggered an environmental disaster. As a gusher of crude surged into the Gulf's waters, BP engineers and government scientists—awkwardly teamed in Houston—raced to devise ways to plug the Macondo well. Achenbach, a veteran reporter for The Washington Post and acclaimed science writer for National Geographic, moves beyond the blame game to tell the gripping story of what it was like, behind the scenes, moment by moment, in the struggle to kill Macondo. Here are the controversies, the miscalculations, the frustrations, and ultimately the technical triumphs of men and women who worked out of sight and around the clock for months to find a way to plug the well. The Deepwater Horizon disaster was an environmental 9/11. The government did not have the means to solve the problem; only the private sector had the tools, and it didn't have the right ones as the country became haunted by Macondo's black plume, which was omnipresent on TV and the Internet. Remotely operated vehicles, the spaceships of the deep, had to perform the challenging technical maneuvers on the seafloor. Engineers choreographed this robotic ballet and crammed years of innovation into a single summer. As he describes the drama in Houston, Achenbach probes the government investigation into what went wrong in the deep sea. This was a confounding mystery, an engineering whodunit. The lessons of this tragedy can be applied broadly to all complex enterprises and should make us look more closely at the highly engineered society that surrounds us. Achenbach has written a cautionary tale that doubles as a technological thriller.