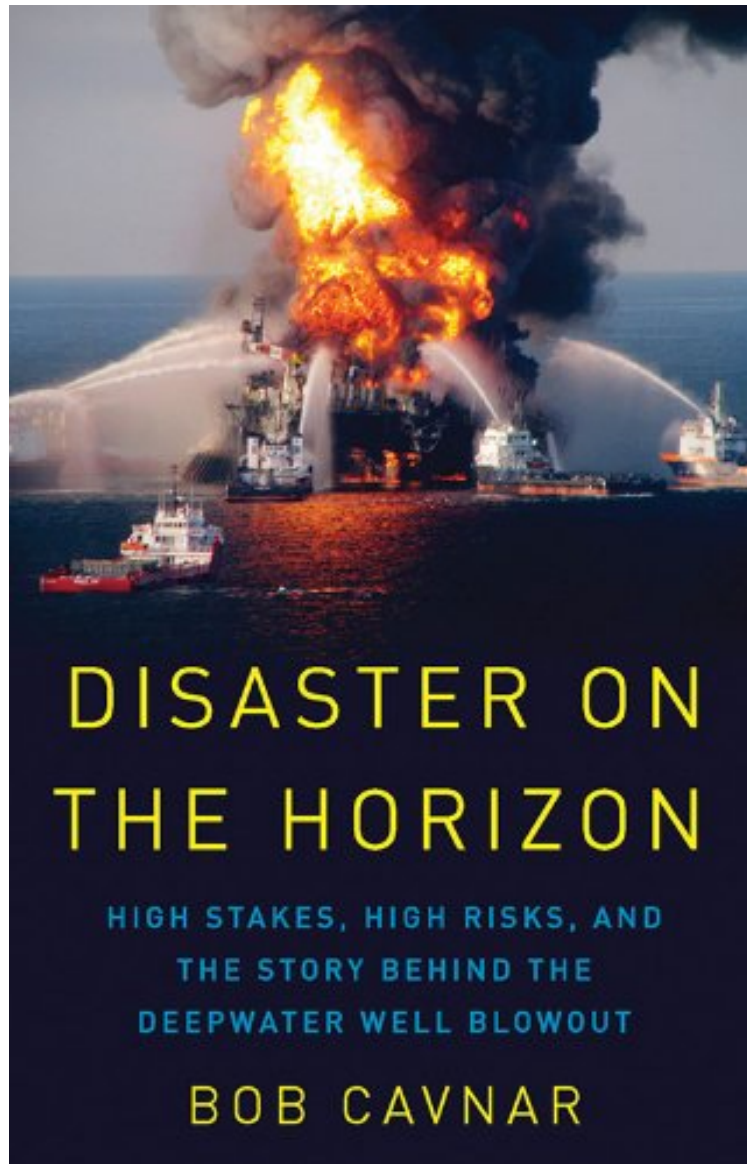


(Free) Disaster on the Horizon: High Stakes, High Risks, and the Story Behind the Deepwater Well Blowout

Disaster on the Horizon: High Stakes, High Risks, and the Story Behind the Deepwater Well Blowout

Bob Cavnar

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Bob Cavnar : Disaster on the Horizon: High Stakes, High Risks, and the Story Behind the Deepwater Well Blowout before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disaster on the Horizon: High Stakes, High Risks, and the Story Behind the Deepwater Well Blowout:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fellow writer on same topic, J.A. (John) TurleyBy J.A. (John) TurleyDisaster on the Horizon, written by industry-expert Bob Cavnar, is an excellent read. Published in 2010, it was

one of the first books on the topic. He does an eye-opening and credible job in laying out the technical, political, and cultural agonies that clashed as oil billowed from the seafloor, and as people and equipment gathered at the site for the kill that seemed to take forever. Mr. Cavnar minces no words. If you do wrong, he's in your face and on the page, and it doesn't matter if you're the company man, a contractor, BP, or the entire industry. I like that, and it makes for a good book. Disaster on the Horizon, on my permanent bookshelf, was a source of good information for my own research on the topic. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book on a horrible mess By J. S. White This review is about the paper bound edition only. Mr. Cavnar brings his knowledge and attitude to describing the events leading up to the fire and blowout on the Deepwater Horizon and to its aftermath. This is good one-stop book. Mr. Cavnar knows his material and wants you to understand it as well. Therein is the book's major failing, there are nothing like enough illustrations. This particularly vexing when Mr. Cavnar is describing the technologies and techniques of oil exploration and extraction. This is a complex and fascinating subject and the layman would be better served with more illustrations to follow along with the clear explanations. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Read from Someone on a Drillship. By White I work on a 6th generation drillship and I think this was a great read for everyone in the industry, and everyone else who wants to truly understand what happened on that day. The author simply (but still in detail) explains everything and there is great glossary in the back of the ebook. I wish this book was out before I got into the industry as it would have explained many things I had to learn the hard way. Lastly I would like to say that the author was more than fair on how he describes BP's business practices. Not all companies are as bad as them though.

Disaster on the Horizon is a behind-the-scenes investigative look at the worst oil well accident in US history, which led to the current environmental and economic catastrophe on the Gulf Coast. Cavnar uses his 30 years in the business to take readers inside the disaster, exposing the decisions leading up to the blowout and the immediate aftermath. It includes personal accounts of the survivors, assembled from testimony during various investigations, as well as personal interviews with survivors, witnesses, and family. It also provides a layman's look at the industry, its technology, people, and risks. It deconstructs events and decisions made by BP, Transocean, and the US Government before and after the disaster, and the effects of those decisions, both good and bad. Cavnar explains what happened in the Gulf, explores how we arrived at deep water drilling in the first place and then charts a course for how to avoid these disasters in the future.

From Publishers Weekly Cavnar, a veteran of the energy industry (including early work on oil rigs and pipeline construction), does a more-than-admirable job of clarifying deepwater drilling, specifically the corporate interests behind it and the mechanics and risks associated with it. Cavnar approach his subject like a muckraking reporter, pointing fingers and wringing hands and, though he doesn't spare BP, he argues that their hands were tied. Regarding their lowball estimates of oil spilled in the early days, Cavnar states that "liability is based on the amount of oil released into the environment"; though BP officials "probably had calculated the actual flow rate to within a few percent," releasing those figures would have meant owning up to a much greater liability. Especially chilling is Cavnar's assertion that other disasters will follow Deepwater Horizon, since 27% of domestic production comes from deepwater drilling and a 2009 study of subsea Blow Out Protectors showed a failure rate of 45%. Even if the US were to regulate or ban all offshore drilling, multinational companies would set up deepwater rigs near more lenient nations to sidestep the problem. Ultimately Cavnar issues a call to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels; only this, he suggest, will spare us ecological catastrophe. (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist The Gulf economy and the U.S.'s energy policy are still reeling from the BP deepwater drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The worst part of the tragedy is that it never had to happen had the U.S. government and BP adhered to myriad policies and procedures already in place for deepwater oil-well drilling, according to Cavnar, who has 30 years of experience in the oil business, from field hand to chief executive. Cavnar brings insight and perspective to the risks, challenges, and shortcomings of oil drilling, U.S. energy policy, and environmental issues. He cites oil-company arrogance, lax government regulation, and the free-market politics of "drill, baby, drill" that have dominated decisions about the oil industry. Writing with the color and pacing of a thriller, Cavnar recalls the shock of the exploding well 5,000 feet below the surface, the struggles of workers to orient themselves to the danger and chaos, the fuel leak onto beaches and into wetlands that brought the attention of the world, and all the complicated engineering and politicking behind the spill and at play in future drilling. This is an important view of the oil-drilling business that readers don't generally get to see. Photographs, diagrams, a glossary, and other resources make this book particularly helpful in understanding oil drilling. --Vanessa Bush Publishers Weekly- Cavnar, a veteran of the energy industry (including early work on oil rigs and pipeline construction), does a more-than-admirable job of clarifying deepwater drilling, specifically the corporate interests behind it and the mechanics and risks associated with it. Cavnar approach his subject like a muckraking reporter, pointing fingers and wringing hands and, though he doesn't spare BP, he argues that their hands were tied. Regarding their lowball estimates of oil spilled in the early days, Cavnar states that "liability is based on the amount of oil released into the environment"; though BP officials "probably had calculated the actual

flow rate to within a few percent," releasing those figures would have meant owning up to a much greater liability. Especially chilling is Cavnar's assertion that other disasters will follow Deepwater Horizon, since 27% of domestic production comes from deepwater drilling and a 2009 study of subsea Blow Out Protectors showed a failure rate of 45%. Even if the US were to regulate or ban all offshore drilling, multinational companies would set up deepwater rigs near more lenient nations to sidestep the problem. Ultimately Cavnar issues a call to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels; only this, he suggest, will spare us ecological catastrophe."Because of Bob Cavnar's extensive experince in the oil and gas drilling business--which includes being the victim of a drilling-related explosion himself--his book brings alive the BP disaster in ways no other account has done. Cavnar lets the reader understand how the disaster really happened, and who bears responsibility. Not surprisingly, he also shows what happened during the Bush administration to make this tragedy more likely."--Howard Dean, former DNC Chair and Vermont governor; author of Howard Dean's Prescription for Real Healthcare Reform"Cavnar captures all the drama of the disaster with an oilman's expertise. This book not only explains what happened on the well on April 20th, but all the decisions made in the past that led up to that fateful night. In the process, Cavnar hasn't just delivered a riveting story, but a political call to arms."--Mimi Schwartz, executive editor of Texas Monthly and co-author of Power Failure: The Inside Story of the Collapse of EnronBob Cavnar, with thirty years of oil patch experience, has written the definitive story of the blowout in the Gulf. It is a gripping and deadly tale--one that takes the reader to the rig site, where he makes you feel the blast and heat from the explosion, and gives you an unrivaled look at what actually went on in the blowout and in the months that followed it. Lives tragically lost and lessons to be learned. A must read for everyone concerned about the oil industry, the effectiveness of government regulation, and America's energy future.--Mark White, former governor of Texas"Brilliant. A must read to understand what happened--and why."--Bruce Babbitt, former U.S. secretary of the Interior and governor of Arizona; author of Cities in the Wilderness