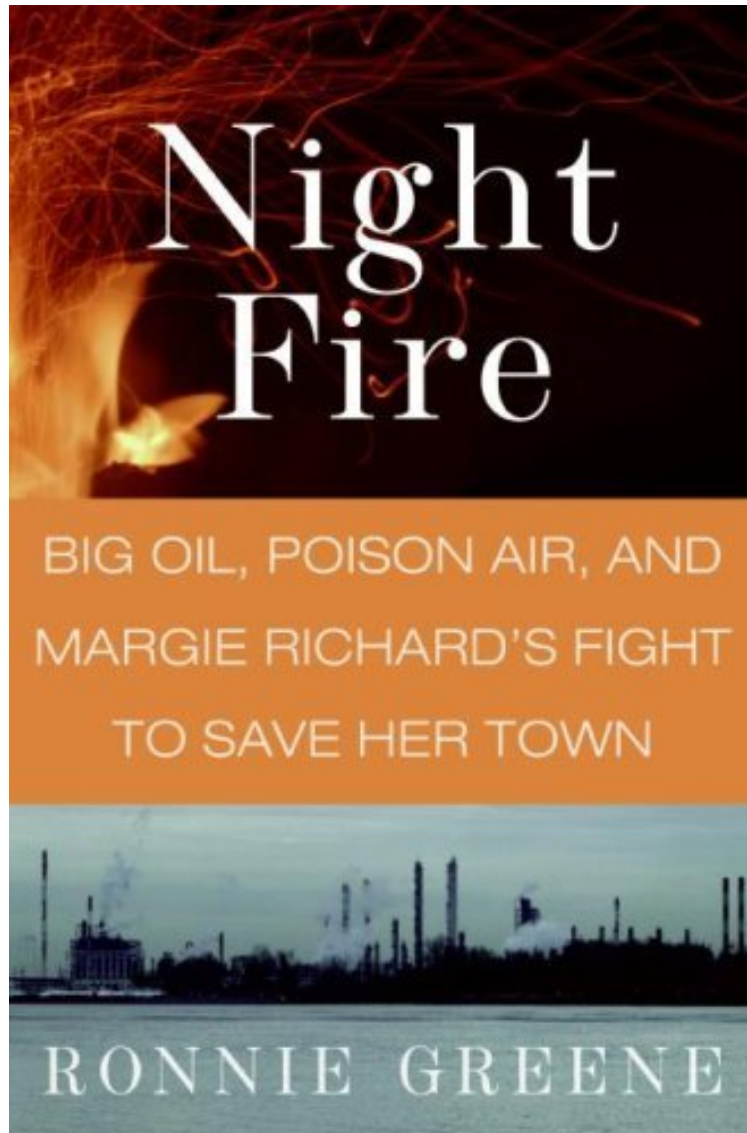


(Download pdf) Night Fire: Big Oil, Poison Air, and Margie Richard's Fight to Save Her Town

Night Fire: Big Oil, Poison Air, and Margie Richard's Fight to Save Her Town

Ronnie Greene

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Ronnie Greene : Night Fire: Big Oil, Poison Air, and Margie Richard's Fight to Save Her Town before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Night Fire: Big Oil, Poison Air, and Margie Richard's Fight to Save Her Town:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Afraid to breatheBy grandma GIf anyone has lived near dire pollution....read this book. It will show so clearly how the little guy will have such a hard time winning against petrochemical and oil giants....we are expendable. This book is well written, presented very well.....heartbreaking in

it's intensity because it is all true. It will make you happy there are those brave enough to fight Goliath. Congratulations Mr Greene..Well done.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Money is more important than good health.By CustomerA story we all should read...how big companies take advantage of people. Money is more important than good health.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. SuperbBy Leslie LipsonReads like a thriller. Brilliant and entertainingly well-written examination of economic corruption, grass roots advocacy, and a personal struggle that becomes far more. Well worth it.

The Diamond neighborhood was an all-black enclave in the mostly white town of Norco, Louisiana, aptly named for the New Orleans Refining Co., an industrial processing plant. Margie Eugene Richard was raised in the shadow of a giant chemical plant operated by Shell, and witnessed her neighbors fall ill amid the toxic waste the plant emitted year after year. Her own sister, Naomi, eventually succumbed to a rare lung disease linked to environmental hazards. Determined to see Shell take responsibility for its actions, Margie and her neighbors—largely poor and with few obvious resources—educated themselves not only on the consequences of environmental poison but also on how to fight back. The battle took them from Diamond's four streets all the way to The Hague and beyond. The unexpected results won Margie the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize and helped clean up a community. With riveting narrative drive, *Night Fire* illustrates how determination and grit can move even the most stubborn of corporate giants.

From Publishers WeeklyThis passionate book from a Miami Herald journalist demonstrates that humble grassroots activism can eventually unsettle a corporate Goliath. In 1958, Margie Richard was a pregnant 16-year-old, whose home had been displaced by a Shell oil refinery expansion and had recently resettled in Diamond, a tiny neighborhood in Norco, La. The neighborhood was poor, predominantly African-American and a stone's throw from another Shell chemical refinery. Two explosions at the refineries (one killed two residents) and the 1983 death of Richard's beloved sister from sarcoidosis, a lung ailment rooted in industrial pollution, propelled Richard into 15 years of activism, demanding that Shell recompense the neighborhood for decades of steady poisoning. Along with other residents, Richard formed the Norco Relocation Committee, determined to wrest realistic relocation funds from Shell, the international behemoth whose profits would eventually exceed \$1.5 million per hour. After two court cases and almost 14 years, Shell capitulated in 2002. Greene's mix of vivid oral history and hard evidence is a rousing reminder that with stubborn determination, ordinary citizens can prevail against the most powerful of opponents. (May) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistInfamously known as "Cancer Alley," one particular stretch of Louisiana coastline became an unlikely but fierce battleground for a David-and-Goliath struggle that ultimately focused the efforts of an international coalition of environmentalists bent on exposing one petrochemical giant's egregious disregard for human health and welfare. Within the small town of Norco, the African American community of Diamond was particularly hard hit by the various pollutants wantonly released by the Shell Oil chemical plant. Standing a mere 25 feet from Shell's fence line, Margie Richard's childhood home was not only a central vantage point from which to witness the noxious flare-ups that presaged disasters to come, it also put her family and neighbors directly in harm's way. Investigative journalist Greene chronicles the decades of blatant abuse, callous disregard, and criminal neglect Shell Oil perpetrated upon the underprivileged community, and showcases the selfless dedication of Richard and other environmental activists whose tireless efforts achieved justice for a beleaguered community, and curtailed the destructive practices of a ruthless corporation. --Carol Haggas Greene, a prize-winning investigative journalist, tells Richard's story well, taking us on a tour down Chemical Corridor, the 80-mile strip of petrochemical facilities between New Orleans and Baton Rouge that the locals call "Cancer Alley."