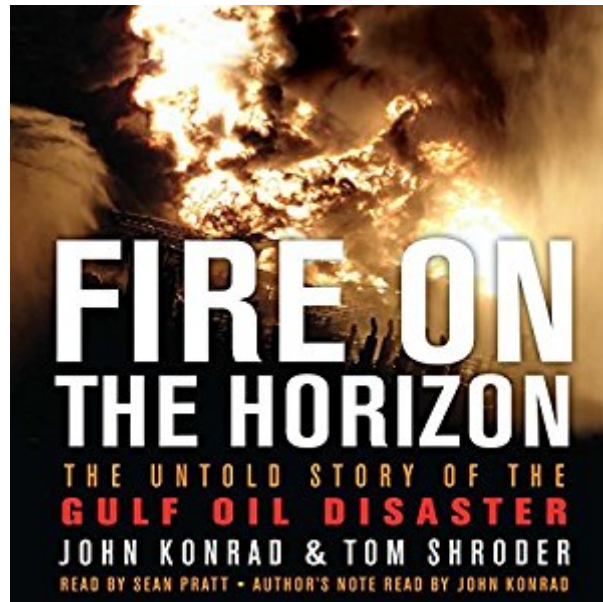


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# Fire On The Horizon: The Untold Story Of The Explosion Aboard The Deepwater Horizon



## Synopsis

A real-life thriller in the tradition of *The Perfect Storm*. In the spring of 2010 the world watched for weeks as more than 200 million gallons of crude oil billowed from a hole three miles deep in the Gulf of Mexico. Warnings of various and imminent environmental consequences dominated the news. Deepwater drilling - largely ignored or misunderstood to that point - exploded in the American consciousness in the worst way possible. *Fire on the Horizon*, written by veteran oil rig captain John Konrad and longtime Washington Post journalist Tom Shroder, recounts in vivid detail the life of the rig itself, from its construction in South Korea in the year 2000 to its improbable journey around the world to its disastrous end, and reveals the day-to-day lives, struggles, and ambitions of those who called it home. From the little-known maritime colleges to Transocean's training schools and Houston headquarters to the small towns all over the country where the wives and children of the Horizon's crew lived in the ever-present shadow of risk hundreds of miles away, *Fire on the Horizon* offers full-scale portraits of the Horizon's captain, its chief mate, its chief mechanic, and others. What emerges is a white-knuckled chronicle of engineering hubris at odds with the earth itself, an unusual manifestation of corporate greed and the unforgettable heroism of the men and women on board the Deepwater Horizon. Here is the harrowing minute-by-minute account of the fateful day, April 20, 2010, when the half-billion-dollar rig blew up, taking with it the lives of eleven people and leaving behind a swath of unprecedented natural destruction.

## Book Information

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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](http://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 people's 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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