



JOHN KONRAD is a veteran oil rig captain and a former employee of the Deepwater Horizon's owner, Transocean, and is the founder of the world's leading maritime blog, gCaptain.com. A graduate of SUNY Maritime College, he lives in Morro Bay, California.

TOM SHRODER was an editor and writer at the *Washington Post* from 1999 to 2009. Under his stewardship, the *Washington Post Magazine* won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in both 2008 and 2010. He is the author of the nonfiction bestseller, *Old Souls*, and lives in Vienna, Virginia.



Photographs of authors ©
Jacket photography: front © Steadfast TV;
back courtesy U.S. Coast Guard
Jacket design by Anthony Morais

Available from HarperAudio, HarperLuxe, and HarperCollins e-books

Visit www.AuthorTracker.com for exclusive information on your favorite HarperCollins authors.



HARPER

An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers
www.harpercollins.com

"The gas was coming. It was that simple. It had entered the well and moved up the column. . . . At that moment, it began to expand, rapidly, exponentially, pushing everything before it through miles of mud and seawater. Now it was almost there. A steady hiss seeped onto the drilling platform. The engines began to roar."

—from *FIRE ON THE HORIZON*



ISBN 978-0-06-206300-7



9 780062 063007

FIRE ON THE HORIZON
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE GULF OIL DISASTER

JOHN KONRAD
& TOM SHRODER



HARPER

FIRE ON THE HORIZON

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE GULF OIL DISASTER

JOHN KONRAD & TOM SHRODER

"One of the best disaster books I've ever read . . . I tore through it like a novel but with the queasy knowledge that the whole damn thing is true. A phenomenal feat of journalism."

Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm and War*

USA \$27.99

A REAL-LIFE THRILLER IN THE TRADITION OF *THE PERFECT STORM*, JOHN KONRAD AND TOM SHRODER TAKE US ON AND OFF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON FOR A JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD AND AN UP-CLOSE, MULTIFACETED VIEW OF THE WORST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN RECENT MEMORY.

IN THE SPRING OF 2010 the world watched for weeks as nearly 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, the 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 thousands 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, culminating in the harrowing minute-by-minute account of the fateful day, April 20, 2010, when the half-billion-dollar rig blew up, taking the lives of eleven people with it and leaving behind a swath of unprecedented natural destruction.

0311