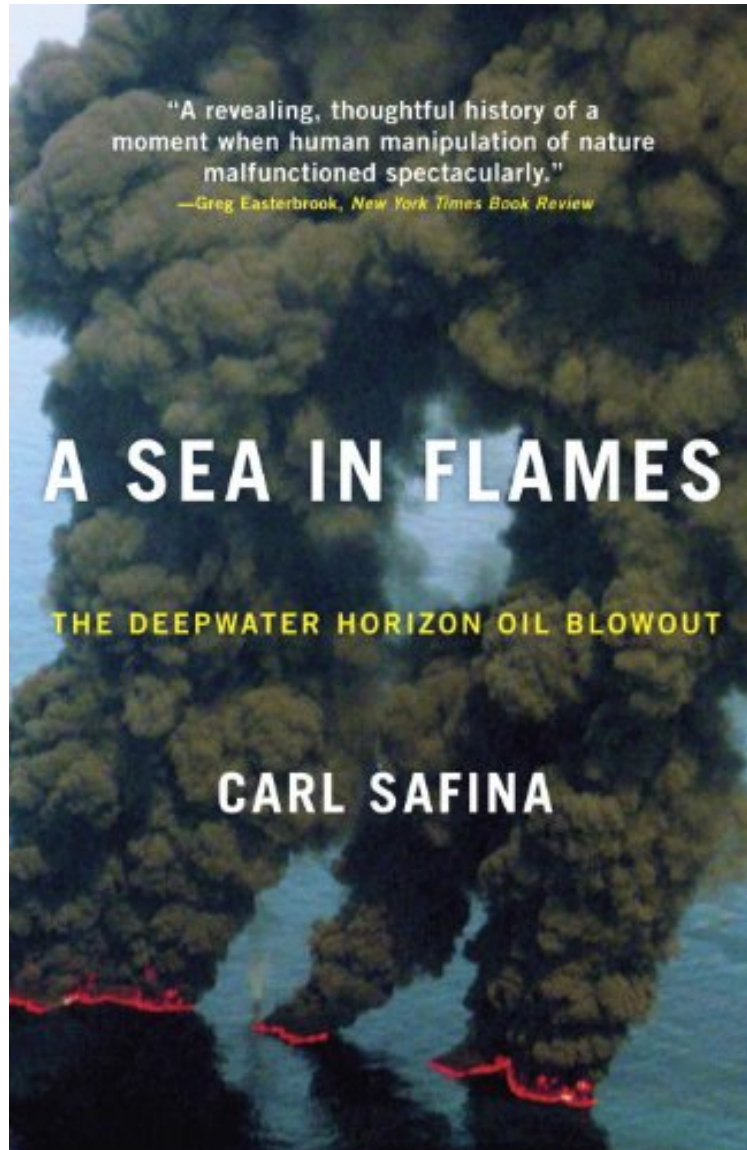


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A Sea in Flames: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Blowout

Carl Safina

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Carl Safina : A Sea in Flames: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Blowout before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Sea in Flames: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Blowout:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Read re The Gulf and Life on EarthBy Hardy JonesTo say this is an important book would be a vast understatement. Safina gets the science and details, including the heartbreak inflicted on the people of the Gulf and he writes of it masterfully . . . A different style than Im accustomed to from him - presnet tense, fast paced. The great value of the book lies in the fact that Safina took the truth as he

found it and reversed many of his early conclusions and preconclusions. The last fifty pages are stunning. I won't spoil it for you. But for example he finds that fish populations had in many cases increased due to the shut down of fishing due to the spill. Complex and highly instructive. My only quarrel is that he beats on Admiral Thad Allan and NOAA head Barbara Lubchenko for most of the book only to reveal in the last chapters . . . Well I won't give away the story of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strong mixture of investigative journalism and poetic mourning. By Will Fitzgerald Safina's account of the BP DWH catastrophe is at turns cynical, rational, indignant and insightful. None of the principals are spared from BP to the USCG to the EPA to NOAA. It's one thing to have an ecological disaster result from base corporate greed; however, to watch the disaster magnified by government latitudes in prevention and incompetence in response leads you to question our way of life and the institutions invested with our public trust. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. By fellow author, J.A. (John) Turley By J.A. (John) Turley A Sea in Flames is a good read. Carl Safina, a world-class conservationist, does a good job defining the high-level cause of the blowout in language for the layman. More in-depth, he brings experienced insight to those dark months of billowing oil when technology, wildlife, politics, the media, and emotions collided as if dragsters meeting head on.

Carl Safina has been hailed as one of the top 100 conservations of the 20th century (Audubon Magazine) and A Sea in Flames is his blistering account of the months-long manmade disaster that tormented a region and mesmerized the nation. Traveling across the Gulf to make sense of an ever-changing story and its often-nonsensical twists, Safina expertly deconstructs the series of calamitous misjudgments that caused the Deepwater Horizon blowout, zeroes in on BP's misstatements, evasions, and denials, reassesses his own reaction to the government's crisis handling, and reviews the consequences of the leak and what he considers the real problems, which the press largely overlooked. Safina takes us deep inside the faulty thinking that caused the lethal explosion. We join him on aerial surveys across an oil-coated sea. We confront pelicans and other wildlife whose blue universe fades to black. Safina skewers the excuses and the silly jargon like junk shot and top kill that made the tragedy feel like a comedy of horrors and highlighted Big Oil's appalling lack of preparedness for an event that was inevitable. Based on extensive research and interviews with fishermen, coastal residents, biologists, and government officials, A Sea in Flames has some surprising answers on whether it was Obama's Katrina, whether the Coast Guard was as inept in its response as BP was misleading, and whether this worst unintended release of oil in history was really America's worst ecological disaster. Impassioned, moving, and even sharply funny, A Sea in Flames is ultimately an indictment of America's main addiction. Safina writes: In the end, this is a chronicle of a summer of pain and hope. Hope that the full potential of this catastrophe would not materialize, hope that the harm done would heal faster than feared, and hope that even if we didn't suffer the absolutely worst we'd still learn the big lesson here. We may have gotten two out of three. That's not good enough. Because: there'll be a next time. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly MacArthur "Genius" Award-winning oceanographer and conservationist Safina offers an impassioned, on the ground chronicle of the 2010 Gulf oil blowout that surpassed Exxon-Valdez to rank as the worst in history. He breaks down the political and corporate causes and the environmental effects of the spill: the bedding together of government and Big Oil that produced the perfect storm of deregulation and drilling incentives; the intricate chain of misjudgments by BP, Transocean, and Halliburton; the mind-boggling amount of oil 4.9 billion barrels that gushed into the Gulf of Mexico; the numbers of dolphins, birds, and sea turtles that perished; the rig workers, fishermen, bait shop owners, and restaurateurs who lost their lives or businesses to the spill. Safina's witticisms at times fall flat; he can only refer to Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen as "the Thadmiral" or refigure BP's initials as "Bullying People," "Billowing Petroleum" or, worst yet, "Bull Poop" so many times before the joke exhausts itself. However, as Safina registers his responses in the wake of the spill, from outrage to cautious hope, his account achieves a broad, reasoned perspective that frames events against the more insidious damage that farm and industrial runoff, canal-digging, levee-building, and rising sea level have wrought on the Gulf and its wetlands. (Apr.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. "An impressive book that provides a vivid account of how the spill happened, coupled with a report on the anxiety experienced by those who had no way of knowing how long the spill would last or how bad it would get... Readers will find the book accessible and agreeably insightful work." The New York Times Book "Safina offers an impassioned, on the ground chronicle of the 2010 Gulf oil blowout that surpassed Exxon-Valdez to rank as the worst in history. His account achieves a broad, reasoned perspective that frames events against the more insidious damage that farm and industrial runoff, canal-digging, levee-building, and rising sea level have wrought on the Gulf and its wetlands." Publishers Weekly The blowout was awful, but look at the bigger picture, writes Safina in this illuminating, monitory study: The real catastrophe is the oil we don't spill the oil we burn, the coal we burn, the gas we burn. And as the reefs dissolve and the oceans productivity declines, so will go the food security of hundreds of millions of people. Kirkus s "Environmentalist Safina brings his signature compassion, marine expertise, and gorgeous writing to his candidly expressive coverage of the Deepwater Horizon disaster a year after the explosion." Booklist Praise for previous works by Carl Safina: Song for the Blue Ocean: Engrossing and illuminating . . . passionate and enthralling narrative . . . [A] landmark book. New York Times Book You will never think about fisher

the ocean the same way again. Sylvia Earle, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
Eye of the Albatross: One of the most delightful natural history studies in decades. The Boston Globe
A beautiful, awe-inspiring tableau of our world as you've never seen it . . . a moving depiction of how interconnected life on this planet truly is. The Christian Science Monitor
Safina delivers a message full of wonder at the natural world and concern about the fragility of his subject. New York Times Book
Voyage of the Turtle: Magnificent... a book that makes the sea air palpable. A joyful, hopeful book that at the same time, doesn't let us off the hook. Los Angeles Times
Thrums with fascination. New York Times Book
From the Hardcover edition. About the Author
CARL SAFINA is author of, among other books, The View From Lazy Point; A Natural Year in an Unnatural World Song for the Blue Ocean. His honors include a Pew Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, World Wildlife Fund fellowship, the National Academies communications award for years best book, the John Burroughs Medal, Raab Medal, and a MacArthur genius Fellowship. Audubon Magazine named him among the top 100 conservationists of the 20th century. Dr. Safina is an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University, an elected member of The Explorers Club, and founding president of Blue Ocean Institute. He has written upwards of 100 articles for scientific and popular journals and he lectures around the country. Visit: <http://blueocean.org/> and <http://carlsafina.org/>.
From the Hardcover edition.