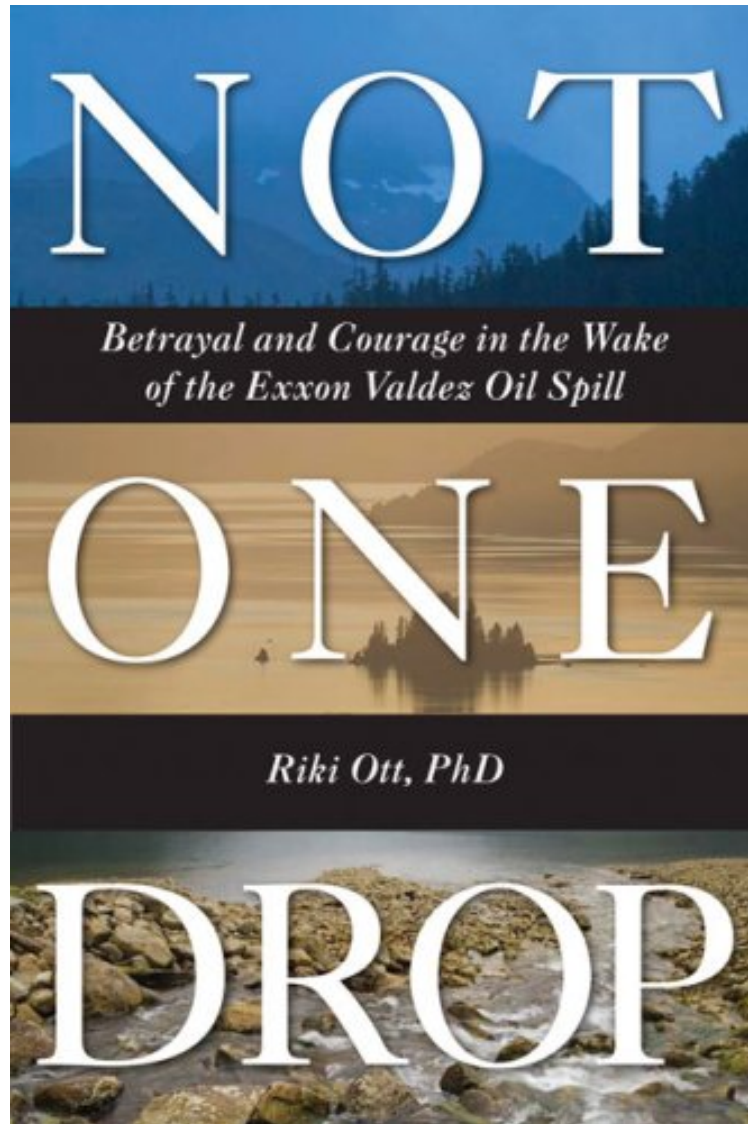


(Download) Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

# Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

*Riki Ott*

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**Riki Ott : Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Relevant for BP Gulf of Mexico spill By Southern Mick This book is once again relevant after the huge Gulf of Mexico BP spill in April, 2010. A similar scenario is slowly playing out in

late 2014, four years after the disaster. Dr. Riki Ott writes first hand and is so, so knowledgeable about the whole ugly mess.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Timely Look at the Reality of Oil Operations in Alaska By Frederick S. Goethel There is a lot that has been written about the spill of the Exxon Valdez, but I cannot think of any other work that looks at the lives of the people, as well as the marine damage done by this disaster. While writing the history of the spill, the author also included the history of the people who were affected and damaged and who continue to suffer, even 20 years after the "event". The author, who has a PhD in sedimentary pollution, as well as a masters degree in oil pollution, had an insiders look into the situation. Because she happened to be a resident of Cordova and a fisherman, and because she had the academic credentials for the work, she was thrust into the very center of the action regarding litigation, clean up, on going environmental damage and a range of other issues. She was so "dangerous" to the oil industry that they actually hired spies to watch her and tap her phone. Rarely does a book bring tears to my eyes, yet I found myself continuing to tear up as I turned the pages. The waste that was caused by this spill, not just by the death of marine animals, but by the time and energy and toll taken on the citizens affected by the spill should make most people cry. This story comes at a very critical time, as the nation debates whether or not to allow oil companies the right to expanded drilling operations in Alaska and in the waters of our coast lines. And, before any person forms an opinion, they must read this work to discover the lies spewed by the oil industry, as well as the shortcuts they took even as the money rolled in. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for the Gulf of Mexico citizens By AntBee Dr. Ott's life story is interesting and compelling. The parallels of what happened in Alaska's Prince William Sound due to Exxon and what is currently occurring to the coastal areas of LA, MS, AL and Florida is chilling. This book appears to be the blue print of what we can expect from BP, state federal government....and the forecast is dire. It's an interesting read. I felt compelled to purchase multiple copies in order to "spread the word" to my coastal community. Dr. Ott speaks to the grim impact of oil (and oil dispersants) on the fishing industry, the environment (short and long term), tourism, physical and mental health issues of the citizens of Alaska. If I never hear the words "Drill, Baby, Drill", I'll live a long and happy life. British Petroleum is following Exxon play by play. "We will make this right". Exxon issued hard hats to clean up workers rather than respirators, ditto BP.

Betrayed by oilmen's promises in the 1970s, the people of Prince William Sound, Alaska, awaken on March 14, 1989, to the nation's largest oil spill. *Not One Drop* is an extraordinary tale of ordinary lives ripped apart by disaster and of community healing through building relationships of trust. This story offers critical lessons for a society traumatized by political divides and facing the looming catastrophe of global climate change. Author Riki Ott, a rare combination of commercial salmon fisherman and PhD marine biologist, describes firsthand the impacts of oil companies broken promises when the Exxon Valdez spills most of its cargo and despoils thousands of miles of shore. Ott illustrates in stirring fashion the oil industry's 20-year trail of pollution and deception that predated the tragic 1989 spill and delves deep into the disruption to the fishing community of Cordova over the following 19 years. In vivid detail, she describes the human trauma coupled inextricably with that of the sound's wildlife and its long road to recovery. Ott critically examines shifts in scientific understanding of oil-spill effects on ecosystems and communities, exposes fundamental flaws in governance and the legal system, and contrasts hard won spill-prevention and spill-response measures in the sound to dangerous conditions on the Alaska pipeline. Her human story, varied background, professional training, and activist heart lead readers to the root of the problem: a clash of human rights and corporate power embedded in law and small-town life. *Not One Drop* is as much an example of how too many corporate owners and political leaders betray everyday citizens as it is one of the universal struggle to maintain heart, to find the courage to overcome disaster, and to forge a new path from despair to hope.

From Publishers Weekly Ott, a former Prince William Sound fisherman and longtime activist around the Exxon Valdez Alaska oil spill of 1989, pours plenty of passion into this exhaustive account of the financial and psychological toll on the residents of Cordova, the town most affected by the disaster. Her book is a scathing indictment of Exxon's take-no-prisoners legal roadblocks. She enumerates the full horror of the spill's aftermath: the 1989 loss of \$50 million in fishery revenue, a botched cleanup effort, the onslaught of oil-company lobbyists and continuing fish habitat degradation. Ott focuses on Cordova's struggle to rebuild a sense of community while coping with personal bankruptcies and failing marriages, and covers the legal skirmishing for compensation for the more than 3,000 fishermen who filed claims, closing with a melancholy coda following the Supreme Court's decision to reduce the original jury award against Exxon from more than \$5 billion to about \$500 million devastating news for those whose lives entered a state of turmoil some 19 years ago. Though Ott's narrative is often bogged down with too much detail, she covers an enormous amount of ground with engaging humanity. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. As you read the following pages, allow your heart to break. Imagine Cordova as your home and Prince William Sound as your backyard. When you set the book down, make an absolute, iron-clad commitment to join other men and women who are determined to create a world that future generations will want to inhabit.--John Perkins, from the Foreword Publishers Weekly-Ott, a former Prince William Sound fisherman

and longtime activist around the Exxon Valdez Alaska oil spill of 1989, pours plenty of passion into this exhaustive account of the financial and psychological toll on the residents of Cordova, the town most affected by the disaster. Her book is a scathing indictment of Exxon's take-no-prisoners legal roadblocks. She enumerates the full horror of the spill's aftermath: the 1989 loss of \$50 million in fishery revenue, a botched cleanup effort, the onslaught of oil-company lobbyists and continuing fish habitat degradation. 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Developed from interviews with townspeople, state and federal officials, and politicians, this book describes a classic case of the worst of commercialism versus the best of environmentalism, with the former aided and abetted by those with vested interests. Beginning with a description of marine biologist Ott's idyllic but demanding life in commercial fishing, the four subsequent parts of the work, "Promises," "Betrayal," "Courage," and "New Beginnings," provide a comprehensive inventory of the events that devastated the social fabric of Cordova. The superbly detailed "Timeline" covers the 1968 discovery of oil on the Alaska North Slope up to the June 25, 2008, Supreme Court decision limiting punitive damages from the spill. The book includes color photographs of happy and sad times as well as ones showing oil-slicked waterfowl and humans, many of whom suffered from a respiratory condition known as "Valdez Crud." Detailed listing of supporting notes and excellent index. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels of readership. "Millions of words have been written about the Exxon Valdez spill. It's been my (sometimes dreary and depressing) duty to read most of them. But of all the official reports, learned papers, TV documentaries, newspaper articles and books, this is by far the best. Riki has written her masterpiece. It's not just about an oil spill and about its dire effects on a community of a few thousand fishing families in a remote and beautiful corner of the North Pacific; it's bigger than that. The themes are community values and corporate lies; the endless tussle between truth and falsehood, between good and evil. Surprisingly, Riki's long-awaited book is more cheerful than I expected; she meticulously logs the catastrophe and its aftermath (and hints at the sacrifices in her personal life that all this campaigning entailed), but out of the despair there is hope here--hope that a better-informed, more vigilant and more self-confident public will follow her example and challenge the corporate arrogance that continues to make so many people's lives an avoidable misery, worldwide."--Dr. Jonathan Wills, writer, wildlife guide, and Shetland (Scotland) Councillor "Riki Ott, a modern day Joan of Arc, was in the right place at the right time to become witness to one of the most egregious crimes against man and nature in modern day history. Riki has proven through her willingness to expose the corporate corruption and cover up of the Exxon Valdez oil spill that she is a courageous, caring, and passionate voice for the people and the planet."--Laura Turner Seydel, Chair of the Captain Planet Foundation and cofounder of Mothers Others for Clean Air "Aldo Leopold wrote, 'A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.' The tragic Exxon Valdez oil spill is wrong! Riki Ott is the right person--at the right place--at the right time. Her expertise as an author and as a marine toxicologist alerts us to the true cost of our addiction to oil--not just monetary cost, but ecological cost. Democracy and the planet are at stake."--Nina Bradley, Director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation "Ott is the Erin Brockovitch of the Exxon Valdez oil disaster. In *Not One Drop* she recounts a riveting tale of loss, intrigue, cover-ups, and courage--and in the process helps us all see why we will be glad to leave behind the age of oil."--Fran Korten, Publisher of YES! Magazine "Riki Ott takes the debate on fossil fuels to a new level in this compelling book. When will the oil companies wake up to realize that--just as U.S. car companies missed the boat on fuel efficient cars--the ExxonMobils of the world need to diversify the types of energy they offer? Somehow, the people of Cordova, Alaska, knew the truth before the oil executives or the politicians they elected."--David Rockefeller, Jr., Founder, Sailors for the Sea "Not One Drop unflinchingly documents the full measure of sacrifice made by a few so the rest of us can get our next fix of oil. The price at the pump must now also be measured in shattered communities and our humanity itself. Bravo to Riki Ott for delivering another knockout punch to our petroleum-powered complacency."--Terry Tamminen, Cullman Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation, and former Secretary of the California EPA About the Author Marine oil pollution expert Riki Ott, PhD, was on the scene before, during, and after one of the biggest environmental disasters in the United States--the Exxon Valdez oil spill. A former commercial salmon "fisherma'am" in Prince William Sound, she experienced firsthand the spill's effects, including environmental devastation, economic losses to the fishing industry, and psychosocial trauma to the close-knit community. 1993's spill-related salmon- and herring-population collapses prompted Ott to retire from fishing and found three nonprofit organizations to deal with the area's lingering social, economic, and environmental harm. A popular and dynamic lecturer, her talks weave the legacy of the Exxon Valdez spill into current issues of public health, environmental

pollution, and our energy future--and inspire individuals to take action.