

A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher By Joel Achenbach

Barefoot books hole in the bottom of the sea

It was a technological crisis in an alien realm a blown out oil well in mile deep water in the Gulf of Mexico For the engineers who had to kill the well this was like Apollo a crisis no one saw coming and one of untold danger and challenge A suspense story a mystery a technological thriller This is Joel Achenbachs groundbreaking account of the Deepwater Horizon disaster and what came after The tragic explosion on the huge drilling rig in April killed eleven men and triggered an environmental disaster As a gusher of crude surged into the Gulfs waters BP engineers and government scientists awkwardly teamed in Houston raced to devise ways to plug the Macondo well Achenbach a veteran reporter for The Washington Post and acclaimed science writer for National Geographic moves beyond the blame game to tell the gripping story of what it was like behind the scenes moment by moment in the struggle to kill Macondo Here are the controversies the miscalculations the frustrations and ultimately the technical triumphs of men and women who worked out of sight and around the clock for months to find a way to plug the well The Deepwater Horizon disaster was an environmental The government did not have the means to solve the problem only the private sector had the tools and it didnt have the right ones as the country became haunted by Macondos black plume which was omnipresent on TV and the Internet Remotely operated vehicles the spaceships of the deep had to perform the challenging technical maneuvers on the seafloor Engineers choreographed this robotic ballet and crammed years of innovation into a single summer As he describes the drama in Houston Achenbach probes the government investigation into what went wrong in the deep sea This was a confounding mystery an engineering whodunit The lessons of this tragedy can be applied broadly to all complex enterprises and should make us look closely at the highly engineered society that surrounds us Achenbach has written a cautionary tale that doubles as a technological thriller A Hole at the Bottom of the Sea: The Race to Kill the BP Oil Gusher Joel Achenbach is a reporter for The Washington Post and the author of six previous books including The Grand Idea Captured by Aliens and Why Things Are He started the Washington Post s first blog Achenblog and has worked on the newspaper s national Style magazine and Outlook staffs, **Hole in the bottom of the sea book** He regularly contributes science articles to National Geographic A native of Gainesville Florida and a 1982 graduate of Princeton University he lives in Washington D.C with his wife and three children

