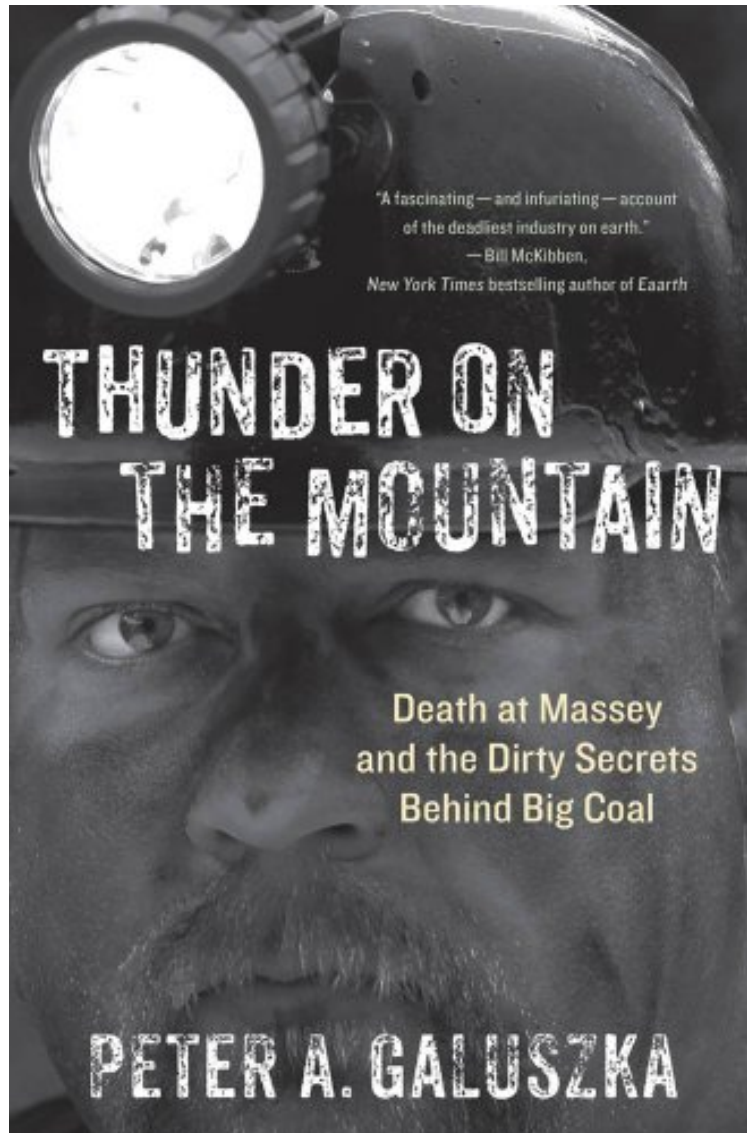


[Free read ebook] Thunder on the Mountain: Death at Massey and the Dirty Secrets Behind Big Coal

Thunder on the Mountain: Death at Massey and the Dirty Secrets Behind Big Coal

Peter A. Galuszka

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Peter A. Galuszka : Thunder on the Mountain: Death at Massey and the Dirty Secrets Behind Big Coal before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thunder on the Mountain: Death at Massey and the Dirty Secrets Behind Big Coal:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How much is a life worth?By Progressive thinkerA great, in-depth review of the Upper Big Branch mine disaster and the culture of carelessness and greed that made this (and other disasters of this type) possible. Dinged one star only because it is somewhat dated, leaving me to wonder what

progress has been made since it was published. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. the hick with the stick
By Teri Wells
Why we tolerate ruthless greedy CEO's who make a fortune ruining the environment strip mining then taking their stack and escaping to Europe their floating pleasure palaces of over the top yachts or planes will buy them a coveted place in the upper class is not a new story. The best quotation about these foolish clowns was written over a hundred years ago by Edith Wharton she described the robber barons as a "spitting tobacco-chewing crew and reluctant backwoodsmen describes this poor good ol local boy who made good real good and let one of the poorest section of West Virginia know it . Massey Energy racked up so many violations under this clop hopper who claims to be the heart and spirit of working class America ! It's a well written easy to read book and my hat goes off to any coal miner that had to work under this titian of industry
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The paradoxes of American coal
By Jeff Thomas
A critically important read for those looking to understand the economic, political, and environmental forces shaping Appalachian coal extraction today.

"Scathing exposeacute; of the coal industry."--The New York Times Book Review
On April 5, 2010, an explosion ripped through Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Mine, killing twenty-nine coal miners. This tragedy was the deadliest mine disaster in the United States in forty yearsmdash;a disaster that never should have happened. These deaths were rooted in the cynical corporate culture of Massey and its notorious former CEO Don Blankenship, and were part of an endless cycle of poverty, exploitation, and environmental abuse that has dominated the Appalachian coalfields since coal was first discovered there. And the cycle continues unabated as coal companies bury the most insidious dangers deep underground, all in search of higher profits, and hide the true costs from regulators, unions, and investors alike. But the disaster at Upper Big Branch goes beyond the coalfields of West Virginia. It casts a global shadow, calling into bitter question why coal miners in the United States are sacrificed to erect cities on the other side of the world, why the coal wars have been allowed to rage, polarizing the country, and how the world's voracious appetite for energy is satisfied at such horrendous cost. With *Thunder on the Mountain*, Peter A. Galuszka pieces together the true story of greed and negligence behind the tragedy at the Upper Big Branch Mine, and in doing so he has created a devastating portrait of an entire industry that exposes the coal-black motivations that led to the death of twenty-nine miners and fuel the ongoing war for the world's energy future.

ldquo;Scathing exposeacute; of the coal industryhellip; [Galuszka's] reporting is impressive, from the painstakingly reconstructed hours leading up to the disaster, to the starkly silhouetted Donald Blankenship, the cost-cutting, anti-environmentalist former head of Massey Energy.rdquo; ?The New York Times Book ldquo;The 2010 tragedy at the Upper Big Branch Mine resonated nationwide and has resulted in a great deal of soul-searching among Americans over the price paid for our dependence on "Big Coal"hellip; Beyond the mining catastrophe at its core, this is a book about working America and how one industry has conquered a landscape's body and soul. Bracing, powerful, and pertinent, this is a timely and clarion call for myth-busting change.rdquo; ?Booklist (Editor's Choice 2012. Starred)ldquo;A fascinating?and infuriating?account of the deadliest industry on earth. Deadly for its workers and the people unfortunate enough to live near its mines, but deadlier still for the planet. You can't understand our moment in time without understanding the coal industry.rdquo; ?Bill McKibben New York Times Bestselling author of *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*ldquo;Appalachia may be blessed with the lsquo;'world's best metallurgical coal,' but as journalist Galuszka's powerful book shows, this coal is both lsquo;'a curse and a prizehellip;' He convincingly excoriates the safety record of Massey Energy and its controversial former CEO, Don Blankenshiphellip; Drawing on his personal experience of Appalachia, Galuszka offers a sympathetic but unsentimental portrait of the region's people and their struggles.rdquo; ?Publishers Weeklyldquo;Scrupulously researched hellip; Galuszka's thoroughness provides readers a clear sense of the complex class issues at play in Appalachia and the difficult politics within coal-mining communities; he is attuned to both the lives of the miners and the maneuvers of the energy industryhellip;. A disturbing and pessimistic narrative documenting little-known problems of fossil-fuel dependence.rdquo; ?Kirkus sldquo;Natural gas, renewables, and efficiency are positioned to be the sources of America's energy expansion, while coal represents the nation's past. Galuszka's *Thunder on the Mountain* highlights the disturbing and often deadly impacts of this highly polluting energy source and why Big Coal might just be losing its power.rdquo; ?Ron Pernick managing director of Clean Edge, Inc. and co-author of *The Clean Tech Revolution* and *Clean Tech Nation*ldquo;Peter Galuszka has absolutely nailed his subject on every level. He displays an intimate understanding of the people in Appalachia including those who work in coal mines. Yet at the same time, he understands how global energy demand and financial pressures created the conditions in which Massey's Don Blankenship cut corners at the Upper Big Branch mine, resulting in 29 deaths. It is a devastating portrait of an individual, and an industry. No one has put this story together as well as Galuszka has.rdquo; ?William J. Holstein author of *The Next American Economy* and *Why GM Matters*ldquo;With measured and dogged reporting, Galuszka persuasively reveals how corporate greed and mismanagement, Appalachian underdevelopment, insatiable global demand for coal, and the right-wing backlash against government regulation and labor organization resulted in tragedy at Upper Big Branch. Essential reading for anyone interested in the past, present, and future of Big Coal.rdquo;

“Thomas G. Andrews, Bancroft Prize winning author of *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War*; Peter Galuszka exposes a seam that runs deep in American history—the corporate indifference of Big Coal, its neglect of workers' safety, and the fight waged by miners and their families for dignity and quality of life.”

“Philip Dray, author of *There Is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America*; Peter Galuszka has written a powerful book that lays bare the corporate greed behind one of the worst mining disasters in modern times. *Thunder on the Mountain* puts a human face on tragedy, and Galuszka's own ties to West Virginia provide poignant context to both mine workers' plight and the environment for which Massey Energy showed what can only be described as contempt. Every member of Congress should read this book and then ask themselves why they failed to pass a mine safety bill in the wake of such unabashed disregard for safety and human life.”

“Loren C. Steffy, author of *Drowning in Oil: BP and the Reckless Pursuit of Profit*; Peter Galuszka has a deep appreciation of Appalachia and its damaged beauty, having grown up in West Virginia and filed decades of coal stories as a reporter. In *Thunder on the Mountain* he draws vivid portraits of all the characters in the ongoing tragedy of Appalachian mining, from the twenty-nine victims of Upper Big Branch to the watery-eyed, self-righteous CEO of Massey Mining, Don Blankenship, whose brutal ways brought such misery to so many.”

“Michael Shnayerson, author of *Coal River*; *Thunder on the Mountain* is an important book about a coal mining disaster and it is also a timely reminder of the dangers of putting profits before safety in the energy business.”

“Stanley Reed, former London bureau chief of *BusinessWeek* and co-author of *In Too Deep: BP and the Drilling Race That Took It Down* From the Back Cover With a foreword by Denise Giardina On April 5, 2010, an explosion ripped through Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Mine, killing twenty-nine coal miners. This tragedy was the deadliest mine disaster in the United States in forty years—a disaster that never should have happened. These deaths were rooted in the cynical corporate culture of Massey and its notorious former CEO Don Blankenship, and were part of an endless cycle of poverty, exploitation, and environmental abuse that has dominated the Appalachian coalfields since coal was first discovered there. And the cycle continues unabated as coal companies bury the most insidious dangers deep underground, all in search of higher profits, and hide the true costs from regulators, unions, and investors alike. But the disaster at Upper Big Branch goes beyond the coalfields of West Virginia. It casts a global shadow, calling into bitter question why coal miners in the United States are sacrificed to erect cities on the other side of the world, why the coal wars have been allowed to rage, polarizing the country, and how the world's voracious appetite for energy is satisfied at such horrendous cost. With *Thunder on the Mountain*, Peter A. Galuszka pieces together the true story of greed and negligence behind the tragedy at the Upper Big Branch Mine, and in doing so he has created a devastating portrait of an entire industry that exposes the coal-black motivations that led to the death of twenty-nine miners and fuel the ongoing war for the world's energy future. This paperback edition contains a foreword by Denise Giardina that provides an update on Massey Energy and Donald Blankenship, Chairman and CEO of Massey Energy Company during the UBB disaster, and recounts her own experiences with Massey Energy and the United Mine Workers Association in the 1980s. This edition also includes a notes section and a bibliography.