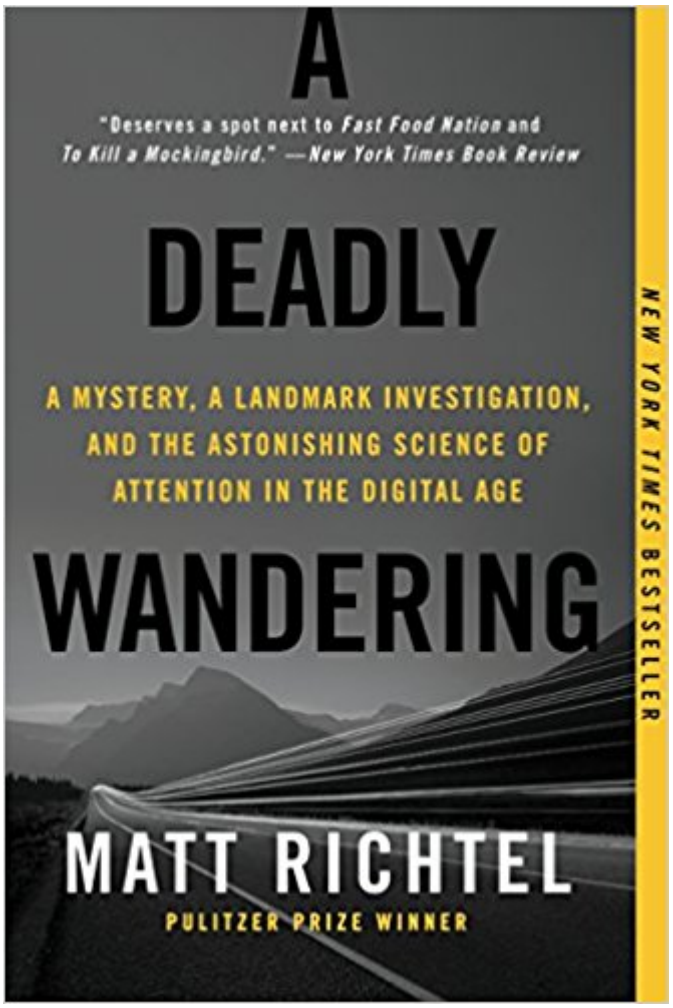
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A Deadly Wandering: A Mystery, A Landmark Investigation, And The Astonishing Science Of Attention In The Digital Age



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Synopsis

From Pulitzer PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning journalist Matt Richtel, a brilliant, narrative-driven exploration of technologyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vast influence on the human mind and society, dramatically-told through the lens of a tragic Ã¢â ¬Å“texting-while-drivingÃ¢â ¬Â• car crash that claimed the lives of two rocket scientists in 2006.In this ambitious, compelling, and beautifully written book, Matt Richtel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the New York Times, examines the impact of technology on our lives through the story of Utah college student Reggie Shaw, who killed two scientists while texting and driving. Richtel follows Reggie through the tragedy, the police investigation, his prosecution, and ultimately, his redemption.In the wake of his experience, Reggie has become a leading advocate against Ã¢â ¬Å“distracted driving.Ã¢â ¬Â• Richtel interweaves ReggieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story with cutting-edge scientific findings regarding human attention and the impact of technology on our brains, proposing solid, practical, and actionable solutions to help manage this crisis individually and as a society.A propulsive read filled with fascinating, accessible detail, riveting narrative tension, and emotional depth, A Deadly Wandering explores one of the biggest questions of our timeÃ¢â ¬â •what is all of our technology doing to us?Ã¢â ¬â •and provides unsettling and important answers and information we all need.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, September 2014: In 2006, a pair of rocket scientists died on a Utah highway, killed in a collision with a student named Reggie Shaw, who had been texting at the time of the accident. A Deadly Wandering uses this moment to launch itself into an

investigation/rumination on the increasing presence of technology in our lives, probing for answers to the question How much is too much? This might have been boring if anyone but Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Matt Richtel had written it. The result is anything but: Richtel has combined his savvy as a New York Times science reporter with his skill as a writer of technology-infused thrillers to weave two separate, if related, stories together: the tragedyÃ¢â ¬â •and ultimate redemptionÃ¢â ¬â •of Reggie Shaw, and the deleterious effects of technology on our brains, bodies, and culture. A Deadly Wandering is a riveting blend of humanity and science, and a masterful work of narrative nonfiction. Ã¢â ¬â •Jon Foro --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Keen and elegantly raw. ... Not just a morality tale but a probe sent into the world of technology. ... Richtel draws all the characters with a fine brush, a delicacy that treats misery both respectfully and front-on.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Christian Science Monitor (One of the 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the Year))Ã¢â ¬Å“RichtelÃ¢â ¬â„¢s compassionate and persuasive book deserves a spot next to Fast Food Nation and To Kill a Mockingbird in AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s high school curriculums. To say it may save lives is self-evident.Ã¢â ¬Â• (New York Times Book Review (Editor's Choice))Ã¢â ¬Å“Americans are addicted to their technology, putting us on a modern day collision course with very real consequences. Matt Richtel brilliantly tells the story of the aftermath of a deadly distracted driving crash. His portrait is riveting. I could not stop reading, and neither will you.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Ray LaHood, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation)Ã¢â ¬Å“A portrait of our digital age that will deeply frighten you and cause you to reevaluate many common aspects of your Ã¢â ¬Ëœconnected Ã¢â ¬â„¢ life. ... An extraordinarily important book that everyoneÃ¢â ¬â •and I mean everyoneÃ¢â ¬â •should read.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Douglas Preston, co-author of The Monster of Florence)Ã¢â ¬Å“A masterpiece of reporting, insight, and empathy. ... A beautiful, cautionary tale that reads like a novel, and that we disregard at our risk.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Robert Kurson, author of Shadow Divers)Ã¢â ¬Å“A Deadly Wandering is more than a page-turner. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a book that can save lives.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Nicholas Carr, author of The Shallows)Ã¢â ¬Å“Matt RichtelÃ¢â ¬â„¢s riveting book is narrative nonfiction at its finest. ... This book should be placed in every school and legislative chamber in the country.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Jon Huntsman, former governor of Utah)Ã¢â ¬Å“This book does that most amazing of feats: it makes cutting-edge scientific research feel relevant to the choices we make every time we get in a car, sit at a desk, or talk to our friends and family.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Charles Duhigg, author of The Power of Habit)Ã¢â ¬Å“A gripping book. ... This is human drama and the latest knowledge about obsessive technology woven together in memorable style.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Ralph Nader, author of Unsafe at Any Speed)Ã¢â ¬Å“A compelling, highly emotional, and profoundly

important story.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews (Starred; a Best Book of the Year))Ã¢â ¬Å“Illuminates the perils of information overload... Raises fascinating and troubling issues about the cognitive impact of our technology.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Intensely gripping, compelling, and sobering... A Deadly Wandering gives the potentially lethal risks of the digital age a very human face -- one which we can, if weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re honest, readily see in the mirror.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Winnipeg Free Press (A Best Book of the Year))Ã¢â ¬Å“Exhaustively researched. ... Richtel brings a novelistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s knack for unspooling narrative conflict to bear on ShawÃ¢â ¬â„¢s real-life drama.Ã¢â ¬Â• (San Francisco Chronicle (A Best Book of the Year))Ã¢â ¬Å“Each page is... irresistible. ... A richly detailed and compellingly readable exploration of the Ã¢â ¬Ëœclashâ ¬â„¢ between our brains and the electronic devices that, for many of us, have become essential to Ã¢â ¬Ëœevery facet of life.Ã¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬Â• (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

I just finished A Deadly Wandering last night and was very moved by it for a number of reasons that I am still contemplating. This is a very well written, absorbing, enlightening and factually well supported non-fiction novel. I found it hard to put down, but even more importantly, found it extremely relevant to my life and my work.I have not been an in-car texter for a decade now, having realized very early how dangerous it is, but was thrilled last year when my new car came with hands-free ("legal" in CA) phone capabilities, which I have used on occasion. After reading the book and internalizing the sobering science of attention, I turned off the Bluetooth on my new iPhone 6 before getting into the car this morning.I have a super long commute to and from work each day and, like many, consider those hours ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“productive timeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• when able to take a work call or catch up with a relative or friend while commuting. However, I will now not be using my phone in the car while in motion ever again.People's lives and safety are unquestionably more important than any of the multi-tasking conveniences these increasingly capable devices can bring us in our busy lives and I do not want to end up like the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s protagonist, Reggie Shaw. So, through Matt Richtel, that young man with a tragic past has touched one more life.For folks like myself who have worked in the internet technology industry, and particularly the mobile industry, since its early days, it is really moving to read a true story about how these technologies are distracting people even to the point of death either in traffic causing horrendous and preventable accidents or in their personal lives, with children tuning-out, relationships being eroded and very real and unnecessary stress being added to our lives with the gadgets and services demanding or even addictively sucking away your attention.Having spent most of my career working for the biggest names in mobile evangelizing mobile technologies like texting, mobile

internet, mobile navigation, and mobile apps, I feel a tremendous amount of responsibility for increasing awareness for this important new scientific evidence for technologyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s impact on attention, awareness, brain function and brain health. There are positives and negative implications and possibilities and as a society should make raise awareness of both and take action. Awareness is an opportunity to find solutions.As a yogi, a meditator and a stepmother, I also see the impact of technology on our selves, our relationships and on our children. We must think about how our children use these technologies and monitor whether we feel they are helping or harming our or their personal physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing.I believe this is an important book and I hope that others will take the time to read it and to examine their own relationship to technology, that of their families and, if relevant, in their work.

This book is one that should be a mandatory read in Drivers Education courses. It is spellbinding as Richtel takes us through the story of a fatal accident caused by a texting driver, and illustrates how much pain and grief one distracted driver can cause. Citing recent research in neurology, he also breaks down the brain and its behavior in various circumstances. The cast of characters is large and Richtel made each one distinct and memorable. He also follows the families that were affected; some have moved forward and some individuals have even been able to forgive the texting driver, but some have not and continue to suffer deeply. The driver at fault still continues his work as an advocate for safe driving and his message has resonated with many people. I live in the area where the accident took place and I noticed several inaccuracies (i.e.Valley View Drive is called a road in some sections of the book and a highway in others) within the storytelling. A little fact-checking was in order. However, many readers aren’t familiar with Cache County and might not catch the inaccuracies. I was puzzled with that, as Richtel is a well-respected and honored writer, and an editor at a big publishing house should have done some fact-checking. However, the storytelling in A Deadly Wandering is really the point. And it is a well-told cautionary tale. Now to get it into the hands of the Millennials, who regard multitasking as an efficient habit. This event also spurred the Utah State Legislators into passing landmark legislation, some of the earliest and strongest in the country. Richtel cites the refrain of an old song: "Keep your mind on the driving, your hands on the wheel / Keep your snooping eyes on the road ahead." Who knew those words written in 1959 would resonate so clearly today?

This compellingly eloquent book is of immense importance for our society. Matt Richtel weaves together significant scientific research into the reasons for and effects of our powerful attachments

to our cell phones with the poignant and complex true story of a particular deadly accident caused by a teenager who was texting while driving. Every person who owns a cell phone and drives a car should read this book and absorb the dire reasons why ANY use of a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle is potentially disastrous. Richtel's talent as a writer allows him to combine the emotional impact of the pathos of the story of the accident, which killed two talented scientists who were husbands and fathers and completely transformed the life of the youg driver who caused the accident, with the stark logos of undeniable scientific facts about the inability of our brains to focus effectively on more than one thing at a time and why we are so irresistably tied to our devices. Richtel moves our hearts and informs our intellects in order to get us to examine our own habits and reform them appropriately. The more people who read and respond to this amazing book, the safer our streets and highways will be.

Great book, ties the human element into the Distracted Driving Problem, updates what our military learned about cuases of pilot errors during WWII . interesting in its selection of a central character and in its use of brain research as well as the mix of marketing and social signals that drive the addiction to technology . progress made by the safety community runs smack into a case of collective denial, reinforced by powerful marketing messages urging people to stay connected. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The culture is: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not me, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s you. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m the good driver.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Part of education is getting us people to face up to our own behavior.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The problem isn't just the other guy, it's all of us.

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