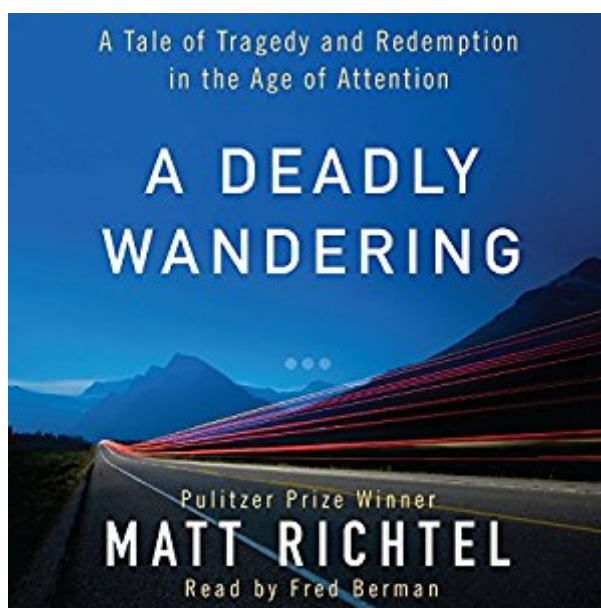


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A Deadly Wandering: A Tale Of Tragedy And Redemption In The Age Of Attention



Synopsis

An ordinary Utah college student named Reggie Shaw fatally strikes two rocket scientists while texting and driving. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter Matt Richtel follows Reggie from the moment of the tragedy, through the police investigation, the state's groundbreaking prosecution, and ultimately, Reggie's wrenching admission of responsibility. Richtel parallels Reggie's journey with leading-edge scientific findings regarding human attention and the impact of technology on our brains. Remarkably, today Reggie is a leading advocate who has helped spark a national effort targeting distracted driving, and the arc of his story provides a window through which Richtel pursues actionable solutions to help manage this crisis individually and as a society. A propulsive listen filled with fascinating scientific detail, riveting narrative tension, and rare emotional depth, *A Deadly Wandering* is an audiobook that can change - and save - lives.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

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 "productive time" 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 book'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 technology'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 young 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 causes 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.
The culture is: It's not me, it's you. I'm the good driver.
Part of education is getting us people to face up to our own behavior.
The problem isn't just the other guy, it's all of us.

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