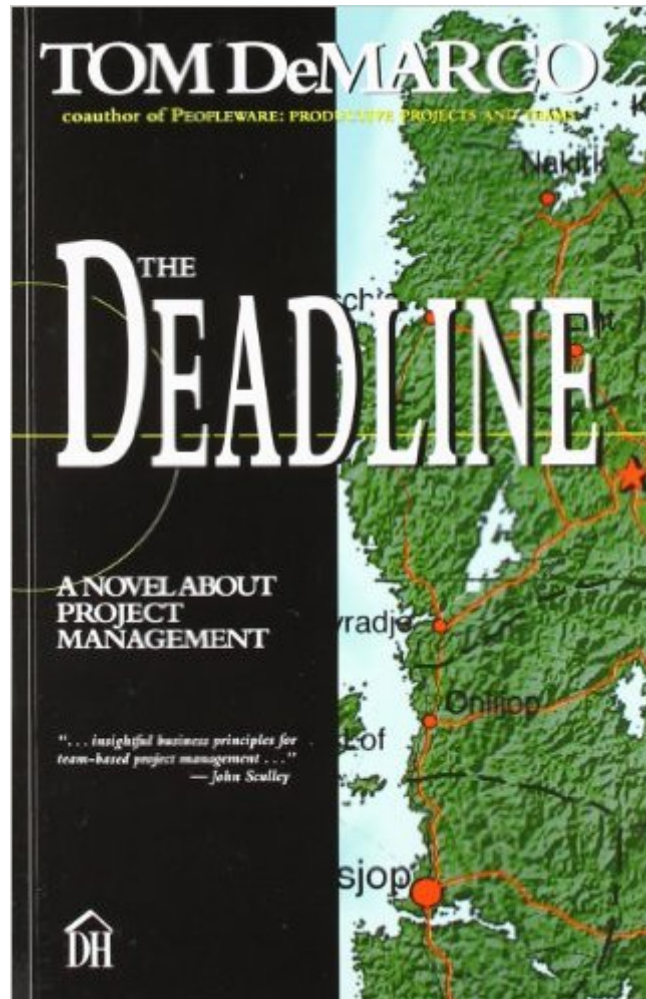


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The Deadline: A Novel About Project Management



Synopsis

The Deadline: A Novel About Project Management by Demarco, Tom

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Our department just went through a downsizing and restacking (corporate speak for physical cubicle shuffling) and I found The Deadline among the old pens and Splenda packets in an empty cube. I remember that it made quite a stir when it came out, so I took it back to my cloth lined slice of heaven, now removed from any actual chance of any physical view of heaven, and read it. I enjoyed skimming through this book and tend to agree with most of the points the author makes. However, as a veteran Project Manager, I think the book will be misleading to a novice and most of it better be old hat to one with any real experience. The target audience should be managers of Project Managers and their managers, and customers of Project Management efforts. But they won't like it, as it either ignores them, or disparages them. This is a real weakness. The core knowledge imparted, for professionals in PM, is better addressed in books like The Mythical Man Month and The Psychology of Computer Programming, among others. The author embeds his instruction in a modern Fairy Tale that is breezy and entertaining, and superficial. The plot structure is really just a tongue in cheek device, bordering on facetious, to set up some straw men the author uses to get his points across, which is OK. The underlying message is a dismissal and distrust of the received wisdom of methodologies and systems of Project Management and the management of organizations, in favor of a loosely described team based approach supported by rigorous design. Not a bad perspective to work from, and fresher when the book came out, but never as all

encompassing a panacea as the author makes it.

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