

UGLY SIDE OF PETROBUSINESS

SANTOSH VIJAY GUPTA



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First Edition

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Readers should read the story with the Oil & Gas Industry scenario, including the products and by-products produced.



Dedicated To

This novel is dedicated to my parents, who taught me humility and gave me the education that shaped who I am, and to my wife and son, who sacrificed to support me through my years of Oil Field service and continue to do so. I respect all who have read this page. I also thank my friends and colleagues who inspired me, helped me write this novel, and worked to review and improve it.

Appreciation to my family and friends.



Preface

Oil and gas is an unpredictable industry. - Progress often accompanies a price in our busy, energy-demanding world. Perhaps we dream of a greener world, but little about our tangled relationship with this vital yet unstable resource occurs to us. ‘Ugly Side of Petrobusiness’ is more than a novel; it wants readers to consider the consequences of the industry, detailing how it has shaped countries, changed places, and been driven by ambition and greed. It tells the life of Jack Thompson, a leading oil executive and a cautionary tale to the lengths to which societies will go in their quest for power and self-preservation. Jack’s thriving career is crushed by the aftermath of an oil spill and then faces painful moral dilemmas about profit and responsibility. His choice is whether it is worth the damage to the environment and the local community. With him is Maria Lopez, a passionate activist who represents the most impacted by corporate neglect. Through her, we see what environmental damage means, and the fight for justice, worldwide, is still ongoing. Ahmed Al-Farsi, a young geologist from the Middle East, is trapped in a world of corruption and has to choose between his own goals and telling the truth. His tale illustrates how the oil industry’s reach cuts both ways, through people and governments. Linda Carter, an investigative journalist, exposes the dark webs of oil money and politics: she was responsible for breaking the veil on oil money through corruption. Together, these characters represent the conflict between greed and duty, power and righting wrongs. “Ugly Side of Petrobusiness” asks readers to consider their own role in designing the future, and to consider the choices we make in boardrooms and everyday life too. This novel is both a cautionary tale and a call to action that urges readers to engage the story and seek a balance between doing the right thing and fulfilling the demands of energy.

Journalist who insists on diversifying her coverage of the oil business beyond the glitzy façade of profitability. Linda's investigative career leads her down a conspiracy-fueling rabbit hole, exposing corrupt arrangements between oil money and high-pressure government

campaigns that expose deep-seated rot at the service of power. Now her story takes the petrobusiness story to another level, allowing the reader to explore just how tangled the worlds of politics and profit can be. Through such connections, we come to recognise the many ways that the spectacle of power is much like the pollution-spewing murmur: both are a pernicious and endemic reality, and they are often wrapped in speeches to conceal their origins in larger social forces. "Ugly Side of Petrobusiness" asks the reader to linger at the site of your participation in power addiction and how you create the future of the collective. It is a quilt made up of greed versus responsibility, power and corruption, redemption and the search for moral salvation in the midst of the din of moral decay. For herein are characters to whom you will empathize, clashing with and supporting, as they journey into and out of their intertwined doom amidst the multiplicity of complexities that extend beyond mere pages. This piece of storytelling goes both dark and light, creating a picture, one with something of a force behind it, through which to see the truths of our warming world. As you plunge into this story, prepare for a wave of emotions and thoughts. You should face those realities in your face, the discomfiting, absurd aspects of the absurdity and the emotional depth that will go beyond simple observations: a bitter touch long after you have turned off your book. The stories of "Ugly Side of Petrobusiness," woven from "Good Side of Petrobusiness," both make you look and think on both sides and make you wonder and reflect, as well as what effect is going to occur within each stage if you ask yourself at the end of the last few pages. This book is both a call to arms and a cautionary tale. It's a reminder that the things we as citizens make choices in boardrooms, at national gatherings and from our political office desks, out at the polls and everyday lives all echo. As one walks down a literary path, may you not only emerge as a reader, in this imaginary world, as a part of this literary adventure, it is your task to become not just a reader, but a member of it, one who dares to live in a world where ethics and energy find an interesting coherence between them both.

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the people who were instrumental in bringing this work to fruition.

This project would not have been possible without the meticulous effort and dedication of the IIP Publication team. Thank you for your professional guidance, patience, and commitment to shaping this manuscript into its final form, this *Novel: The Ugly Side of Petrobusiness*.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the generous friends who volunteered their time and sharp eyes to help refine the English of this manuscript. Your insights ensured clarity and precision, allowing the ideas within these pages to shine through.

Finally, and most importantly, I thank my brother-in-law, who sparked the idea to write in 2020.

Table of Contents

Chapter No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
Chapter 1	The Call of Black Gold.....	1 - 13
Chapter 2	The Ripple Effect.....	14 – 28
Chapter 3	Behind Closed Doors.....	29 - 41
Chapter 4	The Activist's Dilemma.....	42 - 53
Chapter 5	Whispers of Power.....	54 - 64
Chapter 6	The Voice of the People.....	65 – 77
Chapter 7	The Other Side of the World.....	78 - 89
Chapter 8	The Clash of Interests.....	90 - 102
Chapter 9	Unveiling the Truth.....	103 - 114
Chapter 10	The Final Countdown.....	115 - 128
Chapter 11	Redemption or Ruin?	129 – 141
Chapter 12	A New Dawn.....	142 – 151
Chapter 13	Lessons Learned.....	152 – 156
	Bibliography.....	157 - 157

The Oil and Gas industry, often referred to as the PetroBusiness, lies at the very core of the world economy. However, beneath its immense power and wealth, the business carries a darker truth. "Ugly Side of PetroBusiness" seeks to uncover this reality by dramatizing the events and consequences that unfold across the globe. The novel follows a cast of characters whose lives are profoundly shaped by the influence of the oil industry. Through their stories, it explores the challenges, ethical dilemmas, and harsh realities tied to the world's dependence on fossil fuels.

Ugly Side of PetroBusiness delves deep into the intersection of industry, politics, and humanity, compelling readers to confront moral questions surrounding environmental degradation, corruption, and social inequality. Drawing inspiration from real events, the novel examines how the pursuit of profit and power often overshadows responsibility toward people and the planet.

The story urges future generations to reflect on the cost of placing profit before purpose, and to reimagine a more sustainable and ethical world.

To narrate this complex interplay, the author introduces several vivid characters:

Jack Thompson: A seasoned oil field executive, initially driven by profit, who becomes disillusioned by the industry.

Maria Lopez: An environmental activist determined to protect communities and ecosystems from exploitation.

Linda Carter: A journalist uncovering the deep connections between oil money and political influence.

Ahmed Al-Farsi: A young geologist in an oil-rich nation, struggling against corruption and environmental decay.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Santosh Vijay Gupte is a seasoned Oil & Gas industry professional, educator, and thought leader with decades of experience in international oil and gas operations and technical training. He has served on numerous committees and subcommittees responsible for establishing oil field standards and holds several international certifications and awards. In 2024, he received the Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Inspiration Award in the Oil & Gas sector. Over the course of his career, he has worked on every continent, serving in various roles such as Director, Auditor, Advisor, Manager, Engineer, Inspector, Trainer, and Independent Director, certified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India. Mr. Gupte has authored numerous technical papers on Welding, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), and Quality Management Systems (QMS) over the past 35 years.



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