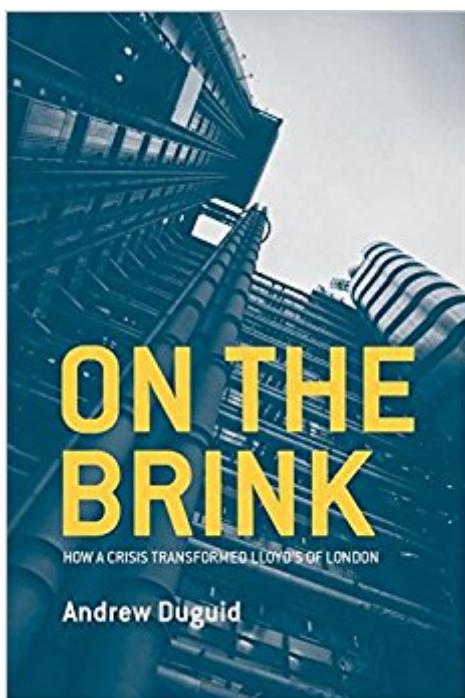


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On The Brink: How A Crisis Transformed Lloyd's Of London



Synopsis

Huge losses very nearly destroyed Lloyd's, a revered British institution, the world's largest insurance market. Ten thousand people faced big personal bills they thought profoundly unfair. They challenged a complacent institution, forcing it to confront its biggest ever crisis. This book tells what really happened, from the inside.

Book Information

Hardcover: 382 pages

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; 2014 edition (August 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1137299290

ISBN-13: 978-1137299291

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.3 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #467,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Business & Money > Insurance > Business #100 in Books > Business & Money > Investing > Futures #104 in Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership > Corporate Governance

Customer Reviews

'Andrew Duguid has written a well-balanced, but at the same time racy and highly readable history of Lloyd's near-death experience and how the market was saved. Duguid is objective, but has used his inside experience well. On The Brink is a very valuable addition to the historical record of the City of London.' - Sir Howard Davies, Former Chairman, FSA 'This is a book of first-rate importance. It shows how a small number of remarkable men rescued the Lloyd's insurance market from catastrophe- without recourse to a government bail-out.' - Peter Oborne, Chief Political Commentator, Daily Telegraph 'Andrew Duguid's gripping account of the crisis at Lloyd's is a story of complacency, greed, regulatory failure and overly complex financial instruments. Crises are frequent; most of them are wasted. On The Brink offers a compelling story, based on wide-ranging research, of how Lloyd's showed resilience in dealing with disaster. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the turbulent history of the City of London.' - Martin Daunton, Professor of Economic History, University of Cambridge 'Understanding what went wrong at Lloyd's was an invaluable lesson for me in what would subsequently go wrong in the global financial system. Andrew Duguid's book makes that experience available to everyone.' - John Kay, Visiting Professor,

London School of Economics 'This remarkable and brilliantly researched book chronicles how greed and shortsightedness brought Lloyd's of London to the brink of collapse in the 1990s, but how in its darkest hour it found new leaders. This small group overcame what many at the time thought were impossible odds to put in place the programme of structural and cultural reform which laid the foundations for the modern day globally important market. But the real value of the work lies in what Lloyd's tells us about today's banking crisis and in particular how the banking industry has so far failed where Lloyd's triumphed in finding new leaders capable of delivering the change in culture which is essential if the industry is to regain public trust.' - Anthony Hilton, Financial Editor, Evening Standard

Andrew Duguid holds a degree in economics from the London School of Economics and an MA in marketing from Lancaster University. He began his career at Brunel University, undertaking a research project into forms of export organization, publishing (with Professor Elliott Jaques) Case Studies in Export Organisation. He worked for an advertising agency, SH Benson, later Ogilvy & Mather, as a marketing executive for four years, before joining the UK civil service. He spent 14 years in the Department of Trade Industry (DTI), including two years as principal private secretary to two cabinet ministers and three years seconded to the No. 10 Policy Unit in the Prime Minister's Office, under Margaret Thatcher. In 1986 he left his DTI undersecretary position to join Lloyd's of London as a senior executive. He worked at Lloyd's for 14 years in several senior roles, including Director, Strategic Planning and Secretary to the Council. He was closely involved in many of the events described in this book. After that he spent four years as a senior executive at a London market insurer, Global Aerospace.

Andrew Duguid has written the definitive account of what was probably the most critical period of Lloyd's 300 year history. As well as being objective, detailed and balanced, it is also highly readable. There was no need to write in the style of a thriller: the facts and events speak for themselves. The book goes beyond being a chronicle by looking at lessons in the form of the limits to the effectiveness of enlightened self-interest and the power that can be generated when people, albeit that (or perhaps because) they are independently-minded and possess large egos, can be inspired to work for the common good.

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