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# The 33: Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories Of 33 Men Buried In A Chilean Mine, And The Miracle That Set Them Free



## Synopsis

Previously published as *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free*. The novel that inspired the film *The 33* starring Lou Diamond Phillips, Cote de Pablo, and Antonio Banderas. A finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award A finalist for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize A New York Times Book Review Notable Book Selected for NPR's Morning Edition Book Club When the San José mine collapsed outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, it trapped 33 miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for a record-breaking 69 days. After the disaster, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hector Tobar received exclusive access to the miners and their tales, and in *Deep Down Dark* he brings them to haunting, visceral life. We learn what it was like to be imprisoned inside a mountain, understand the horror of being slowly consumed by hunger, and experience the awe of working in such a place - underground passages filled with danger and that often felt alive. A masterwork of narrative journalism and a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit, *Deep Down Dark* captures the profound ways in which the lives of everyone involved in the catastrophe were forever changed.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 26 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 13, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0167KU15U

Best Sellers Rank: #27 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Chile #37 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Latin America #52 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Mining

## Customer Reviews

Hector Tobar's *DEEP DOWN DARK* tells the stories of the 33 Chilean miners trapped in Chile's San José mine for 69 days in 2010. The book, a chronology of the events and a collection of portraits of the men both above and below ground, is the first of its kind, honoring an agreement the miners made to one another to tell their story only as a group. Tobar begins *DEEP*

DOWN DARK with a description of the San José mine: a rocky, lifeless mountain situated in the Atacama Desert of Chile. Though there is a city nearby, Copiapó, it serves more as a temporary home for miners working their seven-day shifts, leaving outside visitors to the San José few and far between. Tobar, however, eagerly invites readers into this male-dominated world, exposing the dilapidation and ever-blowing dust of the mine and preparing them for the miners' eerie descent into the depths of the earth. He explains how the workers come from all ends and social ranks of Chile, with some enduring stifling day-long bus rides even before their shifts begin. Tobar effortlessly employs the geography of Chile as a vehicle for his narrative, giving readers both a sense of Chile's layout and the personalities of the men. As the morning of August 5th dawns, we watch the miners of the A Shift prepare for their 12-hour-long workday. In an ironic note, a few of them were not even scheduled to work that day, but were making up for previous missed days. Many of them, we are told, had concerns about the mine's safety after observing a crack in the Ramp, the central road connecting all of San José's underground passageways and the only way to leave the mine.

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