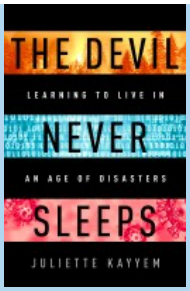
Discussion Guide




*The Devil Never Sleeps*
Juliette Kayyem

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Disasters and Emergencies

**Summary**

It's no longer about preventing a disaster from occurring but learning how to use the tools at our disposal to minimize the consequences when it does. Filled with personal anecdotes and real-life examples from natural disasters like the California wildfires to man-made ones like the Boeing 737 MAX crisis, *The Devil Never Sleeps* is a guide for governments, businesses, and individuals alike on how to alter our thinking so that we can develop effective strategies in the face of perpetual catastrophe.

**Questions**

1. As we continue to hear about more climate change-related disasters, like recent wildfires in Hawaii, flooding in Vermont, etc. how can we use examples like Fukushima, Hurricane Katrina, etc. to inform our responses to those?
2. The author asserts that we are always going to fail, we just need to learn how to fail *more safely*. Do you agree with this? Is catastrophe inevitable? Or should we be focusing on efforts to stop the failures in the first place?
3. Which examples struck you the most? What are the takeaways from this example? What other historical examples could be helped by the lessons in this book?
4. What role do you think optimism, camaraderie, play in disaster response, especially in a situation like the Boston Marathon Bombing or Hurricane Katrina, which became rallying moments for entire cities? Think about the slogan "Boston Strong", read this Twitter thread.
5. Why are we still often one step behind? Even when these tools are out there in books like DNS, they're not always used. Why?
6. What factors can change the response needed? Natural disaster vs manmade? Corporate disasters (Boeing) versus large scale, city- or state-wide catastrophe (Katrina)?
7. How can we repurpose or tweak the tools presented in the book to be useful before the crisis hits ("left of boom")?
8. How can the government use these lessons to implement policy? Will this look very different from the way that leaders of corporations use the lessons from the book?
9. How can we use new technology to enhance our disaster preparedness? For example, how can Twitter be used to alert large populations of an attack or natural disaster?

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