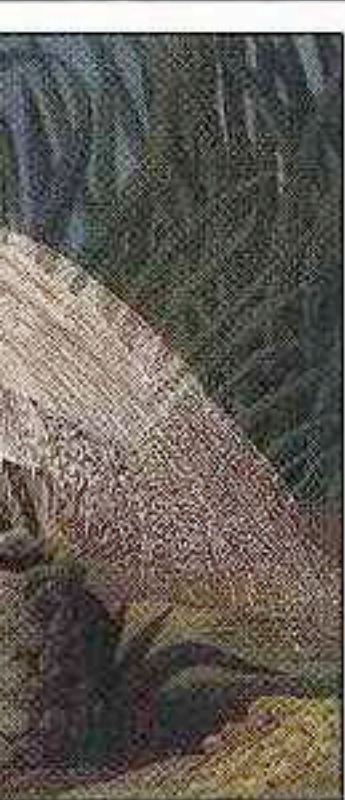


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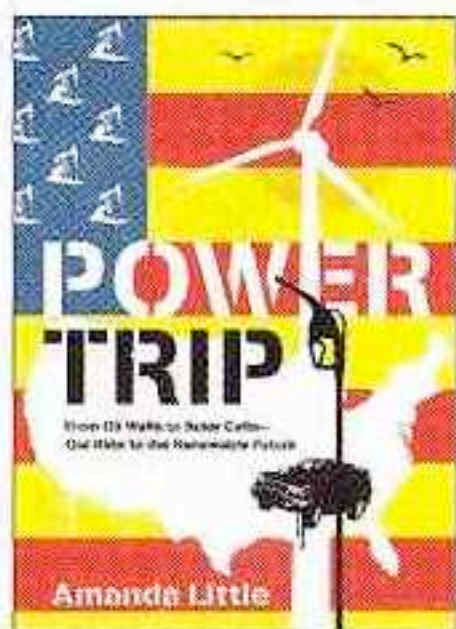
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Power Trip: From Oil Wells to Solar Cells— Our Ride to the Renewable Future

By Amanda Little

HarperCollins, 446 pages, \$25.99



The thread tying together national security, climate change, and the energy crisis is the same one that has linked much of modern American society, from our web of highways and electrical grids to our

obsession with food and fashion: oil. Even the Tupperware that stores our leftovers and the stylish clothes that adorn our bodies rely on fossil fuels. In *Power Trip*, journalist Amanda Little leads readers on a journey through America's long association with this ubiquitous yet shrinking resource while exploring the forces helping to usher in a fossil-fuel-free future. Far from simply relaying abstract theories of peak oil or alternative energy technologies, Little profiles a vibrating five-mile-long oil drill, roaring race cars averaging five miles per gallon, and a towering, 945-foot-tall green skyscraper. And she paints a human face on each innovation—eco-friendly or not. Her rapier wit slices through discussions of the “love affair between the petroleum industry and politics” and General Motors’ reign during the “dawn of car fetishism.” Still, the predominant attitude remains optimistic. Little leaves readers hopeful that the same ingenuity that bound America to oil will eventually liberate us from it.—Lynne Peeples

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