



FRD113

Disconnected deceit and betrayal at WorldCom - 20 hours

Objectives

Disconnected is the first book to tell the tale of the once powerful telecom pioneer whose corporate scandal eclipses the Enron fiasco. During the summer of 2002, WorldCom, once a leading carrier of Internet traffic, filed the largest bankruptcy claim in American history due to accounting errors totaling over \$7 billion—and now finds itself on the brink of corporate extinction. Disconnected offers an engaging account of what really went wrong at WorldCom and why no one saw this corporate collapse coming.

Disconnected: Deceit and Betrayal at WorldCom provides you with a front row seat to the WorldCom disaster. Journalist Lynne Jeter uses her two decades of experience covering WorldCom, along with her inside connections as a longtime Mississippi business reporter, to examine how a company that created so much wealth was able to lose so much so quickly. Filled with fascinating financial details and entertaining anecdotes of the Runyonesque characters that created, and then all but destroyed, WorldCom, Disconnected takes you inside this telecom giant to explore:

- How CEO Bernie Ebbers parlayed ownership of a two-bit motel into stewardship of the nation's second-largest long-distance provider—and the world's largest Internet carrier
- WorldCom's failed 2000 courtship of long-distance competitor Sprint, and how the details that emerged revealed the company's growing pains—and foreshadowed its eventual demise
- WorldCom's June 2002 revelation of overstated earnings, and the debacle of mistakes, missteps, and downright unethical management behavior that followed

Much more than a simple corporate biography, Disconnected is a compelling narrative on winning big—and losing everything—on the stages of American and global business. It provides fresh insights into WorldCom's inner workings and corporate culture, while describing the social setting, religious influences, political gamesmanship, and cultural

climate that drove the company and its leaders. Stories of Bernie Ebbers's laid-back workplace attitude share space with firsthand accounts of being reassured of your position over lunch with "the boss"—only to return to find your office locks changed and your possessions waiting in a cardboard box!

Course Outline

Chapter 1 – Migrating South

Chapter 2 – Information, Please

Chapter 3 – The Spending Spree

Chapter 4 – The Power Surge

Chapter 5 – The Ultimate Drug

Chapter 6 – Masterstroke

Chapter 7 – The Honeymoon is Over

Chapter 8 – The Courting of Sprint

Chapter 9 – Hockey, Pals, and the Farm

Chapter 10 – Pink Slipped

Chapter 11 – The Worst Job in Corporate America

Chapter 12 – The Dog Don't Hunt

Chapter 13 – Hoodwinked

Chapter 14 – Infectious Greed

Chapter 15 - Disconnected