

dont tell mum i work on the rigs

Dont Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs: The Untold Stories of Offshore Life

dont tell mum i work on the rigs—it's a phrase that resonates deeply with many offshore workers who grapple with the unique challenges and perceptions associated with their jobs. Working on oil rigs, whether in the North Sea, Gulf of Mexico, or other remote locations, is far from a typical nine-to-five routine. It's a life filled with adventure, camaraderie, and tough labor, but also a world often misunderstood by those onshore. If you've ever wondered what it's really like to live and work on the rigs, you're in the right place.

Why 'Dont Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' Strikes a Chord

The phrase captures a mix of emotions. For many offshore workers, there's a certain stigma or concern about how their loved ones, especially parents, perceive the dangers and hardships of rig life. It's not that they want to hide their employment; rather, it's about shielding family members from worry or misunderstanding.

The Hidden Realities of Offshore Work

Life on an oil rig is demanding. Workers face long shifts, often 12 hours or more, in harsh weather conditions, far from home comforts. Safety is paramount, but the inherent risks of working with heavy machinery and volatile substances can be daunting. Sometimes, sharing these realities with family leads to anxiety or overprotectiveness, prompting workers to soften the truth.

Balancing Pride and Protection

Many rig workers take immense pride in their roles. They're part of a global energy supply chain, contributing to industries that power modern life. However, the disconnect between pride and concern from loved ones creates a delicate balance—hence the tongue-in-cheek "dont tell mum i work on the rigs" expression that captures their dual feelings of accomplishment and discretion.

What Life is Really Like on the Rigs

To understand the phrase better, it helps to explore the day-to-day existence on an offshore rig. This lifestyle is unique in many ways and involves a rhythm that's very different from land-based jobs.

Work Schedule and Routine

Most rig workers operate on a rotational schedule, such as two weeks on the rig followed by two weeks off. During their stint offshore, workers live in shared accommodations, often cramped but functional, designed to maximize efficiency and safety. The workday includes a variety of tasks, from operating drilling equipment and maintenance to safety drills and inspections.

Challenges and Rewards

Living offshore means coping with isolation and limited social interactions outside the rig community. Internet access can be spotty, and being away from family for extended periods is emotionally taxing. However, this lifestyle also fosters strong friendships and a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood among crew members.

The financial incentives are another significant perk. Offshore jobs are often well-paid, reflecting the demanding nature of the work and the skills required. For many, the compensation and benefits outweigh the hardships.

Common Misconceptions About Working on Oil Rigs

There are many myths surrounding rig work that contribute to the need to "don't tell mum I work on the rigs" in a joking or protective way.

It's Not Just a Man's Job

Contrary to popular belief, the offshore industry employs a growing number of women in various roles, from engineers to safety officers. The rigs are becoming more inclusive, breaking down gender stereotypes.

Safety Comes First

While the work is hazardous, the industry adheres to strict safety standards. Workers undergo rigorous training, and emergency protocols are drilled regularly. The emphasis on safety means that while risks exist, they are managed carefully.

It's Not All Rough and Tough

Many imagine rig life to be all hard hats and heavy lifting. In reality, there are diverse roles, including technical, administrative, and environmental specialists. The rigs are complex operations requiring a range of skills.

Tips for Those Considering a Career on the Rigs

If you've ever thought about joining the offshore workforce but hesitated because of family concerns or misconceptions, here are some practical insights to help you prepare and communicate better.

Educate Your Family

Sharing accurate information about safety measures, job responsibilities, and living conditions can alleviate worries. Inviting family to visit offshore facilities during open days or virtual tours can also provide reassurance.

Prioritize Mental Health

Isolation and long shifts can impact mental wellbeing. Establish routines for communication with loved ones, engage in hobbies, and seek support when needed. Employers increasingly recognize the importance of mental health resources for their teams.

Invest in Proper Training

Obtaining certifications such as Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET) is essential. Being well-prepared not only helps you stay safe but also boosts confidence in your abilities and demonstrates professionalism to your family.

Maintain a Balanced Perspective

Remember that offshore work is a phase in your career. Many use it as a stepping stone to other opportunities. Keeping an eye on your long-term goals can help you navigate the ups and downs of rig life.

The Social Side: Brotherhood and Camaraderie

One of the most compelling aspects often overlooked is the strong social bond formed among rig workers. When you're hundreds of miles from shore, your colleagues become your extended family.

Shared Experiences Build Trust

From handling emergencies to celebrating milestones, the shared experiences create a unique connection. This camaraderie provides emotional support, making the rig feel less like a workplace and more like a community.

How Humor Helps Cope

The phrase "dont tell mum i work on the rigs" itself is an example of the humor workers use to lighten the mood. Jokes, storytelling, and playful nicknames help reduce stress and foster a positive atmosphere despite the tough environment.

Changing Perceptions: The Future of Offshore Work

As the energy sector evolves, so does the narrative around offshore jobs. Increasingly, rigs are becoming high-tech hubs featuring automation, robotics, and advanced environmental controls.

Embracing Technology

Modern rigs use digital monitoring systems and remote operations that improve safety and efficiency. This shift challenges outdated stereotypes and opens the door for a wider range of professionals.

Environmental Responsibility

The industry is under pressure to reduce its environmental footprint. Workers today are often involved in sustainability initiatives, from waste management to spill prevention, highlighting the progressive side of rig work.

Encouraging Diversity and Inclusion

Efforts to promote diversity mean that future rigs will be more representative and welcoming workplaces. This cultural shift helps break down the barriers that once made workers hesitant to openly discuss their jobs with family.

For those who say "dont tell mum i work on the rigs," it's more than a catchphrase—it's a window into a complex, demanding, yet rewarding way of life. Behind the humor lies a story of resilience, skill, and community that deserves recognition and respect. Whether you're considering offshore work or just curious, understanding these nuances brings you closer to the real spirit of life on the rigs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the premise of 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs'?

The show is a British comedy-drama that follows the life of a woman who keeps her job working on oil rigs a secret from her mother, leading to humorous and heartfelt situations.

Who is the main character in 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs'?

The main character is a young woman named Jess who works on offshore oil rigs and tries to hide this fact from her traditional mother.

Is 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' based on a true story?

While the show depicts realistic scenarios of offshore rig work, it is a fictional story inspired by real-life experiences of women working in the oil industry.

Where is 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' set?

The series is primarily set in the UK, focusing on coastal towns and offshore oil rigs in the North Sea.

What themes does 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' explore?

The show explores themes of family dynamics, gender roles in male-dominated industries, secrecy, and personal identity.

How does 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' address gender stereotypes?

It challenges traditional gender roles by showcasing a female protagonist thriving in a physically demanding, male-dominated oil rig environment.

Where can I watch 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs'?

The show is available on select streaming platforms and may also be broadcast on UK television networks; availability depends on your region.

Has 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs' received any awards or recognition?

The series has been praised for its authentic portrayal of offshore work and strong female lead, earning critical acclaim and some industry nominations.

Are there any real oil rig workers involved in the

making of 'Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs'?

Yes, the production consulted with real oil rig workers to ensure accurate representation of the working conditions and culture on offshore rigs.

Additional Resources

don't tell mum i work on the rigs: Unveiling the Realities Behind Offshore Rig Work

don't tell mum i work on the rigs – a phrase that encapsulates the complex mixture of pride, secrecy, and concern often associated with employment on offshore oil rigs. This candid admission reflects the hidden layers of a profession that is as demanding as it is misunderstood. Offshore rig workers face unique challenges that extend beyond the physical toll, encompassing emotional and social dimensions that shape their professional and personal lives.

In this article, we explore the multifaceted world of rig workers, analyzing the occupational hazards, lifestyle implications, and societal perceptions that contribute to the guarded nature of this line of work. By investigating the subtle nuances behind the statement “don't tell mum i work on the rigs,” we aim to shed light on an industry shrouded in both allure and apprehension.

Understanding the Offshore Rig Environment

Working on an offshore oil rig is often romanticized in popular media, but the reality involves strenuous labor in one of the most challenging environments on the planet. These rigs operate in open seas, subject to volatile weather conditions and logistical complexities. The phrase “don't tell mum i work on the rigs” underscores a common tension – the desire to shield loved ones from worrying about the risks involved.

Occupational Hazards and Safety Protocols

The offshore oil industry is notorious for its high-risk working conditions. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fatal injury rate for oil and gas extraction workers is significantly higher than the national average for all occupations. Workers are exposed to hazards such as heavy machinery, high-pressure systems, and hazardous chemicals. Despite stringent safety protocols and ongoing technological advancements, the threat of accidents persists.

Safety measures on rigs include regular drills, mandatory personal protective equipment (PPE), and comprehensive emergency response plans. However, the inherent dangers often contribute to the reluctance of workers to openly discuss their job with family members, as the emotional burden of worry can be profound.

The Physical and Mental Demands

Working on a rig is not only physically demanding but also mentally taxing. Shifts commonly last 12 hours or more, with workers spending weeks at a time isolated from their families. The phrase “dont tell mum i work on the rigs” can also reflect the psychological strain of separation and the difficulty in conveying the rigors of the job to those at home.

Studies have shown that offshore workers are at increased risk for mental health issues, including stress, anxiety, and depression, largely due to isolation and the high-pressure environment. Employers have begun integrating mental health support services, recognizing the importance of holistic well-being for offshore personnel.

The Social and Cultural Dimensions of Rig Work

Beyond the immediate occupational factors, the culture surrounding rig work plays a significant role in how workers communicate their experiences. “Dont tell mum i work on the rigs” resonates with the tradition of stoicism prevalent among many rig workers, where discussing vulnerability is often avoided.

Masculinity and the Offshore Worker Identity

The offshore rig workforce has historically been male-dominated, fostering a culture where toughness and resilience are prized attributes. This can lead to a reluctance to share the harsher realities of the job with family and friends, reinforcing the phrase “dont tell mum i work on the rigs.” The societal expectations compel workers to project strength, sometimes at the expense of emotional openness.

In recent years, however, there has been a gradual shift towards inclusivity and acknowledgement of mental health needs, challenging traditional norms and encouraging more transparent dialogues.

Family Dynamics and Communication Barriers

The geographic and emotional distance imposed by rig work inevitably affects family dynamics. Workers often feel compelled to downplay the risks and hardships to avoid causing distress, hence the inclination to keep the nature of their work under wraps. This dynamic can create barriers to genuine communication, impacting relationships over time.

Employers and industry groups have started promoting family support programs, recognizing that addressing these communication challenges is vital for the well-being of both workers and their loved ones.

Economic Implications and Career Perspectives

While the phrase “dont tell mum i work on the rigs” often carries a hint of secrecy or shame, it’s important to contextualize the economic realities that drive many into this line of work.

Financial Incentives and Job Security

Offshore rig jobs frequently offer competitive salaries and benefits, which can be significantly higher than comparable onshore positions. The demanding nature of the work and the sacrifices involved are often offset by financial rewards, including overtime pay, hazard pay, and comprehensive insurance packages.

However, the industry is also subject to market fluctuations tied to global oil prices, which can affect job security. These economic uncertainties add another layer of complexity to the decision to enter or remain in this profession.

Career Development and Skill Transferability

Many rig workers acquire specialized skills that are highly valued within the energy sector, such as drilling operations, mechanical maintenance, and safety management. These competencies can open pathways to career advancement or transitions into related fields, including renewable energy sectors.

Nevertheless, the physical demands and isolation may limit long-term career sustainability for some, necessitating strategic planning for life beyond the rigs.

Technology and the Future of Offshore Work

Advancements in technology are gradually transforming the offshore oil industry, potentially reshaping the realities behind “dont tell mum i work on the rigs.”

Automation and Remote Operations

Automation technologies, including remote-controlled drilling and robotic inspection systems, are increasingly integrated into rig operations. These innovations aim to reduce human exposure to hazardous conditions and improve efficiency.

While this shift may enhance safety, it also raises questions about job displacement and the future role of human workers in offshore environments.

Environmental Considerations and Industry Adaptation

The global push towards sustainability and reduced carbon emissions challenges the traditional oil rig industry. Companies are investing in

greener technologies and diversifying into renewable energy platforms, such as offshore wind farms.

This transition promises to redefine the nature of rig work, potentially alleviating some of the stigma or secrecy associated with the profession as it evolves toward more environmentally conscious practices.

Breaking the Silence: Changing Narratives Around Rig Work

The expression “dont tell mum i work on the rigs” symbolizes more than just a personal choice to withhold information; it reflects broader societal and industry-related issues that influence communication about offshore employment.

Increasing awareness of occupational health and safety, mental health, and family support is gradually encouraging more open conversations. Media portrayals are becoming more nuanced, highlighting not only the challenges but also the professionalism and dedication of rig workers.

Ultimately, the future may see a cultural shift where working on the rigs is openly acknowledged and appreciated without the need for secrecy or downplaying the realities involved.

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PAUL CARTER HAS BEEN SHOT AT, HIJACKED AND HELD HOSTAGE. He's almost died of dysentery in Asia and toothache in Russia, watched a Texan lose his mind in the jungles of Asia, lost a lot of money backing a mouse against a scorpion in a fight to the death, and been served cocktails by an orang-utan on an ocean freighter. And that's just his day job. Taking postings in some of the world's wildest and most remote regions, not to mention some of the roughest oil rigs on the planet, Paul has worked, gotten into trouble and been given serious talkings to in locations as far-flung as the North Sea, Middle East, Borneo and Tunisia, as exotic as Sumatra, Vietnam and Thailand, and as flat out dangerous as Columbia, Nigeria and Russia, with some of the maddest, baddest and strangest people you could ever hope not to meet. Strap yourself in for an exhilarating, crazed, sometimes terrifying, usually bloody funny ride through one man's adventures in the oil trade. When not getting into trouble on the rigs Paul lives a quiet life in Sydney.

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs Paul Carter, 2016 A take no prisoners' approach to life has seen Paul Carter heading to some of the world's most remote, wild and dangerous places as a contractor in the oil business. Amazingly, he's survived (so far) to tell these stories from the edge of civilization, and reason.

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs Paul Carter, 2010-12-07

A take-no-prisoners approach to life has seen Paul Carter heading to some of the world's most remote, wild and dangerous places as a contractor in the oil business. Amazingly, he's survived (so far) to tell these stories from the edge of civilization. He has been shot at, hijacked and held hostage; almost died of dysentery in Asia and toothache in Russia; watched a Texan lose his mind in the jungles of Asia; lost a lot of money backing a scorpion against a mouse in a fight to the death, and been served cocktails by an orangutan on an ocean freighter. And that's just his day job. Taking postings in some of the world's wildest and most remote regions, not to mention some of the roughest rigs on the planet, Paul has worked, got into trouble, and been given serious talkings to, in locations as far-flung as the North Sea, Middle East, Borneo and Tunisia, as exotic as Sumatra, Vietnam and Thailand, and as flat-out dangerous as Columbia, Nigeria and Russia, with some of the maddest, baddest and strangest people you could ever hope not to meet.

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dont tell mum i work on the rigs: A Definitive Guide to Behavioural Safety Tim Marsh, 2017-06-07 This book makes the case that far too much work undertaken under the banner of 'behavioural safety' is overly person-focused. 'If you can walk on hot coals, you can do anything - so be safe' needs to be dismissed out of hand, but also more advanced techniques based on coaching and empowerment fail to reflect the fact that, as 'Just Culture' models show, the great majority of causes of unsafe behaviour are environmental. Our methodologies mustn't focus on the person with an open mind that there may be an underlying root cause; they must start from the statistically proven assumption that there is an underlying cause. This shift in mindset has a profound impact on the type of methodologies we must lead with, how they are used, how they are perceived, and last but certainly not least, their efficacy. A Definitive Guide to Behavioural Safety is a one-stop guide to all of the core theories and principles that underpin behaviour-based safety. All front-line behaviours that lead to incidents and injury are covered by the term behavioural safety, and getting to grips with the behaviours that might lead people to engage in unsafe or risky behaviour is crucial to prevention. In this book, internationally acclaimed behavioural safety expert Tim Marsh leads the reader through the three main strands: The awareness approach. The walk-and-talk approach. The Six Sigma safety or the Deming-inspired 'full' approach. Going through the very latest innovations in the field, the book covers the systemic approach to safety observation, measurement, intervention and analysis, but also incorporates emotional intelligence training aimed at enhancing supervisor-worker trust and communication more generally. A Definite Guide to Behavioural Safety is a perfect guide for any professional, whether you're aiming to set up an ambitious and wide-ranging behavioural safety programme from scratch or you're looking to refresh or extend an existing approach.

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: Crude Britannia James Marriott, Terry Macalister, 2021-05-20 'Dripping with delicious detail' - Aditya Chakraborty Taking the reader on a journey through North East Scotland, Merseyside, South Wales, the Thames Estuary and London, this is the story of Britain's oil-soaked past, present and future. Travelling the country, the authors discover how the financial power and political muscle of an industry built the culture of a nation from pop

music to kitchen appliances, and how companies constructed an empire, extracting the wealth of the world from Iran to Nigeria and Alaska. Today, the tide seems to be going out – Britain's refineries have been quietly closed, the North Sea oilfields are declining and wind farms are being built in their place. As the country painfully shifts into its new post-industrial role in the shadow of Covid, Brexit and the climate crisis, many believe the age of oil to be over. But is it? Speaking to oil company executives and traders, as well as refinery workers, filmmakers and musicians, activists and politicians, the authors put real people at the heart of a compelling story.

don't tell mum i work on the rigs: Wild Man from Borneo Robert Cribb, Helen Gilbert, Helen Tiffin, 2014-01-31 *Wild Man from Borneo* offers the first comprehensive history of the human-orangutan encounter. Arguably the most humanlike of all the great apes, particularly in intelligence and behavior, the orangutan has been cherished, used, and abused ever since it was first brought to the attention of Europeans in the seventeenth century. The red ape has engaged the interest of scientists, philosophers, artists, and the public at large in a bewildering array of guises that have by no means been exclusively zoological or ecological. One reason for such a long-term engagement with a being found only on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra is that, like its fellow great apes, the orangutan stands on that most uncomfortable dividing line between human and animal, existing, for us, on what has been called "the dangerous edge of the garden of nature." Beginning with the scientific discovery of the red ape more than three hundred years ago, this work goes on to examine the ways in which its human attributes have been both recognized and denied in science, philosophy, travel literature, popular science, literature, theatre, museums, and film. The authors offer a provocative analysis of the origin of the name "orangutan," trace how the ape has been recruited to arguments on topics as diverse as slavery and rape, and outline the history of attempts to save the animal from extinction. Today, while human populations increase exponentially, that of the orangutan is in dangerous decline. The remaining "wild men of Borneo" are under increasing threat from mining interests, logging, human population expansion, and the widespread destruction of forests. The authors hope that this history will, by adding to our knowledge of this fascinating being, assist in some small way in their preservation.

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don't tell mum i work on the rigs: This Is Not A Drill Paul Carter, 2010-12-07 The outrageous sequel to *Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs (She Thinks I'm a Piano Player in a Whorehouse)* brings more great stories from the far side of civilization - hilarious, full of humour, colourful characters and dramatic action! Just another glorious day in the oilfield for Paul Carter! He's stuck in the middle of the Russian sea on a rig staffed by a crew from Azerbaijan. The choppers are older than him and can only fly by line of sight, turning back regularly due to the weather which gets particularly interesting when they are past the point of no return with half their fuel gone and they are committed to finding the rig in a fog that's thicker than a Big Brother housemate. The closest thing to a hotel for miles around is the Asylum, a former soviet mental institution that now houses offshore personnel en-route to the rig, where his room mates are Vodka Bob - who drinks Guinness for breakfast when he's not on the rig - Sick Boy, who snores like a pit bull being hot-waxed and Sealbasher. In his inimitable style Paul Carter regales us with his colourful adventures from the

front line of the oil industry and the far side of civilization!

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: In Search Of The Holden Piazza Chris Warr, Joe Kremzer, 2006-11 It takes a strong man to resist the strange allure of a Holden Piazza, and at the age of eight, lying on his parents' lounge room floor watching Sale of the Century, Chris Warr didn't stand a chance. An unhealthy obsession was born. The Holden Piazza, a glossy black wedge-bonneted sports car, was the ultimate prize of prizes on Australia's richest quiz show. Unfortunately it was also frequently the butt of jokes from motoring critics and the general public alike. Its launch in 1986 attracted comments such as, 'Holden Piazza; the answer to the question nobody asked' and 'exhilarating in the hands of an experienced driver . . . dangerous in the hands of others'. So it's not surprising that less than 200 new Holden Piazas were sold in Australia, and less than 80 are still on Australian roads today. Chris lived with his hidden shame for over a decade, until fate led to a meeting with Joe Kremzer, a fellow Piazza aficionado and a dream was born. Together, they would go in search of the Holden Piazza - indeed they would go in search of the Holden Piazza IN a Holden Piazza - travelling the length and breadth of Australia seeking out owners past and present of this iconic if much maligned vehicle. Their quest results in a quirky, laugh-out-loud adventure, in the tradition of Tony Hawkes (Round Ireland With A Fridge) and Dave Gorman. A rollicking great read for all motoring tragics and anyone who likes a beer and a laugh, In Search of the Holden Piazza is as Australian as pie and sauce or a beat-up FJ Holden.

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: Is that Bike Diesel, Mate? Paul Carter, 2011-07-12 Oi, mate, is that monstrosity diesel? From the author of the bestsellers Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs, She Thinks I'm a Piano Player in a Whorehouse and This Is Not a Drill, this is the eagerly awaited next installment of Paul Carter's rollicking life. Take one mad adventurer and a motorbike that runs on bio fuel (cooking oil i.e. chip fat to you and me) and send them with one filmmaker on a road trip around Australia just to see what happens. What you get is a story full of outback characters, implausible (but true) situations, unlikely events and unfortunate breakdowns, all at a break neck pace. Never one to sit still for long, this is what Paul Carter did next. Whether you've been shocked, delighted, entertained, horrified - or all of the above - by Paul's stories whether from oil rigs or the road one thing is for sure, they are always high octane adventures.

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dont tell mum i work on the rigs: My Mercedes Is Not for Sale Jeroen van Bergeijk, 2011-03-04 My Mercedes Is Not for Sale is a rollicking, witty and insightful tale of an innocent abroad which captures the high-spirited adventure of a young journalist and paints a vivid portrait of West Africa through a surprise-filled journey into its thriving car cult. It has all the wit and charm of John Mole's bestselling Its All Greek to Me! and Peter Allison's Don't Run, Whatever You Do and the philosophical underpinnings of Robert Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Dutch journalist Jeroen van Bergeijk came up with what seemed like a great scheme for making a quick profit: buy an old banger in Amsterdam and resell it in the Third World, where a market for clapped-out cars still thrives. His chariot of choice is a rusty 1988 Mercedes 190D with 140,000 miles on the clock; his route takes him from Holland through Morocco, across the Sahara, and into some of the least trodden parts of Africa. Van Bergeijk finds himself facing a driving challenge akin to a Dakar Road Rally but encounters obstacles never dreamed of by race-car drivers: active minefields, occasional banditry mostly by the border guards and a teenaged, chain-smoking desert guide with a fondness for Tupac lyrics. Food and water are scarce, sandstorms are frequent, and all he has to patch up his many car breakdowns thousands of miles from civilization is a bar of soap, some duct tape, and a pair of women's tights. Then there's the coup he lived through. My Mercedes Is Not for Sale captures more than the adventure it vividly portrays the impact of globalization on Africa through an adventurous and sometimes dangerous journey into its thriving car culture.

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dont tell mum i work on the rigs: Into the Shadows Catherine MacPhail, 2006 The first book in a new crime series - Ram wakes up in a corridor with no memory of who he is - Then the doors open near him and he is confronted by the body of a dying man trying to tell him something.

dont tell mum i work on the rigs: *This Is Not a Drill* Paul Carter, 2007 Paul Carter is back on the rigs, and back in trouble.

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