PM World *Journal*
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Find The Fire
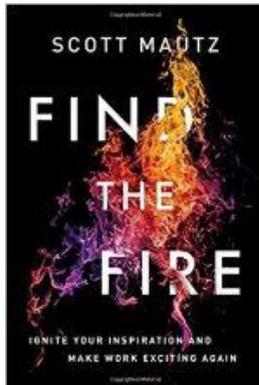Author: Scott Mautz
Reviewer: Binny Malik

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: ***Find the Fire: Ignite Your Inspiration and Make Work Exciting Again***

Author: **Scott Mautz**

Publisher: American Management Association (AMACOM)

List Price: $24.95   Format: Hard cover, 240 pages

Publication Date: Oct 2017   ISBN: 978-0-8144-3822-0

Reviewer: **Binny Malik**   Review Date: January 2018

Introduction

Each one of us at some point or the other felt the inspiration that once drove us has been sapped out of us and more often than not we tend to blame our environment, bad boss, difficult team, or just the nature of work itself etc. for this lack of enthusiasm. Find The Fire is a good read that tries best to answer why we lose inspiration and how exactly we can reconnect with ourselves. The Author tries to give a new perspective to everything that saps our energy and that at some level we know has always been out there by listing it all out & loud. Even better than just identifying the problem as Anti Muses, the narration provides fantastic solutions to the problems as Anti Dotes. As a reader, I feel that you come out being little bit more mindful on how to keep your fire ignited.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book starts with the understanding the distinction between motivations and inspirations followed by list of 9 inspiration killers that I believe each one of us recognize at some level – a) Fear; b)Settling & Boredom; c) Inundation; d) Loss of Control; e) Dwindling Self Belief; f) Disconnectedness; g) Dearth of Creating; h) Insignificance; and i) Lack of Evocation. Each of these are organized into separate chapters with in depth explanation

The humor seems to be misplaced at certian times and flow of the content does get slow at places. The book seems to be written in a manner as if the author is ready to use the exact script (including the humor) word-to-word in a motivational speach somewhere some place. This is both good and bad but personally, it does take a bit of imagination as if some one is speaking to you directly and you are taking the que for some introspection

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Highlights

The book is organized into 11 chapters with the first and last being the introduction and conclusion respectively. Chapter 2 through 10 detail out each of the anti-muses and explains why these are anti muses and how we can fight them. The author seems to have put much thought in deliberating each of these topics and has provided lot of depth on how these anti-musers matter and slow us down. There is lot of fodder for introspection and plenty of take aways from each of the chapters depending on how many of these anti-musers apply to you respectively.

Highlights: What I liked!

Simple Language that appeared to talk to me directly with a witty humor thrown in throughout the book. Very well researched book with examples quoted directly from everyday real life of an average Joe thus making the book actually a tool to trigger some introspection.

The author not just talked about the anti -muses detailing the ways that drive energy out of our inspirations but also the practical "anti-dotes" to these anti-muses. In other words, while it is easy to talk about the problems, the author does a fantastic job of detailing what is wrong and how to fix it.

Who might benefit from the Book?

All employees who are trying to reconnect with themselves and all people managers on trying to ensure how to be better managers and ignite passion in the team members. In addition, I feel it could be a great read for any one in early career, mid-career or late in the career. All mentors and mentees can have serious deliberations on understanding the inspirations & motivations, the differences and what drives people along with 9 fiends that are known to douse the inspiration.

Conclusion

Overall a very good and inspiring read baring the slow pace at some places
The inspiration killers or as the author calls it "Anti-Muses" are common knowledge and it was insteresting to read about them all together and have a perspective validating on how some of these sap energy out of us. The author seemed to have a great grasp on the psychology of inspiration and offers a practical solution to finding our fire.

For more about this book, go to:
http://www.amacombooks.org/book.cfm?isbn=9780814438220

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Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the PMI Dallas Chapter. Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer

Binny Malik

North Texas, USA

Binny Malik has work experience of about eight years, six of which have been in deployments and project delivery. She is currently working as an IT Release Manager at MoneyGram International handing project delivery of various software projects across organizational business spectrum.