

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



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

Author: **Scott Mautz**

Publisher: HarperCollins

List Price: \$39.95 Format: Hardcover, 245 pages

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Reviewer: **Lusetha Rolle, PMP** Review Date: October 2018

Introduction

Find the Fire is a book that begins with identifying the forces that drain inspiration. It then proceeds to suggest 9 antidotes to help renew passion and restore inspiration and motivation towards one's work, career and dreams. The author argued that there is a significant difference between motivation and inspiration; inspiration leads to motivation and is more enduring.

Inspiration compels us to act even in a soul-crushing work environment or our own debilitating hang-ups and habits. He reported that "Research claims that optimism is the single biggest predictor of resiliency and even has the power to undo the negative effects of a stressful experience" (pg. 5). The book guides you on a journey to discover ways to become more resilient and to persevere.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book has 245 pages with 11 chapters. After identifying the forces that are in opposition to motivation, inspiration and growth the author suggests how to overcome them. Nine chapters focus on each of the antidotes to restoring inspiration; relinquish fear, reject settling and boredom, relieve inundation, revitalize dwindling self-belief, revert loss of control, reverse disconnectedness, reconstitute the dearth of creating, reformulate insignificance and rediscovery for the lack of evocation.

The author organizes the core concepts so they are presented with a pleasing and appropriate amount of humor; which makes for an easy and interesting read. It opens with a familiar and agreeable vice; fear. The progression of the book leads to an in-depth introspection of our choices as we face obstacles; the possible options, alternatives and how to gain desired outcomes while facing adversity.

The concluding chapter is “The Bonfire” and is used as a summary of each chapter. It lists in chart form the anti-muse, antidote and the anti-body. This is a great quick, easy to read cross reference of the concepts presented. The book closes with acknowledgements, notes (references) for each chapter and an index of terms and the pages where they are used.

Highlights

A major theme is that inspiration can lead to creativity. We are inspired to create, connect, produce and pursue. The author claims that inspiration can be evoked or come from within. Either should compel us to act.

Fear was noted as the most devastating of all the anti-muses because it distorts reality. Fear of failure, change and criticism are debilitating. Making choices and setting priorities decreases procrastinating and perfectionism. If you want to increase your success rate, increase your failure rate. Which can only happen with repeated attempts towards one's goals.

Reconnecting with co-workers and moving beyond collaboration and towards camaraderie provides closer relationships and a richer work experience. Insignificance was noted as the most deep seated of the anti-muses; it makes you feel like what you are working on doesn't matter. Pushing back and asking for help was suggested to help curb inundation.

Highlights: What I liked!

Worry replaces wonder; true it stifles creativity. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable; it is necessary to achieve the extraordinary. Don't just visualize, actualize; nothing replaces sweat equity. Risk taking is a part of growth and improvement however many are working in a culture of caution rather than courage; be a change agent, identify opportunities and risks. Take the time to sit down with your boss and get clear on what is good and great, embrace the latter; knowledge and understanding can be very powerful.

Real faith is when you understand you have a unique role in things, take responsibility accordingly and believe that your commitment and abilities will carry you through; faith and fear do not co-exist, choose the former. The biggest risk is not taking any risk; leads to stagnation, underdevelopment and possibly reduced profits and market share. Taking risk is a form of educating and investing in employees; the well prepared have a higher success rate of desired outcomes. I also loved the author's wit and humor; made it an easy read for such tough concepts and the introspection and honesty necessary for true change.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Those who need to see fear from a different perspective; to understand how fear limits our view of ourselves and others and to change their typical response to FEAR; False Evidence Appearing Real. Those who are willing to invest in

themselves for greater control of their lives through collegial collaboration, camaraderie, self-evaluation and commitment; it takes time to build teams but is well worth the effort. Those seeking change and are willing to partake in the work and rewards; listen, analyze, prepare, present and do it all over again as many times as necessary.

Conclusion

This book is a must read for many reasons; it's radical. It tells a story of how a father asked his children at dinner what they failed at today; which implies he **approved** (and most likely provided the resources) of managed repeated exploring and experimenting for problem solving. Just imagine what our communities would be like if this atmosphere of expecting and accepting failure in a safe and secure environment happened in more homes and offices. It's a very freeing feeling that spurs creativity, motivation and inspiration!

Be EAGER:

- E – Evolve your prediction ability
- A – Always add value
- G – Get off the sidelines
- E – Establish a habit of over communicating
- R – Rustle the snakes out of the grass

Best effort is encouraged through retro and introspection, an honest and thorough inventory of your skill set and the courage to make the necessary changes to achieve one's goals, hopes and dreams. View mistakes and the training necessary to improve as an investment and be excited about intended outcomes. See the humor and the honor in your pursuit. Find the Fire, it may catch on!

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9780814438220/find-the-fire-ignite-your-inspiration-and-make-work-exciting-again/>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Silver Spring Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Silver Spring 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 Silver Spring Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. 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@peworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



Lusetha Rolle, MBA, PMP

Maryland, USA



Lusetha Rolle is manager of accreditation services for the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA). In her role, she manages a team that assists in the proper education of a caring and trained nursing workforce that improves the health of our nation. As a seasoned mid-level manager, she brings over 15 years of experience in project management, information systems, and health sciences. She is a member of the PMI and the PMI Silver Spring chapter. She enjoys travel, theater, swimming and reading. She is proud to have served as a Gulf War veteran.

Lusetha can be contacted at lrolle@nlm.org or lusetharolle@gmail.com