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Inspiring Leadership Lessons Learned Through Storytelling

A powerful collection of stories about how some of the world's most successful women overcame some of life's biggest challenges to reach the top of their professions. The stories of courage, resilience, adaptability, sensemaking, and vulnerability show how a willingness to reach for the top, go through struggles and failures and continually get back up, helped each one to change and grow and deeply impacted the strength of their leadership. As you read them, it is our hope that you will be inspired to lead, make a difference for others and keep going when its hard – knowing that you are not alone in the struggle.



As I read the many stories so artfully captured...I could not help but think of my own mother's struggle. One cannot help be **inspired by the courage, humility, and tenacity** of the special women profiled in these stories.

- Christian Brickman, CEO, Sally Beauty Holdings, (NYSE: SBH)

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What Others Are Saying About the Book



Inspiring Stories

Women's empowerment is the single biggest opportunity of the 21st century. Read this book and be inspired by the courageous stories of those who are re-writing the rules of leadership."

- Paul Polman, former CEO of Unilever plc (NYSE: UL) Co-founder and Chair of IMAGINE



Relatable Struggles

As I read the many stories so artfully captured in the *Courage to Advance*, I could not help but think of my own mothers struggle to succeed as Physician in a Navy town in the late 1960s. Like so many of the leaders profiled in this book, she persevered through countless challenges and setbacks and paved the way for future generations of leaders in the process. One cannot help but be inspired by the courage, humility, and tenacity of the special Women profiled in these stories."

- Christian Brickman, CEO, Sally Beauty Holdings, (NYSE: SBH)



Critical Roadmap

Through telling the stories of these courageous leaders, we reveal the path for others. Sharing the wisdom from experiences that led these women to step fully into the light of their success, is a gift to the reader and a roadmap for stepping into one's own power and potential."

- Rebekah E. Dopp, Founder & Chair of Exponent, a Global Gender Accelerator



Clarity Through Storytelling

It's often through hearing the stories of others that we come to the best moments of clarity in our own. Women leaders are courageous, resilient, fully capable of making sense and success of the world around them. We adapt, and we also lead change. All, with grace, humility, and vulnerability. In this book are thirty-six stories of proof."

- Coco Brown, Founder & CEO of Athena Alliance, Inc.



Powerful and Personal

Courage to Advance is an easy read because it keeps you engaged through the very personal and different stories which are short but powerful. It will inspire you to never give up and to achieve your wildest dreams despite the many obstacles along the way. You will take ownership and achieve more than you could have ever imagined!"

- Dimitri Panayotopoulos, Board Director & former vice chairman of Procter & Gamble



Assembly of Gutsy Leaders

This book serves as a wonderful reminder that courage takes many forms. And that the women featured are not just capable. They're exceptional. If ever there was an assembly of gutsy, talented leaders with inspiring stories, this is it!"

- Jordan Rich, WBZ Radio Boston, Host of "On Mic with Jordan Rich", Author of "On-Air: My Fifty Year Love Affair with Radio

What Others Are Saying About the Book



Inspiring and Engaging

A great collection of strong powerful and yet easy-to-read stories from women leading the business to the place it belongs. One of the greatest opportunities for business as infinite game is to have women empowered and this book illustrates such great examples of successful women that said no to the word "giving up". Value and beliefs are the main stimulants of a quality leadership and this book demonstrates in a humble way through real-life examples how these two factors can help achieving business goals but also contribute to a better world."

- Ali Ahmadian, CEO, Heliospectra (OTCMKTS: HLSPY)



Courage Demonstrated

The Courage to Advance is a powerful reminder of the human behind the mask. Every day, we step out of our houses and onto the stage of life, showing the world our best selves, hoping they don't see the flaws ever-present in our minds and private lives. But it is these so-called flaws and struggles that add color to our experiences and ultimately teach us to be resilient, determined, and successful. The courage demonstrated in the stories of these exceptional women serve as a reminder to us all to aim for the stars, even in the face of adversity."

- Dr. JJ Walcutt, Scientist, Author & CEO of Clay Strategic Designs, former Director of Innovation at the US DoD



Key Business Lessons

Finally! A book so validating, so encouraging, that it feels as though I sat through years of life, career, and business lessons from successful mentors willing to bare it all to pave a path just for me. If you are ready for your head to be full of ideas, your heart running over, and your insides raring to go - The Courage to Advance is for you."

- Nanette Harrell, Ind. Fractional Chief Information Officer & former Transportation Exec, at Faneuil, Inc., Savi Tech & GE



Part Memoir & Part Guide

The book offers a compendium of advice from truly accomplished women leaders who shine a light on the executive path to success that often is hidden from sight. Part memoir, part guide to business and part life advice should stick to any serious reader who is looking for a path to succeed on their terms."

- Dr. Anita Gupta, Distinguished Physician, Author, FDA Advisor & Head of Scripps Clinic, MD Anderson Cancer Center



Educational and Inspiring

Courage to Advance brings the power of story front and center to educate and inspire the next generation of leaders"

- Shellye Archambeau, Author of Unapologetically Ambitious and Board Member for Verizon (NYSE: VZ), Nordstrom (NYSE: JWN), and Roper Technologies (NYSE: ROP)

What Others Are Saying About the Book



Real Stories with Power

Some may pass over *Courage to Advance* simply because its title doesn't seem to resonate with them personally; they do so at their own peril! What's evident from the start that these are real stories that have the power to immediately draw one in and then inspire and then teach! That is a combination to lean in to for growth!"

- Julie Laulis, Chair of the Board and CEO of Cable ONE, Board of Directors AES Corporation



Moving Accounts of Resilience

When you read the stories in this book, you can't help but be moved and energized by the words and experiences of these fearless women leaders. This book will call you out, lift you up, and help you thrive in your purpose. A great how-to on leadership for those looking to take things to the next level."

- Sherrese Smith, Partner at Paul Hastings & Board Member of Cable One, Norton LifeLock



Narrative of Empowerment

Hagemann and Pent artfully weave together a narrative of empowerment and resilience in share-your-story format. In the spirit of being 'judged by the company you keep,' those who read this work are keeping very good company."

- Cathy Benko, NIKE, Inc. (NYSE: NKE) Board Member and former Vice Chairman, Deloitte LLP



Courage Demonstrated

This is a much needed inspirational multicultural roadmap of how thirty-six extraordinary women leaders got to where they are. We need more examples to show to our young girls and emerging leaders of the grit, resilience, and pure creativity women needed when they came up against the expected norms set by their societies and exceeding them. Simply Inspirational."

- Muna AbuSulayman, Social Impact Investor, Philanthropist & Global Equity Board Member & Advisor for Gucci



Genuine and Unsparring

It's through the power of storytelling that we are motivated and inspired. Here are the stories of some of our top women leaders. The stories contain big lessons in bite-size pieces. Many have a "hard knocks" quality because they are genuine and unsparring. They show courage, resiliency, adaptability, sensemaking, and vulnerability at work. Bonnie Hagemann and colleagues have produced a volume that will have a wide following. The volume should be on the top of your desk, the lessons very much top of mind."

- Andrew R. Hoehn, Senior VP, RAND Corporation, an American nonprofit global policy think tank. Andrew R. Hoehn, Senior VP,

What Others Are Saying About the Book



Help Navigate the Rocks

There is an old adage that “anything that matters in life is worth fighting for” and Hagemann, Pent and their amazing contributing Board members provide some remarkably elegant advise on how women have overcome societies innate obstacles to achieving their full potential in leadership without selling out on family and work-life balance. This book really helps our world on a path to gender neutral leadership. The stories told will give you courage, inspiration and the confidence to help you navigate the rocks, stones and jerks in the road.”

- Chris Perry, President, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (NYSE: BR)



Wisdom for any Leader

There is no single background, style or path to become a successful leader. As seen in ‘The Courage to Lead, one often has to overcome challenging systemic and interpersonal obstacles. Through hard work, clarity of purpose, and perseverance we see examples of women who are making significant, positive impacts on people and organizations. An inspiring read with useful words of wisdom for any leader.”

- Ken Pasternak, Global Executive Educator, Keynote Speaker, and Author of "Performance at the Limit" & "Exploding Turkeys and Spare Trousers, Adventures in global business”



Galvanize Next Generation

Women all over the world have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, in what may be the biggest set-back for gender equality in our lifetimes. Stories like these, brilliantly curated by Hagemann and Pent, will be pivotal in galvanising the next generation of leaders. A must read for every aspiring young woman.”

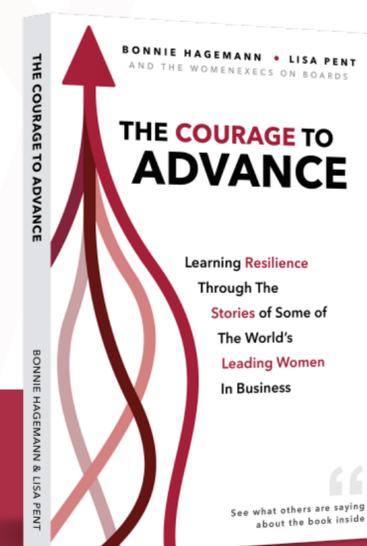
- Carmen Ene, CEO of 3stepIT and BNP Paribas 3 Step IT



Vulnerability as Strength

The book presents a moving account of the courage and resilience of these strong women leaders from all walks of life. It is interesting how Hagemann and Pent use vulnerability as a means of inspiring strength in the reader. These poignant portraits will stay with you long after you’ve finished reading.”

- Charlotte Dennerly, CEO, BNP Paribas Personal Finance, and member of the Executive Committee of BNP Paribas Group



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