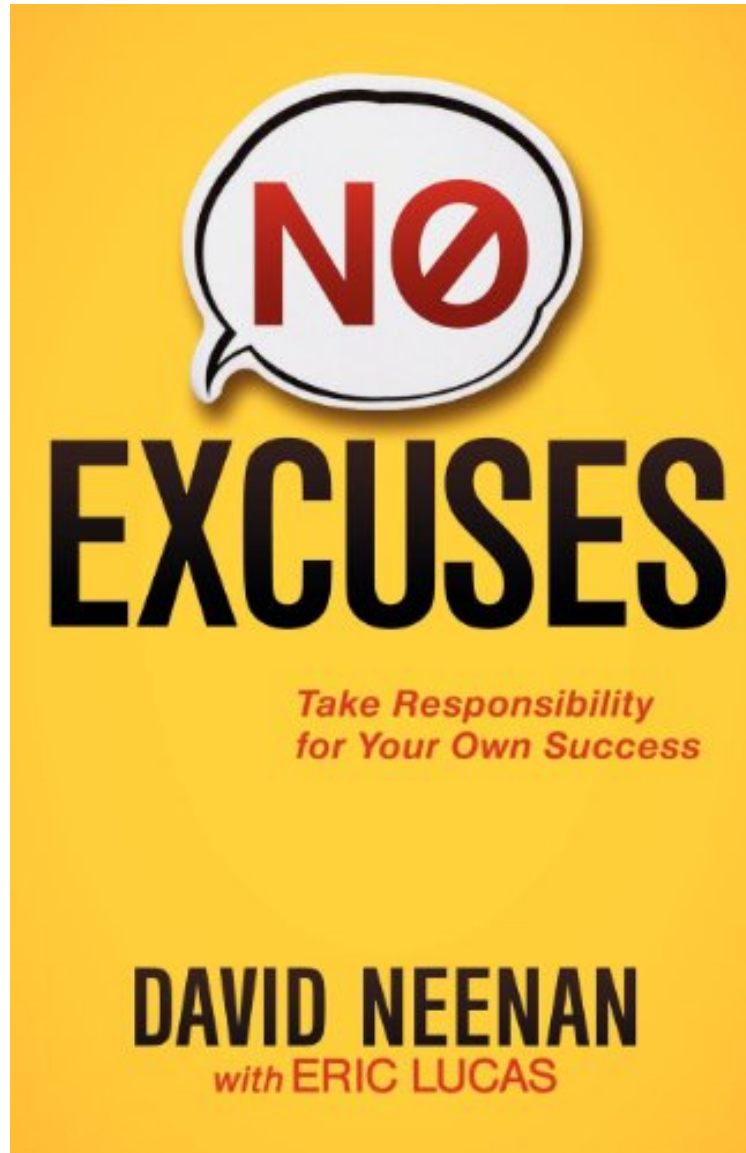


(Read and download) No Excuses: Take Responsibility for Your Own Success

No Excuses: Take Responsibility for Your Own Success

David Neenan

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David Neenan : No Excuses: Take Responsibility for Your Own Success before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Excuses: Take Responsibility for Your Own Success:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How to avoid becoming a sea squirtBy Robert MorrisWe cannot control or even influence much of what happens to us but we [begin italics] can [end italics] control how we respond to it. Peak performers respond to setbacks as opportunities to learn and improve. Jack Dempsey once suggested that "champions get up when they can't." I agree with David Neenan, "Taking responsibility for [one's] life is both courageous and liberating. Facing life's challenges leads not toward darkness, but toward the light...I believe fervently

that we all have the power to choose our destiny, despite what comes our way." This is precisely what Viktor Frankl has in mind when suggesting that "the last of human freedoms is being able to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." What we have in this book are 22 brief chapters within which Neenan shares everything he has learned about the importance of personal accountability. He immediately establishes and then sustains a direct, personal, almost conversational rapport with his reader and the emphasis throughout the book is on what works, what doesn't, and why. Here is a representative selection of chapter titles (with comments added) that suggest the thrust and flavor of Neenan's approach:

Chapter 2. "Go for It: The only failure is not to participate" Comment: Woody Allen once claimed that 80% of success is showing up.

Chapter 5. "Growth: You can't learn less" Comment: Derek Bok once suggested, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Chapter 11: "Human Dynamics: Communication is the response you get" Comment: Don't assume that your intended meaning is always what others grasp

Chapter 18. "Excuses: The 'reasons' we duck responsibility" Comment: Dante reserved the last and worst ring in hell for those who, in a moral crisis, preserved their neutrality.

Chapter 19. "Legacy: Spreading the opportunity" Comment: My favorite passage in Lao-Tzu's Tao Te Ching: "Learn from the people. Plan with the people. Begin with what they have. Build on what they know. Of the best leaders, when the task is accomplished, the people will remark, 'We have done it ourselves.'"

I selected the title of my review based on material provided in the Introduction, notably David Neenan's clever discussion of sea squirts, "a large and numerous class of ocean creatures known as turnicates" who are seafaring adventurers. Frankly, I was and am struck by similarities between sea squirts and humans: "But as maturity sets in, turnicates find a handy rock, send out a holdfast, and cement themselves to a spot where they will spend the rest of their lives sucking up whatever comes their way. They cover themselves with stiff, unyielding membranes compared to 'tunics,' thus the biological name, and stay put. Forever. No longer needing to move, they begin their existence as adults by digesting their own cerebral ganglion. That's their brain." In a book written with Eric Lucas, David Neenan provides eminently practical advice to those who now feel that they have few (if any) career growth opportunities, are frustrated about that, and determined to take responsibility for their own success - or failure - rather than spend the remainder of their lives "sucking up whatever comes their way," including alibis, excuses, accusations, and other forms of neurotic self-justification.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Do You Want to be Successful? By John Chancellor

If you truly want to be successful, there are three excellent bits of advice on the covers of this book. The first is the title - No Excuses. Excuses are a quick and sure method to kill your chances of success. The second is the subtitle - Take Responsibility for Your Own Success. Unless you take full responsibility for your own success, you should not expect to enjoy much success. The third tip is on the back cover - There are no shortcuts to success. These three points will give you an excellent idea of what this book is about. The author, David Neenan tells his own story of success. And he tells the blunt truth. There is no sugar coating, no pie in the sky. If you want to be successful, be prepared to work through adversity, work with integrity, forget about shortcuts, because there is no shortcut to success. There are two paths to the book. The first path is David Neenan's own story. The story of his life and struggles and ultimate success. The second story line is the underlying philosophy. His success was the result of the choices he made. He took personal responsibility for his choices and ultimately they lead to his success. There is a lot of philosophy in the book, probably more philosophy than direction. But in my opinion, that is what is necessary for success. You need the correct guiding principles that allow you to make the right choices. Telling a person what to do will not lead to success. Unless you understand the guiding principles, you will not be in a position to make the right choices. The book is rather short and easy to read. If you are looking for a book which will help you develop your own philosophy for success, then this book will be of great value to you. If you are looking for a blueprint, a step by step guide to achieve wealth, this book will not be that helpful. It is the author's belief (and mine as well) that step by step guides do not work. They sound good but trying to implement a step by step process without understanding the underlying philosophy will simply not work. Mr. Neenan gives a fairly detailed account of his successes - the places he has travelled, the homes he owns and some of the contributions he has made. Some people may find this a bit of a turn off. I believe his point was to be totally honest and transparent - to tell what he did and what results he got. The important point about the book is this - his success was not overnight. It was the result of following a particular path for the long haul. His success comes from taking a very long term view of business and life. He now lives a very privileged life - but time and time again he points out that he achieved this by learning to delay gratification - to save and scrimp. I suspect that most people are still looking for/hoping for the success fairy to sprinkle them with pixie dust and guarantee their success. When you are ready to take responsibility for your own success, this is an excellent guide to help you along your journey.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thrive Despite the Conditions By Jim Estill

No Excuses - Take Responsibility for Your Own Success is Neenan's life story. Through life he experienced a number of life changing situations and despite those he ended up successful. Some of those situations happened when he was a child where surely he could have done nothing to impact them. Regardless of the cause though, success depends on how we deal with adversity. He writes in first person. It is his life story (which makes it interesting and compelling). The gist of his book is as the title suggests - take responsibility. The book has 22 chapters - each with a life lesson like "patience", "integrity", "Persistence". Each of Neenan's life situations and stories serves as an illustration for one of these key lessons. After reading the book, I feel

like I know Neenan and I imagine that he is a nice person (although I have never spoken or met him)

In a lifetime of achievement---creating a major commercial construction company, raising a family, traveling the world and teaching the principles of success to thousands---David Neenan treasures most his mistakes, failures and troubles. When his company faced a loss greater than his net worth, David learned how to lead an effective organization. When an immune disorder made it almost impossible to stand, he learned how to heal himself. When he was 10,000 miles from home doing mindless work, he learned how to gain vision. These lessons are the keys to accomplishment and meaning. In each case, David found there are no shortcuts to success. Meaningful happiness derives from taking responsibility for your own life---and accomplishment has value only when it is reached with integrity, love, humor and faith in the wonderful dance of life. "No Excuses" describes David's challenges, failures and lessons through personal stories that portray a colorful life. Readers will hear how a simple pair of shoes led to a crucial realization at an early age. How he made peace with a childhood catastrophe at his father's grave. And how only embracing life's struggles every day brings meaning and joy. David believes we all want that---and we are the only ones responsible for achieving it.