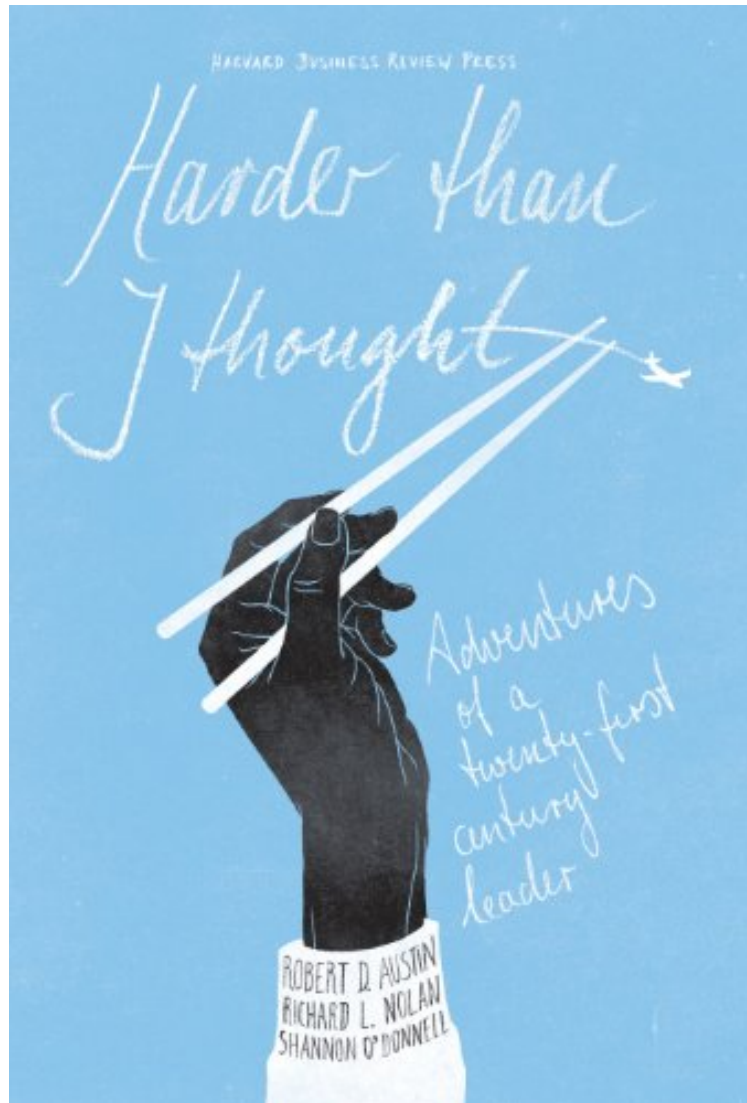


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Harder Than I Thought: Adventures of a Twenty-First Century Leader

Robert D. Austin, Richard L. Nolan, Shannon O'Donnell
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Robert D. Austin, Richard L. Nolan, Shannon O'Donnell : Harder Than I Thought: Adventures of a Twenty-First Century Leader before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harder Than I Thought: Adventures of a Twenty-First Century Leader:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am trusting they will enjoy it as much as I did By Anne Dixon After having read this book from my local library, I purchased one each for my two sons as a Christmas present to give them some inspiration in their workplace. I am trusting they will enjoy it as much as I did. 0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Must read for any one in Aerospace By Skinman I felt like I was in this story. This is a must read for anyone in aerospace (or business). Real life stuff. You should read the info paper from HBR on the Adventure Series for the background context. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Easier to Review By Richard Crandall As a former CEO, a Board Chairman and a current member of several Boards, I've had occasion to read plenty of books on management, mostly dry, some insightful. Harder Than I Thought is a departure, it is as engaging as any novel, yet wise in its observations and counsel. I found myself inserting into the shoes of Barton, the CEO, and thinking about what I'd do and comparing his lessons to my own. This is about major strategic change and the execution challenges in implementing change. One area the book excels in particular, where most books of its type are silent, is the need to assess the composition of a Board of Directors and how critical, although delicate, it is to make the changes needed for the Board to be as relevant to the challenges of the change in strategy as must be the re-constituted management team. The storyline is engaging, which I won't ruin by further disclosure here. Its appeal should be for the management student, the aspiring manager and the experienced manager facing a major strategy change. That about encompasses everyone in business management!

Meet Jim Barton, new CEO of Santa Monica Aerospace. Jim's job won't be easy: the company's hemorrhaging cash, struggling to regain investors' trust after an accounting scandal, and striving to transform its military and manufacturing culture to become a global aerospace integrator. Jim isn't real: Harder Than I Thought is a novel. But his story--developed in consultation with seasoned, actual CEOs--contains crucial lessons for all chief executives. Walk in Jim's shoes to engage in challenges that include: 1. Formulating and executing strategy 2. Managing financial and labor crises 3. Fostering a culture of innovation and continuous transformation 4. Forging global partnerships 5. Making ethical choices in an increasingly transparent environment As events in each chapter push Barton to the edge of his abilities, he seeks counsel from a panel of expert advisers. These collaborative reflections invite you to apply the lessons from this story to your own situation. Experts agree that many twentieth-century leadership practices are inadequate to the stormy twenty-first-century present. This engaging and provocative book equips you with the insights you'll need to rise with the occasion of a rapidly shifting business landscape.

the authors offer a very readable story of the challenges and tribulations of the Chief Executive role. "Graziadio Business, Pepperdine University ADVANCE PRAISE for Harder Than I Thought: Michael Beer, Professor Emeritus, Harvard Business School; Chairman, TruePoint If you want to prepare yourself for the incredibly difficult and complex job of CEO, read this book. Using their extensive knowledge of top-level management, the authors weave an excellent and engrossing fictional account of the challenges faced by Jim Barton as he takes charge of an aerospace company facing significant business problems." Frank McKenna, Deputy Chairman, TD Bank Group Harder Than I Thought is both entertaining and edifying a rare combination for a business book. A delightful and instructive blend of fact and fiction, this book is essential reading for any aspiring executive. "Hisashi Imai, Dean, Nomura School of Advanced Management, Tokyo Finally! The long-awaited new episodes of Jim Barton, IT leader turned CEO. Although the reader's industry or country context may be different from Barton's, the fundamental leadership challenges are the same. I highly recommend this book for any aspiring leader anywhere in the world, especially newly appointed CEOs and CEO candidates." Karen Fine Coburn, President and CEO, Cutter Consortium A delightful cliff-hanger of a book that delivers essential wisdom for twenty-first-century CEOs. Walk in the shoes of a new CEO and learn what effective leadership truly demands. "Wang Shi, Chairman, China Vanke Co., Ltd. Jim Barton's undying quest for bold ideas and his persistence to push for change against all odds are inspiring. He is a motivating role model for all leaders and entrepreneurs who aspire and fight hard every day to do better." Tom Lee, Hughes M. Blake Professor of Management and Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, Foster School of Business, University of Washington Harder Than I Thought is a fascinating, highly informative, and fun book to read. It captures and conveys the personal demands of being a CEO so very well.