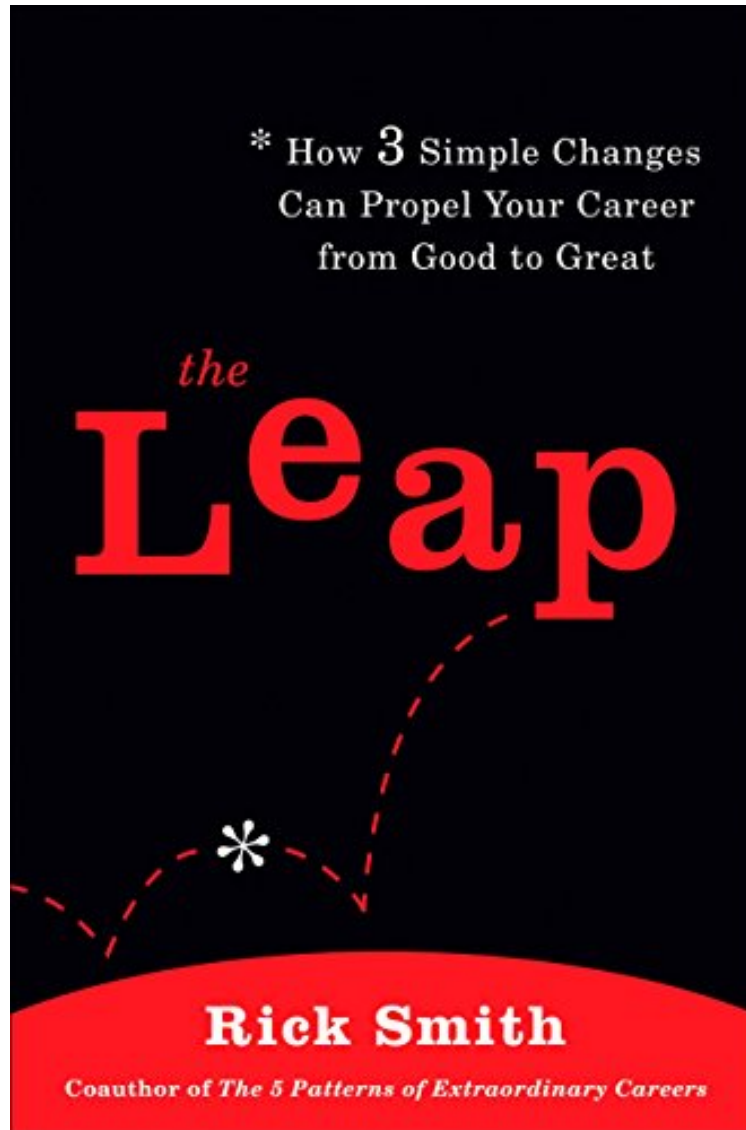


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The Leap: How 3 Simple Changes Can Propel Your Career from Good to Great

Rick Smith

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Rick Smith : The Leap: How 3 Simple Changes Can Propel Your Career from Good to Great before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Leap: How 3 Simple Changes Can Propel Your Career from Good to Great:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique, Motivating - and a very good read!By W. SmithI am usually hesitant reading books that supposedly motivate one to do one thing or the other for various beneficial reasons because the books are usually boring and tedious. However, "The Leap" was recommended by a colleague and I soon

purchased it from . I was pleasantly surprised by how interesting a read the book turned out to be. In fact, I had some difficulty putting the book down once I got into the narratives about the many individuals who became amazingly successful following their own talents and abilities. Each of these individuals, as well as the author himself, were able to utilize their unique abilities to slowly but persistently extricate themselves from unfulfilling albeit successful careers, and become immersed in careers that to them were truly inspiring and exciting; endeavors that made each really want to go to work every day (including weekends). What is surprising about this book is the fact that the author has in most part been personally acquainted with so many of the people described in his book, and, thus, has been able to tell us about the lives of these interesting but ordinary people. There are things that I really would like to do with my life, but I just haven't been able to do them; perhaps now is the time for me to take "The Leap."

WRS18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Very Disappointing
By Paperback Reader
I had very high hopes for this book, as I read and enjoyed *The 5 Patterns of Extraordinary Careers*, and recognized it as important work. There has been a movement in these kinds of books instead of focusing on 100 things, to focus on one or two, but have those two be the ones that make a difference. To a degree, that's what this book is, but by reducing the message down so low, it become trite and meaningless. The message is essentially, do something you really care about, have your idea be simple to understand, and follow it passionately. (You can get this from reading the book flap, it's not exactly a spoiler.) But nor is it all that interesting. If there are people out there who are helped by being told that they should care about what they are doing, then perhaps this book is helpful. Unfortunately, I found nothing new to learn here. That would make this book four-stars or so, as the book is fine, his examples are good and different enough that you can see the patterns, much like his first book. Unfortunately, the author places his own idea, creating a forum for Marketing professionals, alongside Running the Girl Scouts, Live Aid, and Running Unilever's global brands. Actually, he mentions his own idea as much as all of them combined. I'm sure his thing was wonderful, but I didn't really want to read a commercial for how great the author is, he should have really stuck to the truly great ideas of others. The combination of bland (though helpful) advice, and his own self-commercialism made this book hard to get through. I'd recommend it only to someone very stuck in their position, and looking for examples of people who got out.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice, inspiring and entertaining book about how to transform your life
By Customer
A nice, inspiring book about the power of personal transformation. It includes a number of real-life stories about people who transformed their life - at the same time staying realistic about how these transformations happens. It also provides a framework for testing what is it that you love doing and how to find an idea that will transform your life. Nice, and entertaining, just short of the spark that makes a great book.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Is this it?" Maybe you're trapped in a dead-end job that you're afraid to leave. Or maybe you already have a good job—one that gives you room to grow and exercise your talents—but you don't really feel like you're doing your best work. Your life is plain vanilla, yet you know in your heart that you can be a triple scoop banana split. You just don't know how to make that leap. So what do you do?

Rick Smith knows firsthand what it's like to feel stuck in a career rut. He worked in a midlevel job where he had modest success. Then his life took an unexpected turn and he found himself creating a business that became successful beyond his wildest dreams. He unlocked a level of performance he did not know he had in him. After all, Smith was just a regular guy who didn't like to take chances or even step outside his comfort zone. But as he found out, those qualities don't have to be stumbling blocks. In fact, they're two of the keys to making the leap from good to great. And after talking to others who had also transformed their careers from mundane to magnificent, he realized that the secret doesn't lie with some mysterious talent, trait, or affinity for risk. And it certainly doesn't require you to quit your job and start from scratch. Rather, it lies with your ability to harness your true strengths and passions—what Smith calls your Primary Color.

You'll meet remarkable people who've made the leap, such as:

- A soft-spoken middle manager who transformed her company, her industry, and her career with a simple-yet groundbreaking-idea.
- A door-to-door fax machine saleswoman who became a global fashion mogul after developing her own line of women's apparel.
- A Florida shrimp farmer who became a globally recognized genetics expert after both of his sons were diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder.
- A software designer who became a leading advocate for the homeless after volunteering part time at a local shelter and realizing his true calling.

Through powerful anecdotes, lessons from brain science, and tools for self-assessment, Smith shows how, with the right amount of passion, determination, and three simple steps, anyone can make the leap to a more successful and fulfilling life.

From Publishers Weekly
Smith (*The Five Patterns of Extraordinary Careers*) examines the commonalities among individuals who transcended their dull day jobs to launch truly extraordinary careers. He is most taken with identifying what precipitated their leap into authentic and meaningful work, interviewing hundreds of people to craft replicable steps that everyone can use to initiate a personal and professional evolution and achieve remarkable success without taking reckless and unnecessary risks. His examples of highly profitable leaps include Sara Blakely, who went from a fax machine sales person to the owner of SPANX, a highly successful women's clothing line; Frances Hesselbein, who went from a stay-at-home mom to the executive director of Girl Scouts of America; and Brad Margus, who channeled

his feelings of futility over the rare and terminal disease his two sons inherited to become a genetics expert on the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council. Smith's book—a lively readable romp—motivates without preaching and gently coaxes readers to overcome innate fears and to use their greatest passions to bring about fulfillment. (Sept.) Copyright © 2003; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author RICK SMITH is the coauthor of the national bestseller *The Five Patterns of Extraordinary Careers*. He left the executive search firm Spencer Stuart to launch World 50, Inc., an elite and senior executive networking company. A serial entrepreneur, he is currently working on the launch of several new ventures.