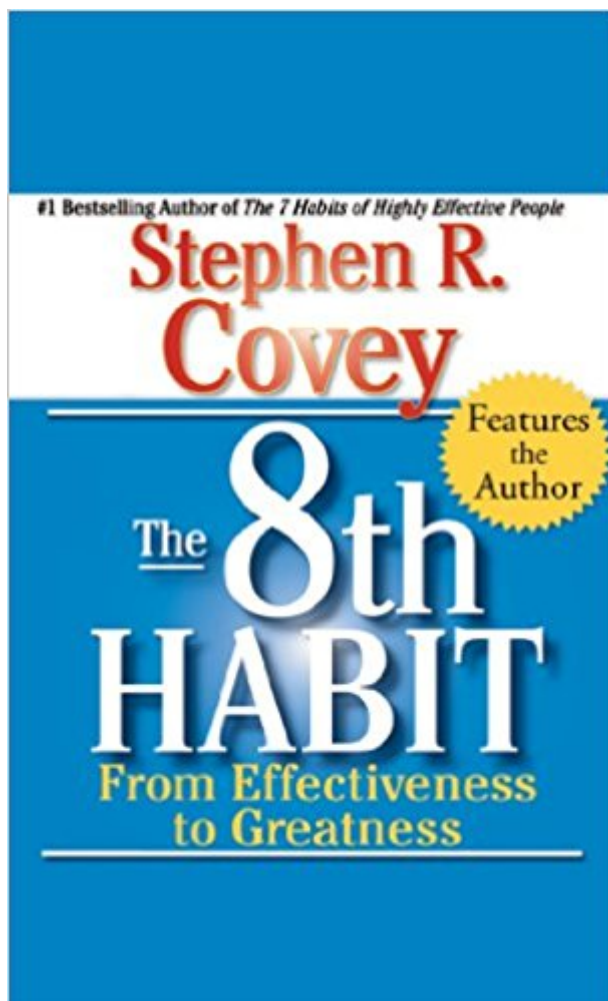


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# The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness To Greatness



## Synopsis

In the more than fifteen years since its publication, the classic *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* has become an international phenomenon with over fifteen million copies sold. Tens of millions of people in business, government, schools, and families, and, most important, as individuals have dramatically improved their lives and organizations by applying the principles of Stephen R. Covey's classic book. The world, though, is a vastly changing place. The challenges and complexity we all face in our relationships, families, professional lives, and communities are of an entirely new order of magnitude. Being effective as individuals and organizations is not longer merely an option--survival in today's world requires it. But in order to thrive, innovate, excel, and lead in what Covey calls the new Knowledge Worker Age, we must build on and move beyond effectiveness. The call of this new era in human history is for greatness; it's for fulfillment, passionate execution, and significant contribution. Accessing the higher levels of human genius and motivation in today's new reality requires a sea change in thinking: a new mind-set, a new skill-set, a new tool-set--in short, a whole new habit. The crucial challenge of our world today is this: to find our voice and inspire others to find theirs. It is what Covey calls the 8th Habit. So many people feel frustrated, discouraged, unappreciated and undervalued--with little or not sense of voice or unique contribution. The 8th Habit is the answer to the soul's yearning for greatness, the organization's imperative for significance and superior results, and humanity's search for its "voice". Profound, compelling and stunningly timely, this groundbreaking new book of next-level thinking gives a clear way to finally tap the limitless value-creation promise of the Knowledge Worker Age. Covey's new book will transform the way we think about ourselves and our purpose in life, about our organizations, and about humankind. Just as *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* helped us focus on effectiveness, *The 8th Habit* shows us the way to greatness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The original seven habits of highly successful people are still relevant, but Covey, author of the mega-bestseller of that title, says that the new Information/Knowledge Worker Age, exemplified by the Internet, calls for an eighth habit to achieve personal and organizational excellence: "Find your voice and inspire others to find theirs." Covey sees leadership "as a choice to deal with people in a way that will communicate to them their worth and potential so clearly they will come to see it in themselves." His holistic approach starts with developing one's own voice, one's "unique personal significance." The bulk of the book details how, after finding your own voice, you can inspire others and create a workplace where people feel engaged. This includes establishing trust, searching for third alternatives (not a compromise between your way and my way, but a third, better way) and developing a shared vision. This book isn't easy going; less business jargon and more practical examples would have made this livelier and more helpful. But if organizations operated with Covey's ideas "and ideals" most people would undoubtedly find work much more satisfying. DVD not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

It takes the likes of Covey--and a gap of 15 years in publication time--to hit directly on the issue confronting individuals and corporations today: the gap between effectiveness and greatness. Following his best-selling *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (1996), the author demonstrates in words and a series of 16 brief DVD clips (included) exactly how to find your own voice and, for leaders, how to support the discovery of the organization's voice. He selects examples from past and present, from Abraham Lincoln to the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, demonstrating, first, the ways to uncover the four intelligences (mental, spiritual, physical/economic, and emotional/social) and, second, the roles necessary to lead others to discover their voices. Statistics and personal anecdotes (a conversation with Bill Marriott, for instance) underscore the importance of trust and the implementation of that trust; one study from Harris Interactive reveals that only 48 percent of respondents said their organizations lived up to organizational values. Timely commentary in a surefire next-seller. Barbara Jacobs Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Much like Harold Stolovitch and Erica Keeps in their great little book, TELLING AIN'T TRAINING, Steven Covey has adopted a unique format for his message. The quotes, the reference to the movies on the enclosed DVD, the mapping to other thought leaders, all point you to make reading this book a very personal experience. It IS about you! It is a big message Covey shares with us and one that takes some noodling through. The fact that it requires thinking, reflection, and ultimately action may make this a book that everyone has but not everyone is ready for. Timing is everything. You may not need/accept this message at this time, but at some point in time, you will be sitting there reading saying to yourself, "Ah, Hah!" instead of what other reviewers have referred to as, "Duh." This book is the step beyond just "Sharpening the Saw (effective habit #7). This is about taking your accumulated wisdom/bliss/passion and passing it on to others as well as helping them do the same. It is about legacy, learning, and living. It is a book that requires some maturity to appreciate. If you are looking for a quick fix, the next big thing, some checklist you can race through, this book is not for you. IF, however, you are looking for something to help you make a significant difference in your life and the lives of others, PLEASE...read, re-read, and - most of all - DO what Stephen suggests.

This is a great book for everyone in a leadership role or anyone wanting to expand their awareness and understanding of working well with others. The concepts are presented in a manner that is easy to understand and relatable to daily practice. The concepts can be applied to literally any field or venue, from healthcare to teaching and Fortune 500 organizations. The concepts of The 7 Habits are comingled into the book and should be read prior to this undertaking. Online videos accompany each section of the text which adds to understanding and value. Highly recommend!

Covey's 8th Habit - Finding Your Voice and making others more successful, is a variation on the theme of "Sharpening the Saw" that most of us were introduced to in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Where the 7 Habits tend to be very much about improving the self, the 8th Habit moves beyond that paradigm to actively working to improve others. The ability to tap into and harness the full potential of "knowledge workers" and the intellectual horsepower of organizations and people are keys to excellence and moving beyond mere effectiveness. Covey is a master speaker, and his combination of stories, examples, anecdotes, philosophy and straightforward delivery are hard to beat. While I wouldn't view the 8th Habit as revolutionary, it is an important principle for any manager or leader to understand and espouse.

8th Habit is another book in the Stephen Covey 7 Habits series. It extends the 7 habits with the 8th one which is called "Finding your voice and helping others to find theirs". Its an important habit, though I didn't think the book was a very good read. The book is split in three parts. The first part is an introduction part which is some chapters about how many people are currently lost in their job and their lives. It continues to talk about the change from the industrial age to the knowledge worker age and how everyone needs to be deeply involved in their work. I thought the first couple of chapters were great and looked forward to the rest of the book. The next part is "finding your voice" which isn't very large and largely repeats Coveys earlier work. If you have read the previous books in this series, like me, then you'll probably gradually fall asleep! It is not that the things he talks about are unimportant or that he doesn't use the Covey inspirational way of writing, its just that it takes too long and has too much repetition. The third part, by far the largest part of the book, talks about helping others to find it. Covey uses four "roles" to structure his work. They are "modeling", "pathfinding", "aligning" and "empowering". Modeling and pathfinding are part of what he calls "focus". Modeling refers to being a model for others. Pathfinding relates to creating a common vision for which people are passionate. The third and fourth role are what he calls "execution". The first one is aligning which relates to aligning the system and goals. The last is empowering, which I guess is clear what it means. Most of the things Covey discusses are quite standard in leadership and organizational literature. I don't think, in this case, he contributed very much, instead he tried to link everything together and squeeze it in his model of the world. Sometimes the linking of things seemed fairly arbitrary to me, which made me somewhat uncomfortable. All in all, I think the 8th habit was a huge disappointment. His earlier work is concrete and inspirational. However, 8th habit is more abstract, still inspirational and ... too long. It probably should have been a new chapter to the 8th habits instead!! I wouldn't really recommend picking up the 8th habit. It's probably better to look at Coveys older work (7 habits). After reading these, this one is not worth reading. It is not a bad book either thus 3 stars.

Not as good as the 7 habits books, but still a good read. I don't think this book is that important, but it is nice to read if you want to complete the series.

I failed to see that this was a minature edition. Its no bigger than the palm of my hand. The DVD companion DID NOT COME WITH THE BOOK. Which is a load of crap, because the book is not complete without it. When I first bought and read the book along time ago I received the DVD for free at not extra charge. Now people are trying to sell it off for over 50 or more bucks.

When Sir Covey writes had better take note if you intend on achieving success.

Arrived on time, product as described!

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