Enchantment: The Art Of Changing Hearts, Minds, And Actions

Author of The Art of the Start and Reality Check

Guy Kawasaki

“Read this book to create a company as enchanting as Apple.” —Woz

Enchantment

The Art of Changing Hearts, Minds, and Actions

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Enchantment, as defined by bestselling business guru Guy Kawasaki, is not about manipulating people. It transforms situations and relationships. It converts hostility into civility and civility into affinity. It changes the skeptics and cynics into the believers and the undecided into the loyal. Enchantment can happen during a retail transaction, a high-level corporate negotiation, or a Facebook update. And when done right, it’s more powerful than traditional persuasion, influence, or marketing techniques. Kawasaki argues that in business and personal interactions, your goal is not merely to get what you want but to bring about a voluntary, enduring, and delightful change in other people. By enlisting their own goals and desires, by being likable and trustworthy, and by framing a cause that others can embrace, you can change hearts, minds, and actions. For instance, enchantment is what enabled . . . * A Peace Corps volunteer to finesse a potentially violent confrontation with armed guerrillas. * A small cable channel (E!) to win the TV broadcast rights to radio superstar Howard Stern. * A seemingly crazy new running shoe (Vibram Five Fingers) to methodically build a passionate customer base. * A Canadian crystal maker (Nova Scotian Crystal) to turn observers into buyers. This book explains all the tactics you need to prepare and launch an enchantment campaign; to get the most from both push and pull technologies; and to enchant your customers, your employees, and even your boss. It shows how enchantment can turn difficult decisions your way, at times when intangibles mean more than hard facts. It will help you overcome other people’s entrenched habits and defy the not-always-wise “wisdom of the crowd.” Kawasaki’s lessons are drawn from his tenure at one of the most enchanting organizations of all time, Apple, as well as his decades of experience as an entrepreneur and venture capitalist. There are few people in the world more qualified to teach you how to enchant people. As Kawasaki writes, "Want to change the world? Change caterpillars into butterflies? This takes more than run-of-the-mill relationships. You need to convince people to dream the same dream that you do." That’s a big goal, but one that’s possible for all of us.

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Marketing and leadership books are strange animals. Some are great and others make you want to stab yourself in the eye with a fork. Almost all, though, usually fall into one of two categories: 1. How to develop a large and successful business; and 2. Why all marketers are liars. Enchantment by Guy Kawasaki is neither of these; instead, it’s a book about one thing: Influence. “How can I influence others without moral compromise?” is the question at the heart of Enchantment. And it’s an important one. There are a number of easy cheats to convince people to follow your leadership (carrots and sticks) or to buy your product or join your cause (incentives), but eventually those things always fail. Why? Because they’re disingenuous. They don’t tap into people’s passions. They don’t move the heart. And without that happening, whatever impact you have is fleeting at best. The "pillars of enchantment" Kawasaki puts forward ones you’d be hard pressed to disagree with: 1. Be likeable 2. Be trustworthy 3. Have a great cause. In other words, be someone you’d actually want to spend time with and offer something that matters. These seem like concepts that should be met with a resounding, "well, I should hope so." I mean, this seems to be common sense, doesn’t it? That’s thing about common sense, though. To paraphrase G.K. Chesterton, it’s not that common sense has been tried and found lacking, it’s that it’s been found difficult and left untried. Unless you’re likeable, it’s extremely difficult to be found trustworthy. And unless you’re trustworthy, no one will rally around your cause, no matter how good it is.

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