

## Book review: The Five Temptations of a CEO By Jennifer Fan

It all happened on a plain BART train.

T'was a lone night, when what seemed to be a banter

Drove a CEO to be sane.

Andrew O'Brien, a struggling CEO

Met Charlie, an eccentric janitor.

And after a remarkable lecture

There was much to gain -

Five CEO's Temptations, five failing factors-

When used intelligently,

Can be life's dependable mentors.

Strange thing, life, it seems to toy on the most desperate man

Under the most pathetic situations.

But Patrick Lencioni didn't agree.

"Being a good ...CEO is extremely hard."

"But not complicated"

Aye, right.

How?

Avoid these:

The Five Temptations:

"Choosing status over results"

Charlie inquired, "What was the best day of your career?"

I, as a student, would very well reply,

"Why, the day when I became a secondary school student."

Wrong.

A CEO, an executive, any leader, anyone,

Should NEVER celebrate their status.

But rather, what they achieved:

The improvement in Maths.

The elegance of a well-thought-of piece of essay

The achievement of conquering obstacles ...

RESULTS.

Remember this word.

“Choosing Probability over accountability”

Imagine being a basketball coach.

“Do you prefer to be welcoming?

Or strict?”

“Shouldn’t I treat the players as my soul mates?”

Right, and wrong.

As you were practicing,

Did you ever notice

That a player was actually fooling around?

Aye, you did.

But as a soul mate, you dared not to do anything.

And the player played on

Until he was being banished out of the team.

“Why?” he asked.

“You were not committed.”

Well, did you tell him your expectations?

How would he know your standards?

Well ...

And then, the others complain.

And then, you fail.

Clarify your expectations,

Be fair

Avoid favoritism

-Attempting to be popular is what that will drag you down.

“Choosing Certainty over Clarity”

I recall completing a project with my mates.

We were creative,

And bright,

And smart,

And thorough.

Yet, we failed.

We failed -

Not because of our indolence,

Nor our occasional mischievousness,

Nor our shortage of time,

Nor our disagreements.

It was -

The urge to prove everything was right,

That everything was perfect,

That everything was clear, flawless ...

-That had lingered us.

And the redundant procrastination

-Gobbled up our time.

Finally,

We had to struggle to push for time.

And on the way,

We overlooked a few important issues,

The humble search of clarity

Had become the rash dash for completeness.

-And so we ended up in dissatisfaction.

Similarly,

We have to make decisions, quick,

As the military slogan goes,

-“Any decision is better than no decision.”

“Choosing Harmony over Productive Conflict”

Picture a city without conflicts

An ideal one?

Don't be too sure.

Laws passed without necessary discussions,

People arrested and imprisoned without protests

-Not a very ideal place indeed.

Debate, arguments, disputations,

Pondering at different perspectives,

Passionate, critical discussions

-And the truth, the better way, the perfect plan

-Will be shaped out.

“Choosing Invulnerability over Trust”

“I was wrong.”

Be proud to mouth out these words.

Don't attempt to hide your weaknesses,

You can't.

Put them out

And the team shall conquer them, together.

Be like Confucius, who was happy to admit his faults.

-And never, ever

Be afraid to say

-“I was wrong.”

Feelings:

It is a business book

It isn't, entirely.

The principles can be applied to everybody.

It is for CEO's

I read it.

And found it essential for any leader with wit.

It maybe dull,

Gleefully, it isn't.

Each principle is outlined with a delightfully well-thought-of plot.

It is thin.

But the meaning is deep, yet simple.

It reveals potent principles which are enough to make our lives meaningful.

It's novel.

It's compelling.

It's strong.

It's helpful.

“The Five Temptations of a CEO” does not only introduce a gripping story.

But also five vital principles that can bring us to tremendous glory.

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