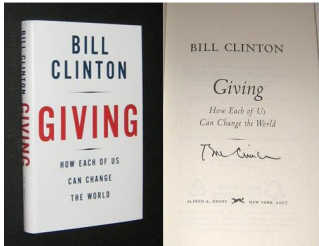


Book Review

Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World

Author: Bill Clinton

First published by Alfred A. Knopf (256p)



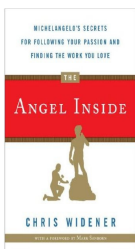
Here, from Bill Clinton, is a call to action. *Giving* is an inspiring look at how each of us can change the world. First, it reveals the extraordinary and innovative efforts now being made by companies and organizations—and by individuals—to solve

problems and save lives both “down the street and around the world.” Then it urges us to seek out what each of us, “regardless of income, available time, age, and skills,” can do to help, to give people a chance to live out their dreams.

Bill Clinton shares his own experiences and those of other givers, representing a global flood tide of nongovernmental, nonprofit activity. These remarkable stories demonstrate that gifts of time, skills, things, and ideas are as important and effective as contributions of money. From Bill and Melinda Gates to a six-year-old California girl named McKenzie Steiner, who organized and supervised drives to clean up the beach in her community, Clinton introduces us to both well-known and unknown heroes of giving.

Clinton writes about men and women who traded in their corporate careers, and the fulfillment they now experience through giving. He writes about energy-efficient practices, about progressive companies going green, about promoting fair wages and decent working conditions around the world. He shows us how one of the most important ways of giving can be an effort to change, improve, or protect a government policy. He outlines what we as individuals can do, the steps we can take, how much we should consider giving, and why our giving is so important.

Bill Clinton's own actions in his post-presidential years have had an enormous impact on the lives of millions. Through his foundation and his work in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, he has become an international spokesperson and model for the power of giving.



Angel Inside

Author: Chris Widener

Published by Doubleday
(Paperback 128 p)

I would like to start by saying that I enjoyed reading *The Angel Inside*. It is interesting and informative. It follows the life altering day of a young man

named Thomas. We find him depressed in Florence, Italy, at the end of a long journey through Europe that he started to try and find some meaning in life. An old man appears and starts teaching Thomas some “life altering truths.”

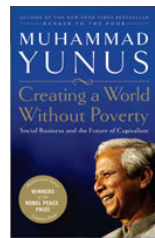
A lot of what the old man teaches Thomas is interesting, combining Art and History to teach these lessons. It is frustrating at times as the lesson the old man is trying to teach quickly becomes obvious but our young Thomas always seems to be a couple of steps behind the rest of us. He also has quite a talent for asking the most obvious questions that most of us would have had no need to ask. Yet, despite this ability, it takes Thomas until the very last page in the book to ask the old man his name (which without giving the ending away is exactly what you guessed it would be since page two).

The writing style is very easy to read and flows well. The characters are endearing and if nothing else it's a good story. There is a lot of dialogue which means the narration is kept to a minimum. This is an approach I appreciate.

Creating A World Without Poverty

Author: Muhammad Yunus

First Published by Public Affairs, New York
in 2007 (261p)



Creating a World Without Poverty tells the stories of some of the earliest examples of social businesses, including Yunus's own Grameen Bank. It reveals the next phase in a hopeful economic and social revolution that is already under way—and in the worldwide effort to eliminate poverty by unleashing the productive energy of every human being – capitalism with cause and not profit in mind.

In this excellent, provocative book, Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus sets forth his vision for a new kind of enterprise, social business, managed according to businesslike principles but with the objective of social benefit. He comes with practical proposals. Yunus pioneered this business model when he founded the world-famous microcredit financial institution, Grameen Bank. More recently, working with France's Groupe Danone, he set up a business to produce and market fortified yogurt in Bangladesh. This book tells the story of the author's involvement in social businesses and offers stimulating suggestions for their future evolution. His is a unique approach, a timely lesson for big banks that are in disarray.

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