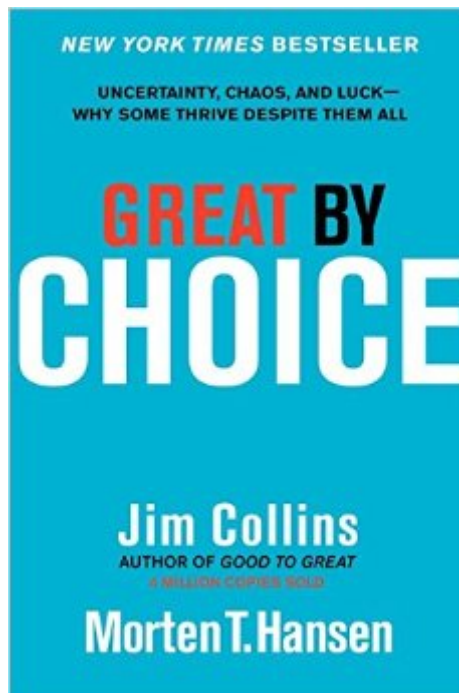


The book was found

Great By Choice: Uncertainty, Chaos, And Luck--Why Some Thrive Despite Them All



Synopsis

Ten years after the worldwide bestseller *Good to Great*, Jim Collins returns with another groundbreaking work, this time to ask: why do some companies thrive in uncertainty, even chaos, and others do not? Based on nine years of research, buttressed by rigorous analysis and infused with engaging stories, Collins and his colleague Morten Hansen enumerate the principles for building a truly great enterprise in unpredictable, tumultuous and fast-moving times. This book is classic Collins: contrarian, data-driven and uplifting.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: HarperBusiness; 1 edition (October 11, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062120999

ISBN-13: 978-0062120991

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (322 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,340 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Business & Money > Biography & History > Company Profiles](#) #25 in [Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership > Systems & Planning](#) #110 in [Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership > Management](#)

Customer Reviews

In Collins' new book he relies on the method you've seen in previous books like *Built to Last* and *Good to Great*. What's different in this one is he selected companies not just on their status or explosive growth, but because they succeeded in an extreme and uncertain environment. However, there's a caveat here: his research stopped in 2002, meaning there's no thorough analysis of how companies performed in the last 10 years (aka one of the most uncertain and chaotic business climates in decades). Collins and Hansen believe the future will be unstable and environments will be extreme for the rest of "our lives" (remember, these guys aren't Spring Chickens). So, they try to analyze company performance/greatness within the context of difficulty. I always wish would show an easy-to-find Table of Contents for books, so I've created one for you here, complete with a summary of each chapter/section.

1 - THRIVING IN UNCERTAINTY

Collins and Hansen explain what the method for their book (what I described above), including the definition of a 10Xer, which is

a company that beat their industry by 10 fold. Just 7 companies were selected as a 10X case out of 20,400 companies. The seven are Amgen, Biomet, Intel, Microsoft, Progressive Insurance, Southwest Airlines, and Stryker. They don't include Apple because their research lens of Apple vs. Microsoft focused primarily on the 1980s and 1990s (remember they stopped collecting data in 2002), which makes no sense to me. The present environment (the one in which Apple has exploded) is a far more difficult climate than the 80s-90s. 2 - 10Xers Example of a 10xer is Southwest airlines, whose growth since 1972 is greater than that of Walmart, despite this period being a particularly harsh one for the airline industry.

Jim Collins extends and deepens the body of knowledge around the fundamentals of success. Great by Choice represents the second half of Collin's earlier book on company failure - How the Mighty Fall. While that earlier book concentrated on factors that drive failure, this describes the characteristics of sustained success. This book is classic Collins. Well researched, clearly describes and expertly packaged for executives to incorporate these concepts into their lexicon and thoughts. This book is recommended as the capstone of the study of the fundamentals of great companies. Great by Choice is a lot like How the Mighty Fall as it's a short, concise and focused book. About half of it is content and half is appendices, FAQs and methodology - just like HtMF. Put the two together and you get a comprehensive look at modern corporate success. This is a book for understanding and admiring the factors Collin's points out as driving superior performance. The book describes these factors, but description is not prescription. This book is not a 'how to' book, nor one that provides much action oriented help. It relies on the reader understanding Collins points and then tailoring them to their situation. That places the burden of value on the reader, which is where it should be as greatness is less a recipe than a recommitment to hard work. Great by Choice contains a set of core concepts that define the major chapters in the book. Here is a short description of each to provide an idea of what is in Great by Choice and how Collins describes the characteristics of companies that have exceptional performance, what Collins calls 10x.

Jim Collins is at it again. Collins, along with co-author Morten Hansen and a team of over 20 researchers, spent roughly nine years trying to determine why some companies thrive during chaotic, uncertain and unstable times while other companies do not. If you have read some of Collins' earlier books, the theme in "Great by Choice" certainly won't surprise you. In "Built to Last," published in 1994, Collins, co-author Jerry Porras and their research team wrote about what makes for a "visionary" company, comparing a group of objectively and subjectively defined visionary

companies with comparison companies that weren't so visionary. The authors would argue that their company selections were much more objectively chosen, and I wouldn't argue much with that claim. In "Good to Great," published in 2001, Collins and his research team analyzed a number of good companies that took the next step to achieve greatness, while a comparison group of similar companies did not. In both of these two earlier books, as well in the current one (I'll get to "Great by Choice" presently), the authors conspicuously note how much better the subject companies performed, stock market wise, compared to the comparison companies. However, it is important to realize that Collins and his co-authors are not suggesting that you run out and invest in their subject companies. If you did that for the "Built to Last" companies, your investments would have included Citigroup, Ford, Sony and other companies that subsequently didn't set the world on fire. Similarly, from the "Good to Great" focus companies, Circuit City eventually filed for bankruptcy and Fannie Mae proved to be a major disappointment, in more ways than one.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Great by Choice: Uncertainty, Chaos, and Luck--Why Some Thrive Despite Them All Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals (P.S.) Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals Chaos, Gaia, Eros: A Chaos Pioneer Uncovers the Three Great Streams of History The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor Competing Against Luck: The Story of Innovation and Customer Choice Essential Spices and Herbs: Discover Them, Understand Them, Enjoy Them Gods Generals: Why They Succeeded And Why Some Fail Self-Disciplined Dieter: How to Lose Weight and Become Healthy Despite Cravings and Weak Willpower Living Well, Despite Catching Hell: The Black Woman's Guide to Health, Sex and Happiness End Unemployment Now: How to Eliminate Joblessness, Debt, and Poverty Despite Congress The Highly Sensitive Child: Helping Our Children Thrive When the World Overwhelms Them Despite Lupus: How to Live Well with a Chronic Illness Hope Into Practice: Jewish Women Choosing Justice Despite Our Fears BALLS: It Takes Some to Get Some The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and and How All Men Can Help Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don't, by Jim Collins: Key Takeaways, Analysis & Review 55 Successful Harvard Law School Application Essays: What Worked for Them Can Help You Get Into the Law School of Your Choice 50 Successful Harvard Application Essays: What Worked for Them Can Help You Get into the College of Your Choice

[Dmca](#)