

## Clarion Review $\star \star \star \star$

## **BUSINESS & ECONOMICS**

## Get It Together: A Winning Formula for Success from the Boss You Need

**Puja Bhola Rios** Forbes Books (Sep 19, 2023) (177pp) 979-888750114-7

With its appealing, breathless mix of advice, warnings, and challenges, Get It Together models personal and professional success.

Puja Bhola Rios's business book *Get It Together* draws on personal experience to propose a formula for corporate, career, and personal success.

Exemplifying the values of inspiration, focus, and dedication, this dynamic book models being a successful leader, coach, and mentor. Rios first became an entrepreneur when she was thirteen; she credits her later corporate rise to the transformative leadership concepts shared herein. Her guidance is challenging but also marked by encouragement.

Promoting straight talk and hard work, the book exhorts its audience to exhibit care and compassion toward their team members. Leaders, it says, need to be knowledgeable about what particular attention is needed to bring out the best in each person. It also suggests setting realistic, achievable goals that follow a logical progression.

Still, this work is not just about getting by; it's about putting in the effort that greatness demands. This requires reaching beyond the confines of restrictive comfort zones and inevitable resistance. But the book balances its pushes toward hard work with attention to self-care to avoid burnout too. Herein, true career success is dependent on the development of the whole person.

Clear instructions are given for each technique and strategy, complemented by examples of improvements made due to their implementation and of the negative consequences of failing to implement them. And provocative challenges are issued at the end of each chapter, reflecting the real work involved in career and personal success. Humorous and lively anecdotes break up this rather breathless mix of advice, warnings, and challenges—as with a memory of Rios's decision to set up her office in a broom closet to be more accessible and improve communication with her team.

Still, many of the suggestions repackage common knowledge, as with the importance of "knowing your why," learning to say no whenever a yes would distract from the work needed to achieve a goal, and breaking daunting tasks into more achievable parts. Still, they are repackaged with infectious passion so that Rios's strategies for becoming a warrior in the service of a lofty goal feel more fresh. Aware that aspects of human nature can cause even the best-intentioned leaders to fail, Rios warns, "Do not expect to be motivated every day....Motivation is not everything. *Discipline* is."

The business guide Get It Together suggests strategies for achieving exponential success.

KRISTINE MORRIS (July 7, 2023)

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