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<http://internetbackdoor.com/2009/12/22/take-the-%E2%80%9CLeap%E2%80%9D-to-a-richer-more-fulfilling-life-and-career/>

## Take the “Leap” to a Richer, More Fulfilling Life and Career

By Robert Krenz

Every now and then I’ll open my e-mail to find a personal note from an author who is a regular reader of one of my blogs or the book reviews I do here on *Small Business Trends*.

This is how I came across “*Leap: How 3 Simple Changes Can Propel Your Career From Good to Great*.” Rick Smith, the author, contacted me. He asked if I was interested in reviewing his book and sent me an autographed copy.

Rick Smith is the co-author of the Wall Street Journal and Business Week bestseller *The 5 Patterns of Extraordinary Careers*, which has been sold into 13 languages. But before any of that, he was just an average, regular guy. And the book is his insight into how average, regular, relatively risk-averse people have found that magic spot that propelled their careers into the bliss many of us are seeking.

*Leap* is a fun read. I think it’s because Rick doesn’t write this book from some lofty “know-it-all” position of what it takes to be successful. He writes a little about his personal experience inasmuch as his own success shocked and surprised him. There is something very endearing about that. It makes you want to keep reading.

### The Interactive Component of “Leap”

Books are becoming more and more interactive these days with their own websites and blogs. *Leap* takes this idea one step further by having an entire web site dedicated to helping their readers uncover their own “Primary Color.” Primary Color is the concept Rick Smith uses to describe the very special blend of strengths, talents and interests that, when aligned, will propel your career success to new heights.

When you visit the Primary Color assessment site, you create an account (click the large green button). Then you can take a series of assessments that’ll help you figure out how close you’re to your ideal career. Then, every time you come back the site will show you your assessment results.

In addition to this, at the same site under “Resources” there is also a Leap Journal that you can download. In the book, it comes at the end of each chapter so you can answer the questions as you read. The downloadable Leap Journal saves you from writing in your book in case you don’t want to.

### Who Should Read This Book?

Just because “Leap” uses the word “career” in the title doesn’t mean that it’s just for job-seekers. Leap will give you lots of examples of how regular people reached career and entrepreneurial heights WITHOUT changing who they were and taking on undue risk. In fact, Rick has found that the happiest and most balanced people he profiled in the book became more fully themselves as a part of their career journey.

Entrepreneurs, business owners and employees at all levels will find this book a fulfilling read. The book is really about self-discovery and determining your own strengths. That is something anyone can benefit from.

### What are the 3 Simple Changes That Propel Your Career from Good to Great?

The subtitle mentions “3 easy changes” but I couldn’t find it as a chapter or an obvious statement. So I e-mailed Rick and here are they are:

1. Find your way to a **job** that utilizes your strengths and passions every day.
2. Take that energy and apply it to an **idea** that’s Big, Selfless and Simple.
3. Move forward by **mitigating risk**, not adding more of it.

These aren't really new ideas. What makes them "changes" for most of us is actually making these three actions a priority in our lives. I'm going to end this review with the dedication from the book (spacing is just like in the book — as if it is prose):

"This book is dedicated to you, the reader.  
It's no accident that you are holding this book.  
Your potential has been waiting for this day.  
The time has come to explore an unexpected future,  
to accomplish something beyond yourself,  
to turn your career into a calling.  
This is your invitation To halt working and start living."

By the time you're done with the book, you could be onto a whole new future.

### **What to Do Next?**

Before you set out planning the next year or making resolutions you may or may not follow-through on, go get yourself a copy of "Leap." It will entertain you and help you move your life and career to a place where you're engaged, excited and inspired.