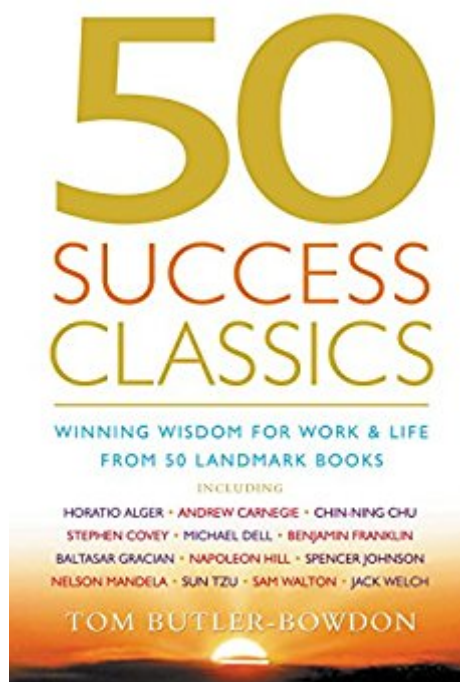




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# 50 Success Classics: Winning Wisdom For Work & Life From 50 Landmark Books



## Synopsis

Millions of us are drawn each year to find the one great book that will capture our imagination and inspire us to chart a course to personal and professional fulfillment. 50 Success Classics is the first and only 'bite-sized' guide to the books that have helped legions of readers unleash their potential and discover the secrets of success. Mapping the road to prosperity, motivation, leadership and life success, 50 Success Classics summarizes each work's key ideas to make clear how these timeless insights and techniques can inform, inspire and illuminate a path to authentic achievement.

Following his recent bestseller 50 Self-Help Classics, Tom Butler-Bowden presents this wide-ranging selection of enduring works in the literary and the legendary: pioneering thinkers, philosophers and powerful leaders who have shown us how to Think and Grow Rich, acquire The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, become The One-Minute Manager, solve the challenging puzzle of Who Moved My Cheese? and discover The Art of Wordly Wisdom. From the inspirational rags-to-riches stories of such entrepreneurs as Andrew Carnegie, Warren Buffet and Sam Walton to the leadership lessons of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela, 50 Success Classics goes back to the basics to find the classic books on staying true to ourselves and fulfilling our potential. Practical yet philosophical, sensible yet stimulating, the 50 all-time classics span biography and business, psychology and ancient philosophy, exploring the rich and fertile ground of books that have helped millions of people achieve success in their work and personal lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I like reading success books. I wonder which one I should read next. Well read 50 of them by reading this one book. This is like holding a success library in your hand. After reading this book you will know which other success books are worth your time. What better leverage of your time can you get.

As a scholar of success, and a student of human behavior, I took an immediate interest in this book. Did it fulfill my expectations? Yes, in more ways than one. For those of you who are interested in uncovering the characteristics of successful people, Tom Butler-Bowdon has created an excellent resource and reference guide. The book essentially provides profiles of individuals who you may, or may not know (my favorite happened to be Cheryl Richardson, tax consultant turned author, and Frank Bettger, former St. Louis Cardinals baseball star). Their stories expose formulas for success through a theme of redundancy that will become obvious to you. Here's a partial list of the success traits which these stories reveal and elaborate on: Optimism-A definite aim, purpose, vision-Willingness to work-Disciplined-Integrated mind (intuitive)-Prolific readers-Risk takers-High expectations (of themselves)-Mastery-Well-rounded Admittedly, a collection of people whose successes are unfamiliar to you, doesn't engender the greatest enthusiasm about investigating them; however, success is success - no matter how you slice it. Therein lies the strength of this book. I'd recommend this book to anyone who studies success as a subject, or as a passionate interest.

First off, in my opinion, this is a pretty complete list. Secondly, I have had the pleasure of reading many of these books and the author does a great job of summarizing some of my favorites. BTW, my favorites are Think and Grow Rich and The Science of Getting Rich. I picked up a few good ideas on books to read from his list and if I could go back in time to my early 20s, this list would be a great start to a successful life.

I enjoy these books (I have several) because they give me enough information about the books for me to decide whether or not I want to read them individually. It is an excellent time-saver and helps me to avoid purchasing books that I may not be interested in. More than that, the summaries give me a rounded overview of books that have information I may want to know but not enough to read the entire books so this is an excellent time-saver in more ways than one.

This is my favorite series to read just before going to bed. Each chapter is a quick summary of a world class success book. I finished the first chapter and then went back to and downloaded the full copy of the book from the summary. This is not just a mashup of comments and quotes from famous books. The author has taken the time to communicate the key points from each book. This book will remain on my Kindle for the long haul, I see myself going back to it over and over.

In both this volume and in 50 Self-Help Classics, Butler-Bowdon has selected and then provided a rigorous examination of carefully selected works which have had, for decades, a profound impact on those who read them and then applied the principles which their respective authors affirm. In this instance, "winning wisdom" to apply in one's life and work. There are several reasons why I hold this volume in such high regard. Here are three. First, Butler-Bowden has assembled excerpts and focused on key points from a wide variety of works which include (with authors listed in alphabetical order, as in the book) Horatio Alger's *Ragged Dick*, Andrew Carnegie's *Autobiography*, Jim Collins' *Good to Great*, Napoleon Hill's *Think and Grow Rich*, Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, Thomas J. Stanley's *The Millionaire Mind*, Brian Tracy's *Maximum Achievement*, Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, Sam Walton's *Made in America*, and Zig Ziglar's *Meet You at the Top*. Obviously, some of this material would also be appropriate for inclusion in 50 Self-Help Classics. Second, I appreciate the fact that Butler-Bowden also enables his readers to focus on issues of greatest interest to them by suggesting combinations of selections within these four categories: Motivation (e.g. Tom Hopkins' *The Official Guide to Success*) Fulfilling your potential (e.g. Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz's *The Power of Full Engagement*) Prosperity (e.g. Russell H. Conwell's *Acres of Diamonds*) Leadership (e.g. Warren Bennis' *On Becoming a Leader*) The diversity of Butler-Bowdon's primary sources even within the same category is indeed impressive. Third and finally, he makes clever use of a number of reader-friendly devices throughout his narrative, such as "In a nutshell," "Final comments," and a brief bio of the author at the conclusion of each selection. I also appreciate the inclusion of brief quotations wherever they are most relevant. In the Introduction, Butler-Bowdon observes that "When

we think of success writing it is often the motivational classics that first come to mind, and the titles in this [volume] represent the historical development of the genre....While all of the books have been bestsellers [and many continue to be], the main criterion for their inclusion was their impact and renown, or whether they filled a niche in terms of a particular subject or person....The leaders discussed are not specific markers for your own success -- it is generally not a good idea to compare yourself to other people -- but their stories illustrate a 'way' of success that anyone can follow."I agree with Butler-Bowdon that each person seeking success (however defined and measured) must assume primary responsibility for being and doing whatever is required to achieve it. However, most of those who share or are the subjects of the success "stories" in this volume have duly acknowledged the assistance provided to them along the way by family members, friends, allies, and in several instances, benefactors.Butler-Bowdon realizes that he is providing "only a taste of the literature (the main ideas, context, and impact of each title)" while urging his readers to "feast on the real thing." What he offers is by no means a buffet of entrepreneurial "hors d'oeuvres." On the contrary, the content is solid and skillfully presented effectively. I am convinced that many of those who read this book will then be encouraged to read (or re-read) "the real thing." If Butler-Bowdon's efforts accomplish nothing else, that will indeed be sufficient to earn the praise I think he has earned...and justly deserves.

Thoughtfully and diligently researched and reviewed, each book is presented in a precis form that hit the highlights and key ideas. I have bought a few of the books in this compendium but all are worth reading in their entirety.

Worth the money

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