



Power Through Partnership: How Women Lead Better Together

Betsy Polk, Maggie Ellis Chotas

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WINNER OF THE 2015 SILVER MEDAL IPPY AWARD IN BUSINESS/CAREER/SALES.

Betsy Polk and Maggie Chotas have learned something powerful: when women work together they discover a level of support, flexibility, confidence, accountability, and freedom to be themselves that they rarely find in other work relationships. Drawing on their own twelve-year partnership and from interviews with 125 women business partners, Polk and Chotas demolish the myths that keep women from collaborating and offer advice for handling a host of potential challenges. This groundbreaking book shows that when women team up combining complementary skills, channeling their egos into the partnership, and encouraging each other they can work as full equals to achieve something that's exponentially greater than each woman alone.

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Power Through Partnership: How Women Lead Better Together Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2014 by Berrett-Koehler Publishers (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781626561588

Author : Betsy Polk , Maggie Ellis Chotas

Format : Paperback 168 pages

Genre : Business, Leadership, Nonfiction, Feminism



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From Reader Review Power Through Partnership: How Women Lead Better Together for online ebook

Tina Smith says

Power Through Partnership should be required reading for all College-age women. Polk and Chotas challenge women to think creatively about non-traditional paths to leadership and success, pointing to partnership as one-such path. But they do more than encourage thinking; they provide a concrete framework for women seeking better professional options, a framework supported by the best practices of their own highly successful partnership as well as those of the 125 partnership-mentors they interviewed in writing this book. They show women how partnerships can result in deeply fulfilling and important professional work that is flexible enough to allow time for equally fulfilling lives outside of work. The even better news is that while creating a flexible professional life, they have created a better professional product, drawing on their complementary strengths. Polk and Chotas have found (and live) the Holy Grail of optimal work-life balance, and they describe in detail how other woman can leverage partnership to achieve similar success.

Rachel says

I received this book for free through a Goodreads Giveaway.

It wasn't entirely what I expected, it was an interesting read and put women's relationships in business into a new prospective.

Erica Brody says

This is an important book for all women to read. Partnership is a fantastic model for women to consider for their professional lives, just as it has worked for men for years. This is the first book that provides insight and models to support women in seeking out, initiating, and maintaining effective partnerships that yield significant personal satisfaction and commercial achievement.

C Smith says

What an excellent discussion of a topic long overlooked. Even if you're not in the business world, Power Through Partnership is like a pair of glasses that brings into focus the potential for women to do great things on their own collaborative terms. We don't have to follow the status quo. As a part-time freelancer, it's made me think of how I partner with other women every day, not just in work, but in my daily life. It's already happening! Why shouldn't we be intentional about it on the business front? Inspiring and eye-opening, "Power Through Partnership" speaks to the leader in us all who believes success shared is all the sweeter.

Juliellen says

This book is a good first step for women who are curious about taking the leap into partnership (or sister ship, as the book mentions). The ideas are organized, the suggestions tangible, and the authors are encouraging.

I hope the authors might follow up this book with one that highlights the qualities and elements of highly effective/ high quality women-led organizations.

Naomi Quinn says

Power Through Partnership is beautifully written, well-organized, and uses the interview material collected by the authors judiciously. Best of all, it does exactly what it promises to do, guiding women through the process and pitfalls of forming and sustaining (and ending) business partnerships. It's worth adding that their advice applies, not just to ongoing partnerships, but to one-time partnerships such as writing a book together or organizing an event together. I especially like that the authors emphasize the special structural barriers that women encounter, and do not hang their argument on any much-debated psychological differences between women and men.

Kara Nunnally says

This book was an easy and inspiring read for women as we think about working together. In my opinion, the very last chapter was the most insightful and the most applicable to the work I hope to do. I recommend this book for a book club, women's resource group, class, and any female aspiring entrepreneur.

Sheryl says

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads and I'm so glad I did. I learned a lot from it that I wished I had known earlier. I really think this book would benefit any young woman who graduating college and just entering the workforce.

Cassandra says

This is a must-read for all women. Whether you've always wanted to partner up and have been afraid or have never even given it thought, this book will open your eyes to all sorts of possibilities.

It also shows you that women are out there rocking it, which is hopefully enough to help you get over that lack of confidence many of us struggle with.

Elisabeth says

I loved this book! It's an essential guide for females of all ages, particularly those who dream of a career with the ever elusive work/life balance so many of us crave. (Don't today's men want that as well? There's solid advice for all within these pages.)

The authors met in 10th grade and became friends collaborating on a classroom assignment. After reconnecting many years later, they realized their complementary careers might provide the balance between home and office they both wanted. This book is a candid account of all they've learned: it draws from interviews with partners in more than 50 successful partnerships, and from research into men's and women's unique leadership styles.

During my own struggle with work-life balance over 40-some years, I dreamed of an economy in which everyone--women and men --worked a 20-hour week, effectively freeing them to share care for children, the elderly, the sick, even the planet.

Looking back, I realize that this book has a better idea, and one that's more likely to be realized. Another reviewer suggested Power through Partnership become "required reading" for all college-aged women. I'd require it for all middle-schoolers. A semester course in how to "Lead Better Together" would have equipped me far better for the future than my home economics graduation requirement in Florida c. 1967.

Kristin says

There are lots of good ideas in this book. For instance, we should profile female partnerships more. Also, female partners should find other female partners and learn from them. However, I didn't feel like I learned much for the 125 interviews that were completed. I was continually frustrated by the mention of a partnership and a one sentence quote from the interviews. Most partnerships I hadn't heard of and there just wasn't enough information given to help me understand their circumstances, choices, strategies, outcomes, etc. It started to just feel like name dropping and a means to promote these businesses.

I read the publisher's comment and agree that this book was different and that an alternative to the "women should go for it" messages was needed. I just wish the book had shared more of the richness of the learning the authors must have experienced through all the interviews. It also focused more on longer term partnerships that were formed by choice, often in the context of business management. I may not have resonated with the book as well, working in the health professions, in shorter term partnerships (e.g. co-chairing a committee) and in partnerships that were formed for me.

Diana H says

Great thoughts and ideas, but too repetitive. I felt like I kept reading the same thing over and over.

Kat Engh says

I want to share why I was excited about this book when it came to the Editorial team at Berrett-Koehler Publishers, because I think it's significant.

After Lean In came out and quickly rose to become a bestseller, it seemed like everyone wanted to write about women in business. It seemed like every week we were discussing a new proposal for a book on how woman can rise to leadership, and from there, a new trend emerged: there was a sudden onslaught of books on how women should behave in order to climb to the top. It became annoying. Women do make up the majority of readers, so in that sense, it would make sense to write to the biggest audience, but I started to find it a little frustrating, if not offensive, that every book seemed to come with suggestions on how women should manage themselves in order to win the approval and support of their male counterparts and leaders.

Who is writing the book about how businesses and organizations lose out when they disrespect their female staff members and don't take them seriously, let alone treat them equally? Why are women always the ones who have to change?

When Power Through Partnerships came to Pub Board (that's where the whole staff decides on what we're going to approve to publish), I thought "Ok, THIS is something different, and this is what we need." Power Through Partnerships encourages women to start their own businesses and/or collaborate together with other women to achieve success. It's strength in numbers! It's not that Tina Fey couldn't find success alone – she did! But when she collaborates with Amy Poehler on anything, people love it, writers love it.

And that whole "cat fights" trope? It's time to put the myth about women competing with each other rather than working together out with the kitty litter. Some women work better with men, and there's nothing wrong with that, either, but the idea that women can't work together is just not true, and in this book, the authors share a ton of examples of real-life successful female partnerships and collaborations.

The book even makes a business case for female partnerships, pointing out how investing in female partner-led organizations can be a lucrative bet in its own right. There are at least a few Silicon Valley investors who might want to read this book before they invest in another startup!

Power Through Partnerships is full of practical advice and successful role models for female partnerships and I really hope that it inspires others the way it did for me. This is exactly what we need.
