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The Hard Thing About Hard Things By Ben Horowitz: A 30-minute Instaread Chapter By Chapter Summary



Synopsis

With InstaRead Summaries, you can get the essence of a book in 30 minutes or less. We read every chapter and summarize it in one or two paragraphs so you can get the information contained in the book at a faster rate. This is an InstaRead Summary of The Hard Thing about Hard Things by Ben Horowitz. Below is a preview of the earlier sections of the summary: Introduction - Ben explains that every time he reads a self-help or management book, he thinks about the fact that it didn't really address the hard things like laying people off or having good people start demanding unreasonable things. The problem with self-help books is that they try to provide a recipe for dealing with difficult, dynamic situations. Challenging situations cannot be solved with a formula. Instead of using a formula in this book, the author presents his story as he progressed from an entrepreneur to CEO to venture capitalist. He shares some of the lessons he has learned along the way. He explains that although circumstances may differ, patterns and lessons resonate with each experience. For the last several years, he has shared lessons learned on his popular blog. Many people have emailed him to ask about the stories behind the lessons. Ben shares that he has been inspired along the way by many family members, friends, and advisers who have helped him. Hip-hop/rap music has also inspired him because these artists aspire to be both great and successful. He also admires that rappers see themselves as entrepreneurs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wish the publisher of this little summary would publish more like it. I read the large volume first and then ordered this. It is accurate and complete although not perfect. The only way it could be that is if it was a reproduction of the original.

Ben Horowitz creates an interesting take on business here, and it's interesting to see how he dives into personal stories and uses them to highlight business principles. You'll get a heavy dose of real world advice and opinions from his upbringing. Unlike other business books, this one takes a far more personal take on things, and delivers in a very jovial manner. Through the book, you will see highlights of how to build a business even when it seems like a difficult task, and how to climb out of the heavier problems and succeed. This is definitely a positive book, and it's done in a manner that is both personal and business minded. I liked the transition, and recommend it to those that are starting a business today.

Superb and unique book for its target reader - the founding CEO of a software company. Real, practical guidance that no one else has covered in a business book. Becomes rapidly less applicable the farther the reader is from the target. A few useful nuggets for non-founding CEOs, executives of non-software firms, and non-CEO founders, but this is by no means a generalist book on entrepreneurship or "business".

This book was excellent; it was extremely an informative summary of his book and brings out the highlights for each chapter. I am excited to purchase the entire book to read more detailed information. If you want to know how to avoid all the pitfalls in creating your business, how to run it properly you can do so by his advice. I found it very helpful in regards to avoiding mistakes. That helps in all of life. If we have someone wise who has been through it all to share with others to help the process go smoothly for them then it is well worth taking the time to do the research and read this book. I am going to give this recommendation to some other business owners that I know as well to help them on their journey. I love how the author gives you the takeaways from each chapter to give you insight on what he has learned. I look forward to purchasing the entire book to gain more perspective. We all want to succeed in this life and we all want to do on our own accord, why make it harder than it is. A definite read and highly recommended!

This was a fun read and as usual summed up the chapters very well. As a budding entrepreneur reading this story about Ben and Marc has given me something to hold tight to and keep moving forward when things get tough. After reading this review, I'm more than likely going to purchase the original work in order to get a little more in-depth look at the story in its entirety.

There are indeed "hard things" for which an MBA degree cannot possibly prepare a person, nor can a business book. If nothing else, however, Ben Horowitz (based on the summary) shares his thoughts and feelings as well as his experiences so that those who read this book will at least be better prepared to make those decisions that all of us dread.

"The Hard Thing About Hard Things"™ written by Ben Horowitz is a book that will be of use to anyone who is in charge of company, or thinks about starting own business. Inside it covers the author generously share his own experience giving many examples about proven business practices that will certainly be helpful for entrepreneur beginner, but also people who already has some experience.

I read Ben's blog and was very excited to see he has authored a book. Did not have time to catch up with his book, bought this summary and have to say it's very well done. Extracts the highlights across all the chapters very well and just the right amount without giving away too much details. There is some great advice and I gifted the original book to my son, who is interested in entrepreneurship and is testing the waters.

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