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The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator

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From London Publishing Partnership : The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thanks for a Great Book!By Jim KochThanks for a great book! My interdisciplinary class of upper division students at Santa Clara University really loved the Rise of the Reluctant Innovator. It introduced them to a world of possibilities for addressing seemingly intractable problems.No other book in the field captures the courage, imagination, unyielding commitment of social entrepreneurs in such an authentic voice. The complex challenges and rich stories in Reluctant Innovator stimulated my Santa Clara students to examine

how ideas, projects, and start-ups can "crack the code" to fostering systems change and creating a more just, sustainable, and equitable world for all people. Its pages are laced with heart and the realization that this is not an easy journey. Each week of my 10 week class began with a student presentation that analyzed the experience of a "reluctant innovator" from the point of view of the protagonist him or herself. These examples illustrate what it takes to succeed and, more important at times, how to fail. Students found these stories inspiring with the comment of one student in particular capturing the sentiment of peers, "changing the world for the better never felt more possible." As someone who has worked with hundreds of social ventures through the Global Social Benefit Incubator, the PopTech Social Innovation Fellows, the Tech Museum Awards, and the World Bank Development Marketplace, I found this book refreshing. In a field that is too often plagued by hubris and self-promotion, it provides an "authentic" voice for thinking about what is "doable," and for answering the questions. . . "why me, why now"? We owe a great debt of thanks to Ken Banks for being a beacon of compassion and humility. Jim Koch Senior Founding Fellow Center for Science, Technology, and Society Santa Clara University 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written and succinct. By D O T One of the best books you'll ever read. Great for sparking ideas and looking at another perspective towards what people do to help others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Immediately gripping By Sean Conrad I'm only 15 pages in to the book, and already there are fresh perspectives presented and fresh ideas percolating in my head. For example, in the book's first chapter, Ken presents a list of questions that one should consider asking and answering for themselves before venturing in to the world of social innovation - or, more accurately, before becoming a social innovator themselves. In many pursuits in life, this is one of the key challenges: finding your identity and your belief and your path. Feeling strong and secure enough to endure the hard times (because when you're off the well-trodden path, there will always be many). In my case, this book has played a part in leading me to that feeling, and that makes the book immediately worthwhile and a must-recommend for anyone finding themselves at a similar crossroads. (And to read the stories and lessons of 10 others who have gone through the same thing as I find myself considering? For me that's priceless.)

Despite the tens of billions spent each year in international aid, some of the most promising and exciting social innovations and businesses have come about by chance. Many of the people behind them did not consciously set out to solve anything, but they did. Welcome to the world of the reluctant innovator.

A book of hope, inspiration and a beacon of what's possible Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner This book's vivid, engaging stories - of ordinary people who have devoted their lives to solving problems and injustices they never expected to encounter - make a major contribution to understanding what social innovation is all about. This is an inspiring and essential read for everyone who cares about our flawed, messy, beautiful world and believes in its myriad possibilities Hannah Bloch, Mission Projects Editor, National Geographic Magazine The world's most challenging problems are being taken on by people motivated by their personal passions, informed by their deep understanding of local realities and shaped by their frustration with inadequate solutions. Ken Banks and the other remarkable innovators here offer inspiration and insight into building practical solutions while calling into question established wisdom about social innovation. This is a must-read book for anyone who wants to solve problems with global implications through local knowledge and involvement