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Book Review 5 Confidence: How Winning Streaks and Losing Streaks Begin and End by Rosabeth Moss Kanter

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/william_mcpeck/22/

This Book Is Not Just About Confidence, July 25, 2005, Rating: 4 Stars

Confidence is one of those words we frequently use, but when asked, we may not be able to accurately define. Dr. Kanter defines confidence as a "bridge connecting expectations and performance, investments and results." After reading the book, I am not sure I would be anymore accurate in defining confidence than I have been to date. I see the value of this book being not in learning more about confidence, but more importantly, how leaders can create successful organizations. While this book talks a lot about leadership, I think it would be a misnomer to describe this book as book about leadership in general. I see this book as being more about success, than leadership per se.

According to Dr. Kanter, success and failure are trajectories, so at any one point in time, organizations exist at a point along the success - failure continuum. I see the content of this book benefiting most those leaders whose organizations are at either end of this continuum. Through the stories and examples contained in the book, leaders of successful organizations can learn how to remain successful and to deal with the occasional loss. Leaders in failing organizations can use the material to initiate a turnaround process. While not the focus of this book, I believe leaders of organizations located elsewhere along the continuum can benefit from reading this book as well.

I believe current leaders and anyone who wishes to be a leader in the future can benefit from reading this book. The book is filled with stories and practical examples about how leaders can create successful organizations.