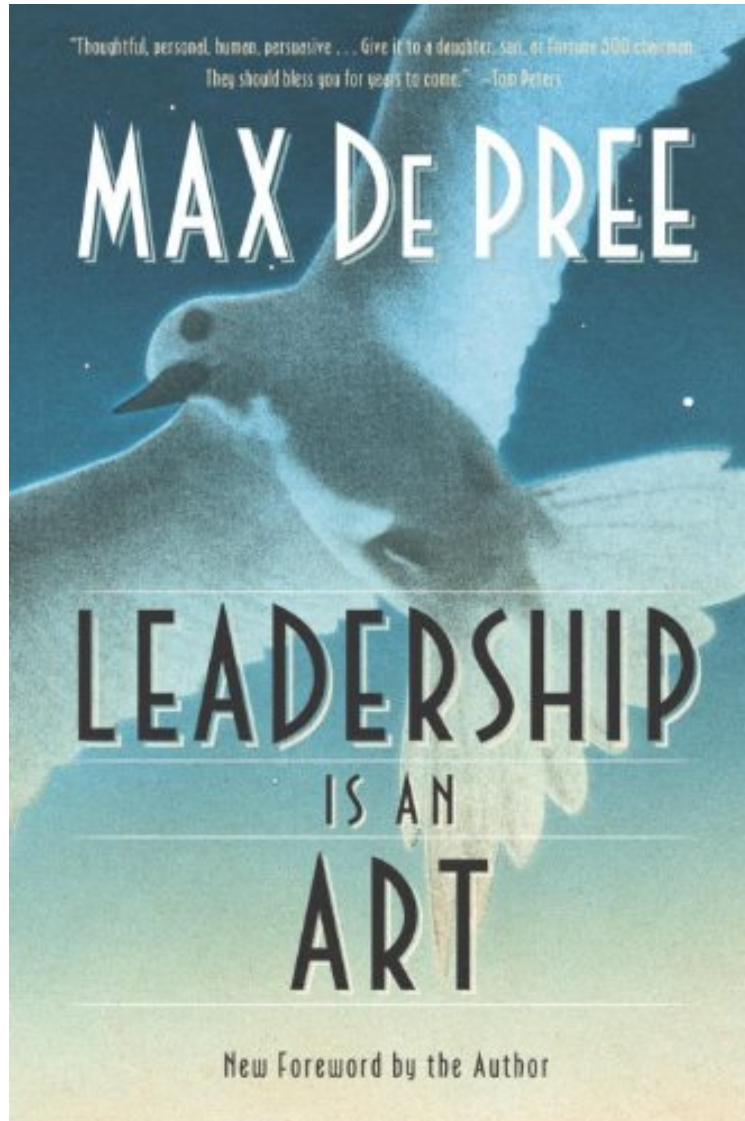


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Leadership Is an Art

Max DePree

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Max DePree : Leadership Is an Art before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leadership Is an Art:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Like having a conversation with a more experienced friend. By Wally Bock I read Leadership Is an Art by Max DePree for the first time almost 30 years ago. I highlighted it, wrote in the margins, and learned some of its lessons. I thought it was a great book then. When I opened the book this past summer, I was amazed by two things. I was amazed that I had not opened this book in more than two decades. And, I was amazed at how many things in this book had become part of the tapestry that is the way I think about leadership. Max DePree speaks to me in an especially strong voice because we start from a similar place. We are both

Christians, and that affects how we try to live our lives. We both believe that leadership is a servant role and that what leaders are challenged to do is unleash the potential of others. Now, if any of that bothers you, you won't enjoy this book. If you think any mention of faith is inappropriate in a business book or that servant leadership is mushy nonsense or that leaders are there to show people the way, not to unleash their energies, you won't like this book. Don't buy it. Don't read it. If you do choose to buy it, here's what you'll find. There is a retired executive that I see frequently. We share good meals and good wine and other drinks. Occasionally, we have a cigar together. Some of the time we talk about what it's like to be the person responsible for a group. My friend was an executive vice president in a Fortune 200 company. He created their international business in the 50s and 60s. He knows a lot about people and leadership and doing the right thing. Over meals and cigars and drinks and sometimes just sitting on the deck, we talk about those things. Reading *Leadership is an Art* is a lot like having a conversation with my friend. He's principled and clear-thinking. He will challenge you from time to time. I suggest that if you buy this book you do a couple of things to get the most out of it. The first one is read the preface that DePree wrote for the latest edition of the book. The original book was published in 1987, DePree's preface is from 2003. Then just start reading, but keep a pencil or highlighter or digital voice recorder handy. The first thing you'll find in the book is a short true story called "The Millwright Died." It sets the tone for the rest of the book. Make sure you read it. Mark the page so you can get back to it. Then read. Make notes. Take time to reflect. This is not a book about techniques or tricks or processes. It is about how a thoughtful and caring leader approaches his or her work. So, keep the book with you. Dip into it from time to time. Take time to reflect on what you learned and your insights. One more thing. When you finish *Leadership is an Art*, go back to it frequently. Don't make this mistake I did and put it back on the shelf for a decade or more.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational and informative
By Joe Blankenship This is a book for motivation and inspiration, not necessarily a guide to leadership practices. What makes it important is that motivation and inspiration can apply to many circumstances while practices must always be applied to specific challenges, but with the overriding inspiration providing the cultural envelope.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DePree in *Leadership Is an Art* makes his title's point--truly good leadership is an art
By Randy Stiver Mr. DePree in *Leadership Is an Art* makes his title's point--truly good leadership is an art. It's not simply "plug-and-play" like running a machine. Rather it's an art form of treating people, especially those you have responsibility, with family-like kindness, sharing opportunity for personal growth and accomplishment. My favorite chapter is "Tribal Storytelling" -- we define our families and our institutions by reciting our histories, the things that make us who we are. It has as much application in an actual family or church family as it does in business.

In what has become a bible for the business world, the successful former CEO of Herman Miller, Inc., explores how executives and managers can learn the leadership skills that build a better, more profitable organization. *Leadership Is an Art* has long been a must-read not only within the business community but also in professions ranging from academia to medical practices, to the political arena. First published in 1989, the book has sold more than 800,000 copies in hardcover and paperback. This revised edition brings Max De Pree's timeless words and practical philosophy to a new generation of readers. De Pree looks at leadership as a kind of stewardship, stressing the importance of building relationships, initiating ideas, and creating a lasting value system within an organization. Rather than focusing on the "hows" of corporate life, he explains the "whys." He shows that the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality and the last is to say thank you. Along the way, the artful leader must:

- Stimulate effectiveness by enabling others to reach both their personal potential and their institutional potential
- Take a role in developing, expressing, and defending civility and values
- Nurture new leaders and ensure the continuation of the corporate culture

Leadership Is an Art offers a proven design for achieving success by developing the generous spirit within all of us. Now more than ever, it provides the insights and guidelines leaders in every field need.