

BOOK REVIEW

Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High, Second Edition
By Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillian and Al Switzel,
The United States, 2012
Recommended by Maxwell YANG



In *Crucial Conversations*, the authors dissect common blind spots in communication and provide several conversational, listening and acting skills, complemented by conversational situations and short stories, to help the readers master these skills in the quickest way. In this sort of guidebook, you might think of your previous experience by reading the true cases mentioned in it, like arguments caused by your careless words or conflicts with colleagues in workplace.

If you are done with the “dangerous conversations” you had before, try *Crucial Conversations*, and turn communication back into the bridge of connection and love between people.

Night Work

Original name: *Die Arbeit der Nacht*

By Thomas Glavinic

Austria, 2006

Recommended by Esther Zeng



One day, an ordinary day, Jonas wakes up in the morning, and finds that he is the only one left in the world. There is nothing moving outside. Radio, TV, and the Internet are all down. No birds. No insects. Nothing. No one. Jonas is the last living being on the planet. Why? Why does everyone disappear? And why is he still here?

Night Work is full of thriller and mystery, but it is not a book about finding the truth. It is about what would happen to someone's psyche when he is put in an extreme situation—utterly isolated and alone in the world. There is no more right or wrong for Jonas. He can break into any house or shop to take whatever he wants. He can literally get everything in the world, except social interaction. There is nothing to do to give meaning to his life.

And there is no one to interact with to preserve his sanity as well as keep in touch with reality. Jonas starts to have hallucinations and paranoia, constantly hearing nonexistent sounds and seeing moving figures in the corner of his eye. Driven by increasing madness, Jonas throws himself from a tower finally to his death.

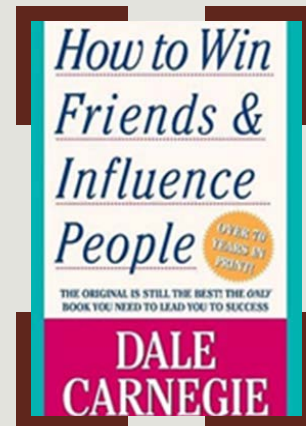
Night Work is a book which may make readers uneasy and uncomfortable—especially when they are reading alone—but it is also a book which can provide a unique perspective to look at communication and connection. From a book totally without any communication, we realize what communication means to someone's life. From none, we can see more.

How to Win Friends & Influence People

By Dale Carnegie

The United States, 2015

Recommended by Izzy ZHAO



Since its initial publication eighty years ago, how to Win Friends & Influence People has sold over fifteen million copies worldwide. In his book, Carnegie explains that success comes from the ability to communicate effectively with others.

He provides relatable analogies and examples, and teaches you skills to make people want to be in your company, see things your way, and feel wonderful about it. For more than eighty years his advice has helped thousands of successful people in their business and personal lives.