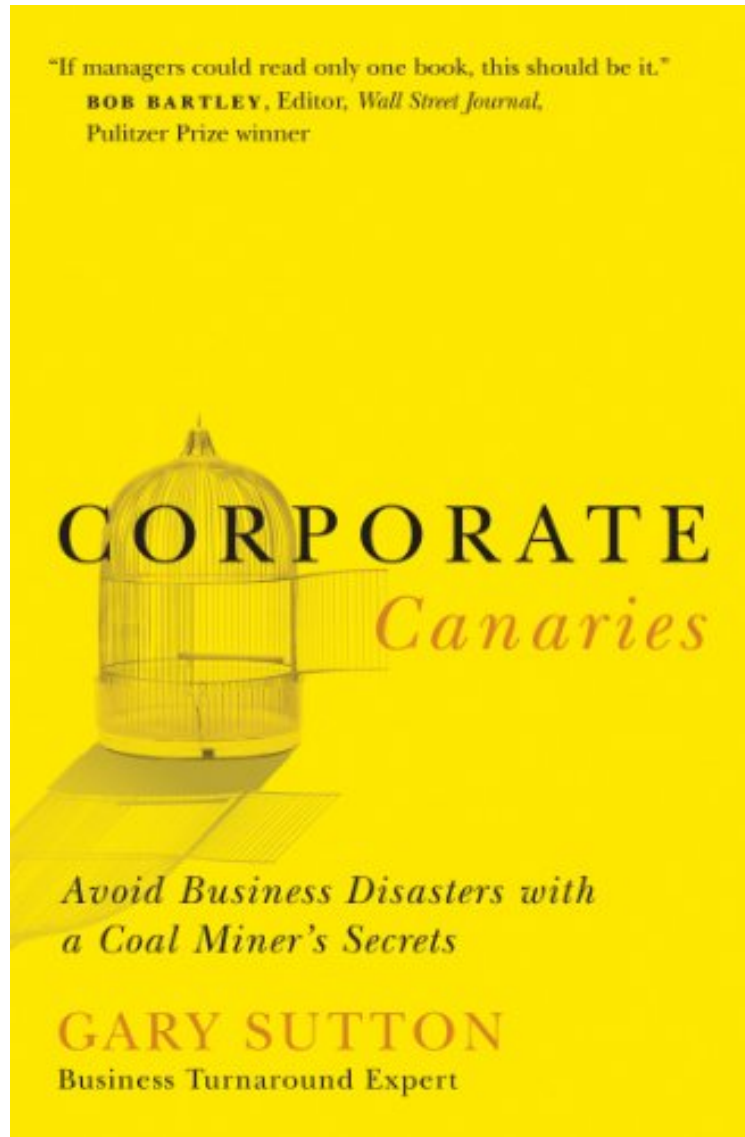


[Ebook free] Corporate Canaries: Avoid Business Disasters with a Coal Miner's Secrets

# Corporate Canaries: Avoid Business Disasters with a Coal Miner's Secrets

Gary Sutton

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**Gary Sutton : Corporate Canaries: Avoid Business Disasters with a Coal Miner's Secrets** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Corporate Canaries: Avoid Business Disasters with a Coal Miner's Secrets:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An easy read insurance policy for averting corporate disastersBy SiriamThis short book given its attempt to be simple in delivering five key lessons (plus wrap it around with some

savvy homely anecdotes of his grandfather's mining experiences in pioneering times to fill out the book) is likely to leave most business book readers feeling short changed one suspects. Sutton's turn around credentials and war stories underpin the five rules and as with many such books the five (which can be written in less than half a page) will not be new or unknown to most readers. Where the pinch comes is that Sutton's real theme based on the number of basket case companies he has been involved with, seems to be acceptance his book will not be immediately of use but once read should be kept in a bottom drawer for reference to when things start to go wrong and application of one of the lessons will he argues apply. I would class it as an easy two hour maximum read - food for thought but not going to get you fired up as to what you might do new unless you are in the unfortunate position of being in a company that is actually heading for or going into tailspin. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. it's fiction he admits! see page 139 By KCI had this on my to MUST READ list and finally picked up a copy. i liked the stories and a little advise. The book is a little light, big print and only 140 pages...then you read his "grandpa" is a composite of people. The storytelling basically untruthful as you read it. I was very disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great things to remember By Yoyo Mitch In my quest to read from a broad spectrum of disciplines, I committed to reading at least two business books a year. I was delighted to find this one as it was an easy read and comes with a guarantee. "This book will help managers detect a serious business problem, either in your company or in a competitor's, within a year of reading. If not, I will return your money plus a dollar." (p. xii) (The guarantee is void three years after the copyright which raises the question of the shelf life of what is said in this book.) My management responsibilities are limited to one office, two employees (myself and an intern), three volunteer receptionists and a caseload; therefore I did not expect to discover a "Corporate Canary" in my system. This book was read in hopes what was said to a professional business setting would translate in a nonprofit world. I suspect my CEO is familiar with the five "canaries" Mr. Sutton mentions in this work, as I spotted none of them alive in our agency. WHEW! The canaries mentioned in the title and discussed throughout the book are derived from one of the safety measure's coal miners once used of having canaries spaced throughout the mines as gas detectors. If the canary was alive and well (singing, moving about, flying around the cage) all was well. If the canary stopped being well, the alarm was sounded and the mine cleared, as the canary's tolerance for gas was much lower than humans and the miners had time to leave before they were affected. Mr. Sutton translated five of these "canaries" he learned at his grandfather's knee into effective management tools and industry indicators. By his report, he was very effective in reading his canaries. The five "canaries" (rules) are more commonsense than a breakthrough. 1. "You can't outgrow losses." - Fix what is causing the losses, growth, and profits, will follow. 2. "Debt's a killer." - The business ends up servicing the debt instead of its customers, employees, stockholders. "Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender." Proverbs 22:73. "Fools fly blind." - Know what is happening, in your area, the company, the industry. Become educated enough to have an idea of "what's next." 4. "Any decision beats no decision." - Anyone who has ever been a part of an organization where the leadership is unclear or uncertain, knows the slow death trying to work in such an environment is. Make an honest decision. Even if it proves to be wrong, it is better than doing nothing. 5. "Markets grow and markets die." - DUH! This should be commonsense until one remembers: the railroads, who thought their job was railroading, not transportation; Kodak, who thought their product was film, not pictures, etc. It took me less than a busy day to read this small book. For those in management, or just starting out therein, this is a good "reminder" book to keep around. One never knows when one will have to crawl into a new "mine," the canaries are important.

In today's tumultuous business environment, managers want guidance in the form of a timely theme, a unique and memorable metaphor, and outside-the-box thinking. That's precisely what Corporate Canaries delivers. The book features five core chapters revealing five common business hazards, and each lesson is accompanied by a story based on the author's grandfather's work in the coal industry, as well as an applicable "canary warning" for each theme.

From Publishers Weekly Using his grandfather's folksy coalmining lore, business turnaround expert Sutton shows how the basics of sound business practices apply to any successful enterprise, from coalmining to aerospace to cell phone service to retail. In five short chapters, the former CEO of several companies opens with one of his grandfather's stories, then mines it for nuggets of wisdom to apply to today's business environment. Sutton builds his book on the simple premise that "ducking catastrophe is the key to success." Claiming to be "the first book showing managers how to detect potential disasters," like the canaries coalminers used to detect poisonous gases in their mines, Sutton warns against taking on too much debt, confusing sales with profits, being indecisive and neglecting to keep a close eye on your market. He offers practical steps to avoid hazards and backs them up with his or other businesses' experiences and solutions, making for a book that's both breezy and informative. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "If managers could read only one book, this should be it." -Bob Bartley, Editor, Wall Street Journal; Pulitzer Prize Winner; Presidential Medal of Freedom "What a read! I was gripped for two hours, reliving every mistake I ever made in business." -Jean Farinelli, Chairwoman, Creamer Basford Dixon; COO, Zagat Surveys (retired) About the Author Gary Sutton is an author, top-rated speaker, and veteran business turnaround expert. Over his acclaimed twenty-year career, Sutton has taken over and revitalized troubled

businesses, turning money-losing companies into cash generators. Sutton sits on several boards today, and has spoken at the MIT Forum for fifteen years. He has appeared on MSNBC, CNNfn, CBS News, and NPR. He's been covered by or written for the Wall Street Journal and other publications.