

## Book Review

### Presence: human purpose and the field of the future

by Peter Senge, C Otto Scharmer, Joseph Jaworski, Betty Sue Flowers

How would the world change if we learned to access, individually and collectively, our deepest capacity to both sense and shape the future?

The writers pose this and other questions. They provide an unusual personal honesty with rigorous critical thinking to these questions. An inspirational; yet challenging book!

Presence is a journey from the present to an unknown future, a journey of exploration rather than dogma, and a journey toward a vision of humanity at its highest. This book is full of emotional truth – a combination of intellectual and visceral experience.

The authors draw upon their own journeys of discovery and use them to articulate new ways of seeing the world, and helping us all understand our part in creating it – as it is and as it might be.

*It is common to say that trees come from seeds. But how could a tiny seed create a huge tree? Seeds do not contain the resources needed to grow a tree. These must come from the medium or environment within which the tree grows. But the seed does provide something that is crucial: a place where the whole of the tree starts to form. As resources such as water and nutrients are drawn in, the seed organises the process that generates growth. In a sense, the seed is a gateway through which the future possibility of the living tree emerges.*

Authentic Success is about focusing on the root system of our lives, the environment that helps the tiny seed of our life to grow into its fullness and strength. Our character (who we are) grows not from the fruits of actions or the rewards of achieving, but from our root system of attitudes, beliefs, commitments.

This book challenges us to recognise that our normal way of thinking cheats us – it leads us down paths that don't suit a living system – our life. It encourages us to grasp wholeness, rather than separateness. To take a path that aligns with a living system.

Want to experience greater levels of authentic success in your life – then this book will help you take a deeper more purpose-filled look at the field of the future.

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"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."  
*Albert Einstein*

"Intention, surrounded in detached freedom of the present, serves as the catalyst for the right mix of matter, energy, and space-time events to create whatever it is that you desire."  
*Deepak Chopra*