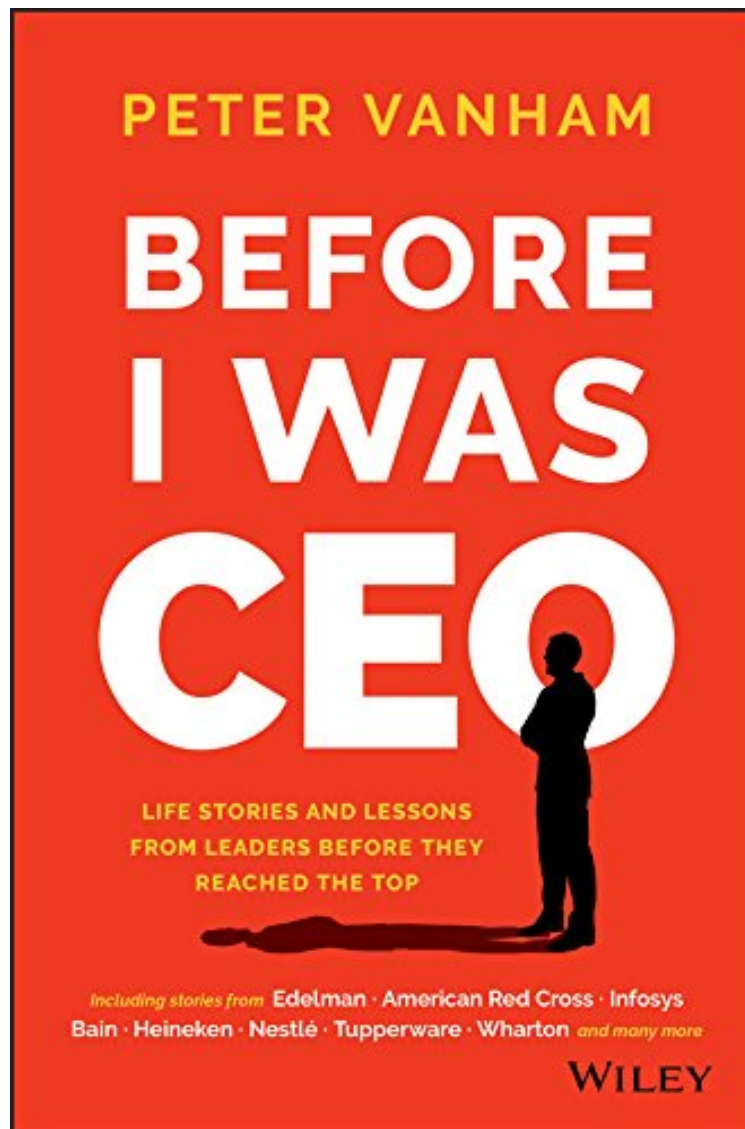


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Before I Was CEO: Life Stories and Lessons from Leaders Before They Reached the Top

Peter Vanham

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makes it worth buying. The book contains a collection of 20 stories from chief executive officers that have led very important global companies: Orit Gadiesh from Bain, Krisrsquo; Gopalakrishnan from Infosys and Paul Bulcke from Nestleacute;, among others. Throughout the book, Peter Vanham applies interesting filters to extract exclusive perspectives from these notable lives: adversity, serendipity, breaking free from tiesrsquo;, role modelling. Being an expatriate himself, the author uses his voice to raise questions that appeal to those that share his own experience of working abroad. And his answers are encouraging for this audience as he highlights the still worthy pursuit of the American dream, the strong work ethic of the immigrant workforce and the deep need to expose ourselves to multiple cultures as key traits for those that desire to reach the top of today's organizations. Strangely, he argues that reaching these top positions in the future shouldnrsquo;t trump the joy of loving what you do, doing it well and gaining the trust of those around you. Being happy and reaching a balanced life are also important in his view. As he demonstrates in his recollection of these profiles that the story of your country of birth may also be your own, he also uses the examples of these global leaders to encourage ambitious individuals in their professional journeys, all this without norming behaviors or repeating clichacute;s that are too often found in self-help books. This is an enjoyable reading, promoting reflection on your own learned lessons for life and recognizing the untamable forces of chance and time over our paths.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting insightsBy Paul MM VermeulenI read the book in stages because it was a bit long, meaning the same type of stories per segment. In the end I appreciated the insight highlighted in this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An amazing and inspiring readBy CustomerThis book shows that there's no clear path to CEO by telling the story of a set of CEOs with different backgrounds and career/life paths. An amazing and inspiring read!

Have you always known what you wanted to be in life? What are some "watershed moments" that made you who you are? When did you get on track to become a successful CEO? It started with three questions at Davos. The younger Peter Vanham looked to the answers from the elite leaders he asked to validate his own career choice, and the rich, private wisdom he received revealed more about building a career than he'd found anywhere else. He shares it all with you in *Before I Was CEO*. For everyone who lays awake at night wondering if they're heading up or down the corporate ladder, this collection of personal stories from a remarkable group of the most accomplished men and women in business today proves everyone can put themselves in the C-suite by taking a variety of different pathsdash;itrsquo;s all how you do it. Some found opportunity through adversity and others came by their big-break moments through serendipity. A group of them walked away from corporate life and lived in other ways and all of them made calculated moves to advance their careers. In their own words, read how it all unfolded, the tough decisions they wrestled, the risks and rewards they saw, and how it all came together. You donrsquo;t need a royal pedigree or Ivy League education to reach the top as long as you: bull; Value family, leave home, and make informed decisions based on your dreams bull; Take the first thirty-five years of your life to discover what yoursquo;re interested in and donrsquo;t rush to be a CEO nbsp;bull; Strategically deal with failure, remember the lessons you learned, and adapt to situations you canrsquo;t change You arenrsquo;t the first person to be at the crossroads yoursquo;re standing in, and with the motivating and instructive stories in *Before I Was CEO*, you may be answering a young journalistrsquo;s questions at Davos one day.

From the Inside FlapIt started with three questions at Davos. Have you always known what you wanted to be in life? What are some "watershed moments" that made you who you are? When did you get on track to become a successful CEO? Peter Vanham looked to the answers from the elite leaders he asked to validate his own career choice, and the rich, private wisdom he received revealed more about building a career than he'd found anywhere else. He shares it all with you in *Before I Was CEO*. For everyone who lays awake at night wondering if they're heading up or down the corporate ladder, this collection of personal stories from a remarkable group of the most accomplished men and women in business today proves everyone can put themselves in the C-suite by taking a variety of different pathsdash;it's all how you do it. Some found opportunity through adversity and others came by their big-break moments through serendipity. A group of them walked away from corporate life and lived in other ways and others made calculated moves to advance their careers. In their own words, read how it all unfolded, the tough decisions they wrestled, the risks and rewards they saw, and how it all came together. You don't need a royal pedigree or Ivy League education to reach the top as long as you: Spread your wings, value family, and make informed decisions based on your dreams Take the first thirty-five years of your life to discover what you're interested in and don't rush to be a CEO Strategically deal with failure, remember the lessons you learned, and adapt to situations you can't change You aren't the first person to be at the crossroads you're standing in, and with the motivating and instructive stories in *Before I Was CEO*, you may find answers to chart your own path in life and career.From the Back CoverPraise for *Before I Was CEO* "A much-needed reminder that successful careers are full of twists and turnsdash;and that people who lead most effectively aren't always the ones with the burning desire for power."mdash;Adam Grant, Wharton professor and New York Times bestselling author of *Originals* and *Give and Take* "At last, some in-depth reporting that explains how and why people really got ahead, rather than the over-simplified platitudes that make up most

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About the Author PETER VANHAM is a business writer and media strategist. He is the U.S. media lead and a global leadership fellow at the World Economic Forum, as well as a contributor to Financial Times, Business Insider, and Forbes. Prior to working in media, he was a management consultant at Bain Company in Brussels. He holds an M.A. in Business Economics from Columbia Journalism School and an M.S. in Commercial Engineering from the University of Leuven.