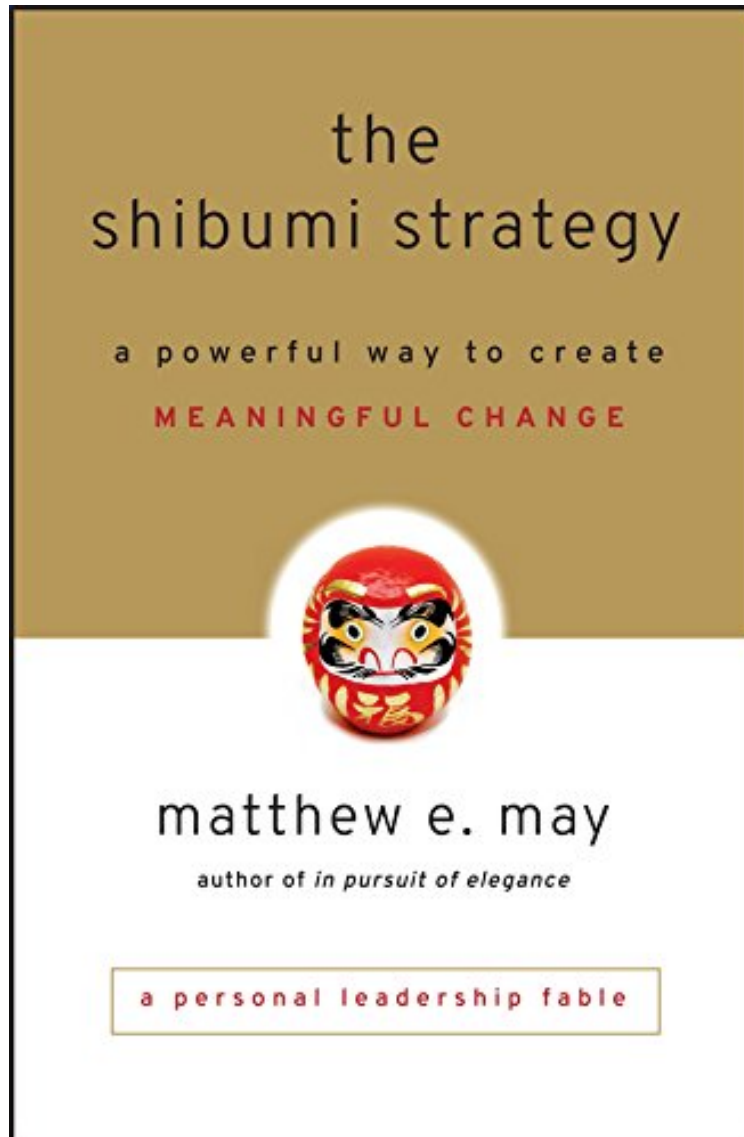


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The Shibumi Strategy: A Powerful Way to Create Meaningful Change

Matthew E. May

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Matthew E. May : The Shibumi Strategy: A Powerful Way to Create Meaningful Change before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shibumi Strategy: A Powerful Way to Create Meaningful Change:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. The Path to Calm CompetenceBy Robert I. SuttonI am one not a Zen or touchy-feely guy, so I began reading this book with considerable skepticism. But once I got past the first page or two, I was hooked, the story is great, it feels authentic and emotionally compelling, and as it unfolds it teaches you

how to apply the Zen mindset and concepts to be more effective at what you do, more patient, to avoid pushing too hard, to keep pressing forward during tough times, and always, to chip away at small wins. It is nothing like a typical business book, and as a result, far more fun, satisfying, and useful than most other business books. It is a bit like Randy Komisar's *The Monk and the Riddle*, which is a great book that sold a lot, but it is even better and I think even more useful for most of us.

Bob Sutton, Stanford Professor and author of *Good Boss, Bad Boss* 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy to read and insightful little business novel with Lean influences

By Bas Vodde

The *Shibumi Strategy* is a little business novel with a strong Japanese and Lean influence (coming from the authors' years of work with Toyota). The novel is about finding your way and achieving *Shibumi*, which doesn't have a good translation but roughly translates to flow or perfection (according to the author). The story is about Andy who is a sales manager in a company in a small city in the US. His company decides to move the work to another location and hence everyone who worked there is laid off. The city is a small city however and there aren't much jobs available. Andy needs to decide whether to stay and find a new job or move back to the city. He decides to stay and applies to a job for a car dealer (as a car salesman). He has never worked as a car salesman before and will need to prove himself in this new job. He is out of balance, will Andy find his balance again? (I won't share the end of the story).

The *Shibumi* strategy is a well-written and engaging small novel. It is only about 140 pages, so it is a quick read (and a worthy read). I enjoyed reading it a lot and would recommend it, especially when you like the business novel genre. I didn't find it perfect and didn't like it as much as e.g. *The Lean Manger* (from Balle and Balle). There was also at times a bit too much Japanese terms being used with little description or explanation of its in-depth meaning. Still, worth reading!

4 stars. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The story format is a wonderful vehicle for the personal Zen principles that the character ...

By Mack Cheryl

Small book brimming with potentially life-changing ideas. The story format is a wonderful vehicle for the personal Zen principles that the character is shown as he needs them. A nice hero's journey with astounding change in store. Many books that purport to teach Eastern philosophic principles are dry as dust, but this little package of dynamite is the exception. Highly readable, illuminating, and I believe will be very helpful for beginning my own journey.

Gold Medal Winner, Business Fable, 2012 Axiom Business Book Awards

A personal leadership fable on applying principles of Zen to work-life choices. The *Shibumi Strategy* is a little book about a big breakthrough. It tells the story of a hardworking family man who finds himself in crisis when his company closes. Through his struggle, and guidance from unlikely sources, he learns subtle lessons in the form of "personal zen" principles, coming to understand that it is often the involuntary challenge, the setbacks, that harbor the power to transform. When approached as an opportunity — no easy task when simple survival is the first order of business — unforeseen trials can sometimes result in an altogether new lease on life. Shows how "personal leadership" can lead to real (and not always easy) breakthroughs. Includes key lessons on commitment, preparation, struggle, breakthrough, and transformation. Is based on *Shibumi*, a Japanese word without literal definition that describes the height of personal excellence, elegant performance, and effortless effectiveness.

For those struggling with personal breakthroughs, *The Shibumi Strategy* offers a new way to face work and life challenges for balanced solutions.