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What we mean when we talk about leadership

Stuart Crainer, Des Dearlove

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Stuart Crainer, Des Dearlove : What we mean when we talk about leadership before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What we mean when we talk about leadership:

Business journalists Stuart Crainer and Des Dearlove have interviewed hundreds of leaders from all parts of the world during the last 25 years. Some of these leaders are entrepreneurs just setting out on a commercial adventure. Others are experienced C-suite veterans, leaders who had lived through the ups and downs of corporate life. Still others are drawn

from NGOs, charities and social enterprises. They have grilled sports people, leaders from the medical profession, executive coaches, academic thought leaders and classrooms filled with ferociously bright and competitive MBA students all intent on becoming leaders, all to discover what we mean when we talk about leadership. It's clear from these scores of encounters, conversations and interviews that humility rather than heroism lies at the heart of really effective and inspiring leadership. The best leaders are often brilliantly ordinary, while their results are defiantly extraordinary. Indeed there is often a reverse correlation between the willingness of people to talk about leadership and the greatness of their leadership. The unquestionably great leaders tend to downplay the reality of their leadership. They get on with it, give credit to their colleagues and teams; and proceed with purpose. This extraordinariness as well as the ordinariness is compellingly captured in *What We Mean When We Talk About Leadership*. Here you will discover: How leaders build things; The behaviours of great leaders; How leaders thrive on ambiguity and much, much more, including why great leaders wear cardigans. *What We Mean When We Talk About Leadership* is a smorgasbord of leadership rather than neatly compartmentalized. Crainer and Dearlove conclude that leaders defy overly neat categorization. *What We Mean When We Talk About Leadership* provides accessible, pithy inspiration for all those who practice and experience leadership and, one way or another, this applies to nearly all of us.

About the Author Des Dearlove is a co-founder of Thinkers50, the original global ranking of business thought leaders. He has been described by *Personnel Today* as one of the most influential people in British people management. Stuart is an adjunct professor at IE Business School in Madrid and a former *Times* columnist. Des is an associate fellow of Saïd Business School at Oxford University and author of a bestselling study of the leadership style of Richard Branson. Stuart Crainer is a co-founder of Thinkers50, the original global ranking of business thought leaders. He has been described by *Personnel Today* as one of the most influential people in British people management. Stuart is an adjunct professor at IE Business School in Madrid and a former *Times* columnist and editor of the bestselling *Financial Times Handbook of Management*. Stuart was editor of the award winning *Business Strategy* for 15 years.