

# *Getting to Maybe*

## Student BOOK REVIEW

from literature seminar

### **Group 1:**

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Compilation:

### **Chapter 1: First light of the evening**

- Look at cryptic title
- o Symbolic of a new beginning or fresh start
- o Beginning of new movement, new idea
- o Various ways change can be started or movement
- o Different methods to be used to solve problem in new way
- o HIV/AIDS problem (Africa use fear, scare campaigns)
- o Brasil – made it humorous – worked really well
- Young people felt invincible
- Changed method and message and made it more effective
- o Don't get stuck in old ways of operating, always new ways to do it

### **Chapter 3: Stand still**

- Reflecting and being aware of your surroundings to understand fully what's going on around you
- Being open to change
- How poem demonstrates world interacts with factors around it
- Interact with surroundings, be resilient to change
- Power of observing complex systems
- Make well informed decisions and actions that address problems at hand
- Observing and taking action
- Mico lending institution – Grameen Bank
- o Bangladesh famine and effect on poor households
- o Looking at pattern – poverty trap of borrowing money
- o Observing the system
- o Saw need for micro lending institution without demand for collateral so that credit could be built
- Importance of being aware of your surroundings – knowing time of taking action comes with being aware of what's going on around you

### **Chapter 4: Powerful strangers**

- Can reside outside or inside of us
- Inside of us – part of us that resists change
- Outside – people that hold power and resources (energy, time and money) that resist change
- Important to learn power relationships within society and the system – to deal with it
- Develop communication with people that hold resources
- To learn from each other to reach an agreement
- AIDS example
- o How it started out as a protest, network to get more change

- Appeal to medical and insurance, political fields – finding common ground with powerful strangers

### **Chapter 6:**

- Reality check testing
- Confronting examples of Rwandan genocide and how failure is a reality
- Cold heaven represents the calm before the storm
- Highlights lack of collectiveness
- Failure it's a good thing, makes you stop and think about what is real and calls the need for evaluation
- Social innovation is an ongoing process of experimentation, learning and adaptation
- Hell is not failing, hell is delusion
- Also highlighted the need of social and psychological support, successes are rare – don't stop people from trying new things

### **Chapter 7: when hope and history rhyme**

- Same in chapter 3 – timing has to be right so that movement gets popularity and momentum
- Gets publicity through media, always going to be changes (good or bad)
- Idea of movement – it can change, persons can turn into greedy
- Want more power
- Personal responsibility for the movements, avoid feeling epic failures
- Chapter: landscape – don't know what's behind the first hill, when you reach the last one, previous hills may have changed

### **General reflection:**

- Calling people to action
  - Living the gospel
  - Vague / wishy washy
  - A bit idealistic
  - Not a social person, how do you do it – if you don't have your own ideas
  - Emphasis on positive examples and change – small movements are successful
  - Massive grassroots approach
  - Small to large
  - Bottom up
  - Didn't use anything from their own personal experiences
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## Group 2:

Isabell Haraldsson, Gustaf Bowin, Amna Salaheldin, Ludvig Stendahl, Connor Wålinder, Alekski Tuominen, Hung-Ta Yen

### Ch2

Trying to figure out ways to deepened understanding of the system and the causes of the problem.

Self-reflection and revelation is very important to understand the situation of why does it happen, and also to bring up awareness among people.

### Ch3

The importance of reflection that it shouldn't be a luxury. You are doing a lot of progress but in a slow path. Adaption and observation were taken to be more likely to create change and live with it.

Taking time to stand still (observe what's happening) and look which way to want to go forward. the importance of timing, knowing when to stand still and knowing when to move forward.

Disagreement: The idea of "everyone can make change happen" is emphasized in the book while giving all kinds of skills that's require to create change. which means not everyone can fulfill and possess this kind of characteristics

### Ch4

Strangers in this chapter refer to the most powerful stakeholder. The importance to build connection with these powerful strangers to understand the challenges and provide resources at the same time. "Anyone who wishes to transform a system has to unlock resources claimed by the status quo." To succeed, one must gather resources from others, which are the powerful strangers.

Another powerful stranger is ourselves, sometimes we are the very cause of the problem that we want to solve. Therefore, we need to be courageous enough to admit it and understand that the first step is to change ourselves. Then you need to understand the importance to influence others to provide needed power/resources to enable the process of social innovation.

### Ch6 cold heaven

The genocide example that talks about bad time will be possible, for example when you feel stuck and not going to move anywhere, you don't see the way out. You have to be prepare for the moment.

**Group 3:** Names: Rojin Pertow, Fran Pennynck, Malin Olsson, Tse-Sheng Lu, Cléa Rouire, Lotta Hallnäs, Hanna Riese

Most important findings from "Getting to maybe"

Book overview

Chapter 3 "Standing still"

\*Importance of observing and reflecting on your surroundings and the details in it and tune in on your feelings and instincts

\*Grasp as much of the pattern that as needed to act on it

Chapter 4 "Powerful strangers"

\*The importance of connecting with people in power and have and develop networks

\*We can all be powerful strangers to others

Chapter 5 "Let it you find you"

\*The idea of flow(current of positive energy) and the flow group dynamics can bring about if you let it come about

\*Sometimes you should be a follower instead of a leader

Chapter 6: "Cold heaven"

\*Sometimes you fail even when you do your best and it can have delusional and discouraging effects.

\*People need to take care of and support and create a comfort environment for social innovators.

Chapter 7 "When hope and history rhyme"

\*Social innovation can be boosted by the social and political context

\*Social innovators need to adapt and be open to adjusting their way of change since society is in constant change

\*A social innovator should not solely take responsibility for success and failure

Summary

To sum up, Getting to maybe is an inspirational book that provides hope and a positive feeling of that change is possible.

**Group 4:** From Kimberley Lamev, Thomas Elwing, Birgitta Sjudell, Samuel Vrede, Georgia Donati Clarke, Khaled Alhafez and Claire Kieger.

### 1. **The First Light of evening**

- People do not need a lot of money, education or resources to be able to have a positive impact, all it takes is a person deciding something must be done about a problem and acting on it.

### 2. **Getting to Maybe**

- Gang violence. Look at similarity between people, not differences. Why are they acting as they are? Others have gone through different experiences & situations that have led them to certain behaviours.

- Leave your comfort zone. Do not hold assumptions. Try to change your perspective.

### 3. **Stand Still**

- Need to stop, think and reflect during the change. Consider what you're doing and the affect you are having.

### 4. **The Powerful Strangers**

- Find the power within. Struggle within ourselves to harness our own power.

- You don't always know who has the power, it's important to reflect on who has the power.

- It's not always the people with less power that can learn from the people with more power - it goes in both directions.

- We have to make connections. Grassroot innovations include the powerful structure is the next step in the social innovation.

- speak the language of the people in power. By connecting yourself with power, you yourself gain power. Who you know and the connections make are important.

### 5. **Let is Find You**

- Be flexible & open to changing what you planned out.

### 6. **Cold Heaven**

- You have to be realistic to see what happens. You should evaluate what happens.

- Failure is not necessarily something bad, you should foremost learn from it to evaluate why you failed and what you can do better next time.

- You may have failed at your initial goal, but if you learned something it's not entirely a failure. Failure can open up to success. "The only failure is the failure not to learn"

### 7. **When Hope and History Rhyme**

### 8. **The Door Opens**

- "door" – constantly opening infinite possibilities & opportunities, you don't know what to choose. There are positives and negatives.

- "the door makes no promises, it is only a door" – it's an opportunity it is wht you make of it. You can shape it to be what you need.

- Are you missing opportunities or are they not the right opportunities,

- When you are in a project there are consequences of the doors you chose that you may not realise before you go there –this can have positive or negative impacts.

**Group 5:** Cassandra Kenning, Jacqueline Louw, Diana Diaz, Sabine Herms, Hannah Evensen, David Cileg, Jon Hugmark

### **Chapter 1: The first light of the evening**

Story about a musician, ordinary man, who came up with the idea of doing a live aid thing on TV so people could contribute to raise money for the famine in Africa. He is an example of how you don't have to be an expert or rich or famous to affect change. He used the resources he had to make a difference.

### **Chapter 2: Getting to Maybe**

You may want to do something but you don't know how e.g. reducing violence in Boston. Jeff Brown initially preached, realised it wasn't working. Then it reached a tipping point where everyone came together and realised that something needed to be done. You are never alone when fighting for change, it just takes collaboration and sharing of interests. "Evaluation, almost always scary has become a barrier to social innovation." Scepticism is also a major barrier to social innovation. You can't ignore a calling, you are not alone.

### **Chapter 3: Stand Still**

About the importance of not rushing on in your change process. From time to time you must stand still to reflect and analyse, look forward and back. You must evaluate your feelings and what is going on around you. It isn't good to be rigid but you also can't abandon your position, resilience is key.

Experiencing a massive change doesn't mean you have to lose integrity in the change process. We must practice to reflect on our own actions, and the structures around us.

### **Chapter 4: The powerful stranger**

Power can often seem like a barrier to change happening. It is very important to be open and able to identify the power barriers in order to make change happen. Identifying those powers can be difficult as it is not always predictable who holds the power. We must also recognise the 'inner stranger' that fights against us when we try to make the change happen.

Harnessing other resources and powerful individuals and corporations can be an important part of making change happen.

### **Chapter 5: Let it find you**

### **Chapter 6: Cold Heaven**

In order to have change, one should not fear failure but rather learn from it. In order to overcome this fear of failure, we should learn both from failure and success. Compassion, resilience, and adaptiveness are all key parts of moving forward. "The only lasting failure, is the failure to learn and the failure to apply that learning going forward." This all seems very nice that we should move forward, but if this was as easy as the book seems to state then this would be happening all the time and change wouldn't be a problem. The book may be a bit more idealistic in this sense.

The book could potentially have focused a bit more on failures and realistic examples. The book may have been a bit more idealistic about the change process.