

Introduction

The best way to teach people is by telling a story.
- Ken Blanchard

It's a twister! In one magical moment, our black-and-white business world has been transformed into a marvelous land of vibrant colors. Everything looks upbeat, more alive. Yet every day we come upon employees that possess brains of straw, have a rusted heart, and lack the nerve, and even worse, those ineffective leaders and wicked managers with bottom line-driven decisions and self-centered motivations. Traveling down the yellow brick road, we miss the memories of the gray home we left behind.

Inspired by the enchanting story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, this parable is about how each one of us can emerge as a marvelous leader in the bright new land. No crystal ball can reveal the answers for us. Answers can only be found within ourselves.

There are thousands of leadership books out there. We wanted to create one that was fun to read and that employees at every level of an organization could relate to. So, pack your bags and travel along the yellow brick road to discover for yourself the hidden secrets of marvelous leadership. We encourage you to assess your leadership practices using the checklist provided at the end of each chapter!

We hope this book will serve as a navigational blueprint for you to find the wisdom, compassion and courage to return to the land you love. Because at the end of the day, there's no place like home!