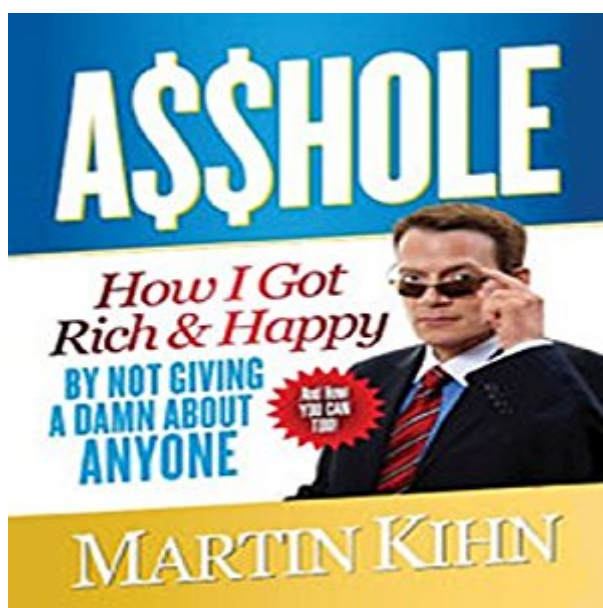


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# Asshole: How I Got Rich & Happy By Not Giving A Damn About Anyone & How You Can, Too



## Synopsis

Nice guys, pushovers, soft-touches and suckers: Tired of being walked all over? When the waiter brings you something you didn't order, do you assume he knows best? Are you ready to demand the respect you deserve? Martin Kihn doesn't care what your answers are, because of course you need this book. Watch and learn as this one-time softy transforms himself into a lean, mean a-hole machine. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

but it didn't with me. I bought it on a recommendation and read it right away. The message that you can't worry about what others think is offered in a more positive, authentic, and effective way by authors such as Brené Brown (Daring Greatly). By contrast, Kihn walks you through all the issues he had with his jerk of a boss and then, in what seems like a collapse after all that buildup, clues you in: *Illegitimi non carborundum* (synthetic Latin for "Don't let the bastards wear you down"). Maybe that's the key to becoming rich and happy, but I can at least help you start out a little richer: save yourself the expense of buying this book.

Martin Kihn didn't set out to write the next *War and Peace*, but that didn't stop him from lavishing some real care on the writing and character of this book. I read plenty of heavy stuff and this looked like it would be a nice book to read as a light-hearted breather. I got that, but I got more too. The concept of Kihn's book is inherently attractive to anyone who's ever felt like they're being taken advantage of because they're just too nice. Kihn had that feeling and decided to do something

about it by making himself into this book's title character. That's the first thing that sets this book apart from a typical farce, it taps into an anxiety that is all too familiar for a lot of us. The second thing that makes this book a lot better than it might have been is how carefully Kihn cultivates a sense of going on an existential journey. He hires guides and advisers, finally stumbling upon an acting coach as his most successful "guru." As you read, you pick up on subtle changes in tone as Kihn transforms himself from Beta male to the not-so-kind leader of the pack. Kihn packs the book with one funny scenario and description after another, but he always holds onto the core philosophical question about whether nice guys do really finish last. To find out the answer, you'll just have to read the book. It's Kihn's ability to successfully marry the shallow with the deep that lifts this book above its station. So why just four stars? Well, it's still a book about attempting to be a jerk to make your life better. We have to leave some room for War and Peace. Recommended for anyone looking for a light and funny read with a soul who can handle a generous helping of vulgarity along the way.

At first, I thought this was a real account of someone's journey, it seemed written that way. Over the top and funny, I realized it was fictional half way through. A very different, interesting, and refreshing read. Glad I picked it up.

This book is just plain fun. From the title, you may get the wrong impression but I can tell you, it'd be really hard to read this book and not really sympathize with the author. Basically, he's a little bit of all of us. He's a down to Earth guy who plays by the rules and has a good heart. Even when he outlines his rules of being an asshole, he won't for instance cheat on his wife. He says it's because he's afraid of retaliation, but read through the book and you'll no doubt see that's not the case at all - he truly loves his wife and considers her his closest friend. But such sentiment doesn't jibe with the image of being an asshole that he's trying to create. Going through the book, you find a guy that loves his wife, loves dogs, cares about the 'little' people, and constantly goes out of his way to be a decent human being. He mentions this as proof of how he always gets pushed around and beaten down, but his 'miserable' life is one that few people could keep from envying (Loving attractive wife, Vice President of his company, liked by all of his employees, a really awesome dog etc etc) The jerks in the book that he aspires to become are so utterly loathsome (As bad as "Nemesis" is, the short bald guy in the rental car line is the worst) that it's clear he could never truly be like any of them. But as he transforms, he really is funny and entertaining. And even after he becomes a full fledged asshole, well, I don't think it really worked. It's a really funny book and one that I think pretty much anyone can relate to. Throughout it, he's showing that even though assholes seem to win so

often, they really don't.

I've always found that line between self-help books and all-out down and dirty manipulation terribly entertaining. Martin Kihn's book exposes this quite well in a humorous tale of his own slightly misguided quest for self-improvement.

You know how this ends by page 50 or, rather you hope you do. No spoilers here but Kihn once again describes situations that many of us consultants occasionally find ourselves in. The fact that he can laugh about them and make us laugh about them as well is what keeps us coming back. Hell, it's sometimes what gives me the strength to stop screaming in my parked car and actually go into my office! Thanks Marty!

I don't remember when was the last time I laughed so much while reading a book but I can truly say that Martin nailed it. Being such a nice woman myself, I couldn't help but resonate with Marty's character. Safe to say half the things Marty did, I've done myself. LOL, but the internal dialogs are spot on. I enjoyed every moment of the book.

This is a well-told story of self-improvement that seems unintentionally funny, but is thoroughly entertaining. It can be in the self-help section, the business section, or the humor section of the bookstore. It helped me laugh, unwind, and learn a few things along the way.

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