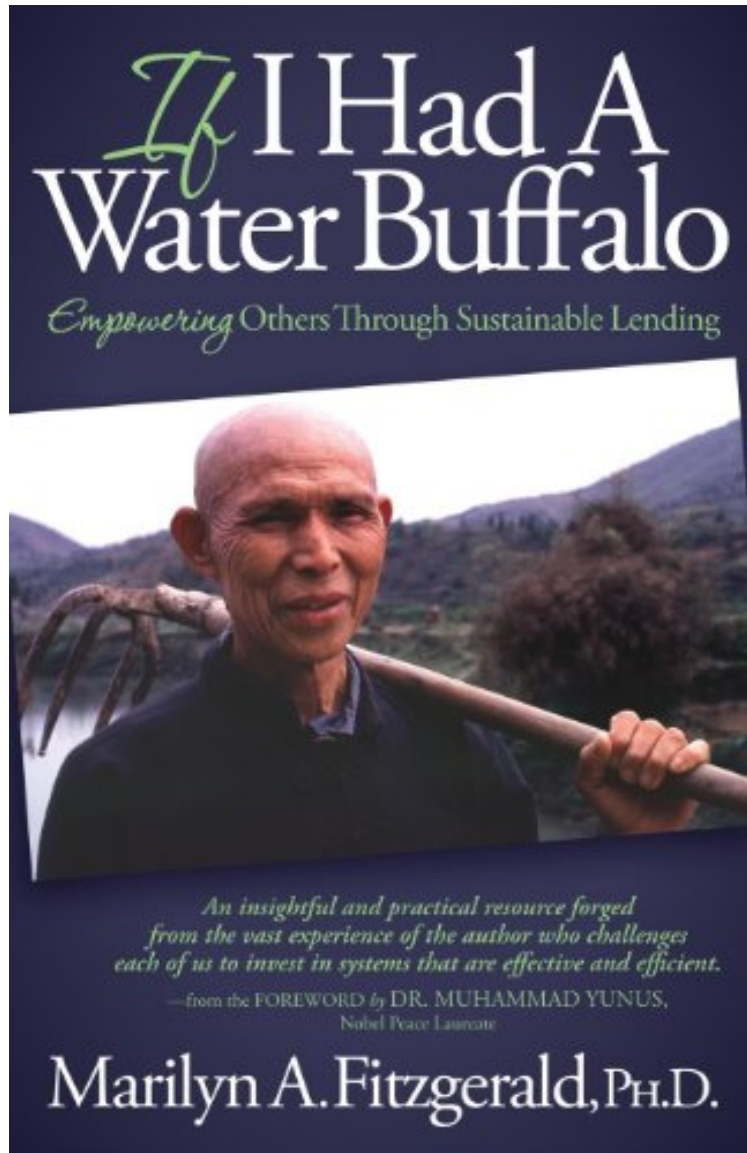


If I Had A Water Buffalo: How To Microfinance Sustainable Futures

Marilyn A. Fitzgerald

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Marilyn A. Fitzgerald : If I Had A Water Buffalo: How To Microfinance Sustainable Futures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised If I Had A Water Buffalo: How To Microfinance Sustainable Futures:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must-read for humanitarian work By Chris Gerrib I'm reasonably sure somebody in my Rotary network referred this book to me, as the author has done a lot of humanitarian work with

Rotary. However I found it, I'm glad I did. This book makes a clear and convincing case for economic development as how to aid the Third World. It also lays out in detail how to think about such aid and make it effective. Highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Changes your thinking about charity By Tom Calabretta A compelling story that takes the reader through the process of raising money to help the disadvantaged without knowing what the actual needs of the people we are trying to help. Ms Fitzgerald takes the reader through all her steps toward bringing sustained solutions to indigent peoples. Anyone who wants to truly help others should read this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. excellent read for those involved or interested in getting involved in international development By Steven Solomon I have had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Marilyn Fitzgerald, an inspirational Rotarian, speak at various Rotary leadership trainings in Washington, California, Alaska and Illinois. Most recently I heard her address the staff of Rotary International at the world headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. She is a truly a Rotary rockstar which has led to countless invitations to speak around the world. She is dynamic, engaging and genuine speaker that mesmerizes audiences with her entertaining stories and valuable lessons learned as she travels the world. Dr. Fitzgerald's book *If I Had a Water Buffalo* is an excellent read for those involved or interested in getting involved in international development. She shares her story of how an impoverished Indonesian rice farmer taught her the significance of sustainable humanitarian aid projects. Learning through her own mistakes in the field, she discovered that the act of providing an economic opportunity rather than a hand-out which allowed others the dignity of self-determination and independence. Building chronic dependency on Rotary and/or other donors can cause harm to the people we are trying to help. Dr. Fitzgerald explores and tackles issues of dependency and the complexities of giving. She shares practical field lessons that incorporates the core values of The Rotary Foundation including our new Foundation grants to ensure that our funds live on to benefit future generations by wise investment in sustainable programs. Her book discusses the successes and shortcomings, as well as methods and strategies to increase effectiveness, sustainability, resilience and prosperity. From the villages of Indonesia, to Eastern Europe, and South American cities and remote villages in Bangladesh, Dr. Fitzgerald's vast experience working as a conduit between donors and recipients provides a unique opportunity for her to observe and focus on ways to attain lasting outcomes for people around the globe who seek a better tomorrow. She has an appreciation for the people she is working with that includes a respect for their knowledge and cultural traditions. Most of all, I admire her honesty and ability to inspire others to make the world a better place through international development. Thank you Dr. Fitzgerald for writing this book and for all the good you do in the world.

"*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" poignantly explores the critical difference in outcomes when offering a hand up rather than giving a handout. A seemingly simple request for a water buffalo by an impoverished rice farmer proves to be the catalyst for Dr. Fitzgerald's global and unending journey in search of a better way to meet the needs of people less fortunate. Woven with both triumph and tragedies, encompassing undertakings in Indonesia, Eastern Europe, South America, and Bangladesh; "*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" artfully lays out why the approach to helping those in need must incorporate the personal empowerment of the beneficiaries over charity often creating harmful dependency.

About the Author Marilyn A. Fitzgerald, Ph.D., is first and foremost a compassionate individual drawn to the needs of the less fortunate across the globe. As a result of her extensive fieldwork and research at the grassroots level of economic and community development, she has become a highly sought speaker, radio guest, and expert consultant in the areas of sustainability, stakeholder negotiations, microfinance and evaluation of project outcome maximization. Dr. Fitzgerald is a clinical psychologist in private practice and has also earned an MBA and president of Common Ground Solutions, LLC. consulting with various organizations.