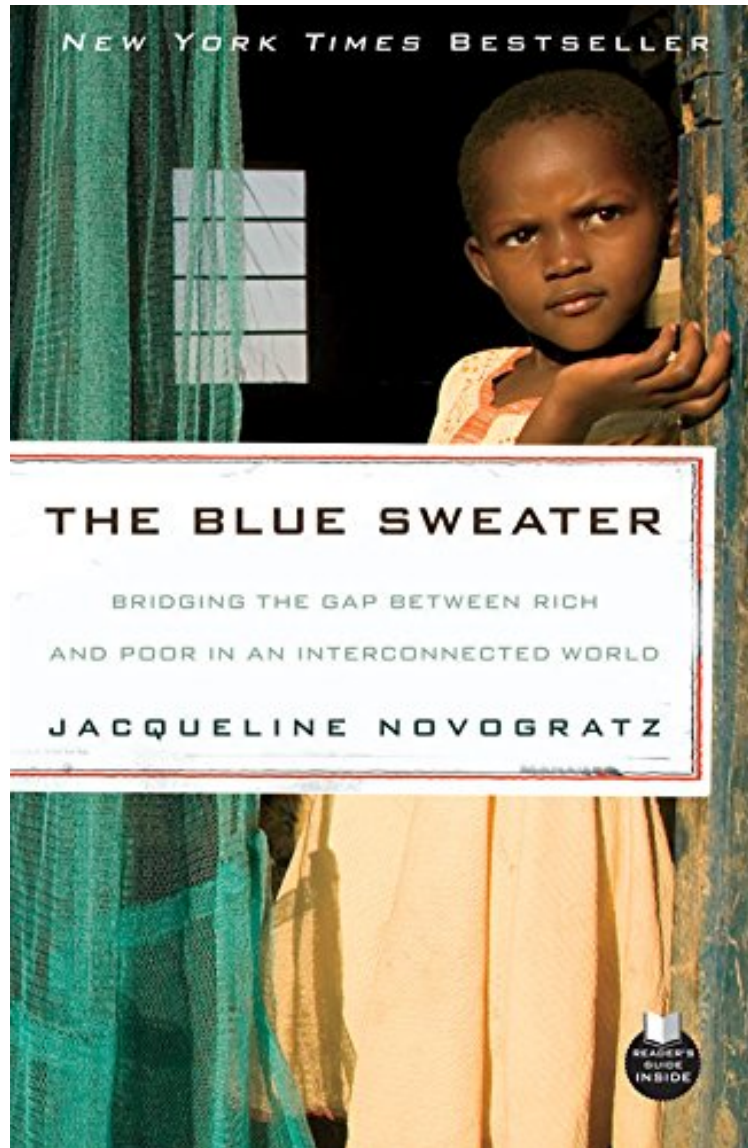


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The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World

Jacqueline Novogratz

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Jacqueline Novogratz : The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. as beautifully documented in this book By GeePop If you have a

passion to help in developing areas of the world this read will be of interest to you. What seems simple, that is to work with locals to develop self-sustaining entrepreneurial enterprises, is incredibly difficult. Results are long-range, back breakingly hard, but life-giving and life-changing in the process, as beautifully documented in this book. Sensitive, honest, humorous, and poignant. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An inspiring story for modern systemic change leaders By Alexandre L'Heureux Novogratz tells us a powerful story from which we learn the complexities of the modern world. A world in which both good and bad can exist within the same person, project or organization. The world needs more than humanitarian she says. The world need people with both strong target skills and a soft heart. The world needs to start thinking about the poor as customers, because as they say "the customer is always right". It's about time we start listening to the forgotten poor customers. Novogratz delivers in this book an amazing story, both emotional and rational, which will inspire all modern leaders who desire to create change. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. How granting microloans to poor women doughnut bakers can break the cycle of poverty By Robert Tsai This personal story of an entrepreneur's journey from working as a credit analyst on Wall Street to lending microloans to the poorest women bakers in Rwanda should force everyone to ask themselves what they are doing to make this world a better place. You feel transported to Africa, and can almost smell the fried doughnuts that the bakers sell door to door to bring in the \$3 a day that is a fortune in Kigali. The pride of making an honest day's wage is universal - and it's uplifting to see the free markets working when the right model of entrepreneurship provides opportunity to people normally viewed as outcasts. Yet, we also hear firsthand accounts of the Rwanda genocide that shatters the peace and prosperity and also serves as a crushing reminder of the evil that lurks within some of us. What's even more saddening is that one of Ms. Novogratz's early partners turns out to become an inciter of violence and a war criminal. Instead, I choose to remember the inspirational stories of businesses providing social good on top of viable economic business models - of hospitals providing eye surgery for free to the poor while charging for those who can afford it, of weavers who manufacture nets laced with chemical insect propellants that prevent malaria, of irrigation equipment providers helping farmers improve the yield of their land, of real estate developers in Pakistan that provide the poor an opportunity to purchase and own their houses with simple and affordable mortgages (no subprime securitizations, or negative amortization time bombs, or CDOs!). As a result of reading this book, I've promised to myself to attend the NY chapter of Ms. Novogratz's Acumen Fund group to see how I can get involved. I've also just made a modest donation to the Acumen Fund, and I hope to continue giving in the future. Read this book. I hope it motivates and moves you as much as it did me.

The Blue Sweater is the inspiring story of a woman who left a career in international banking to spend her life on a quest to understand global poverty and find powerful new ways of tackling it. It all started back home in Virginia, with the blue sweater, a gift that quickly became her prized possession--until the day she outgrew it and gave it away to Goodwill. Eleven years later in Africa, she spotted a young boy wearing that very sweater, with her name still on the tag inside. That the sweater had made its trek all the way to Rwanda was ample evidence, she thought, of how we are all connected, how our actions--and inaction--touch people every day across the globe, people we may never know or meet. From her first stumbling efforts as a young idealist venturing forth in Africa to the creation of the trailblazing organization she runs today, Novogratz tells gripping stories with unforgettable characters--women dancing in a Nairobi slum, unwed mothers starting a bakery, courageous survivors of the Rwandan genocide, entrepreneurs building services for the poor against impossible odds. She shows, in ways both hilarious and heartbreaking, how traditional charity often fails, but how a new form of philanthropic investing called "patient capital" can help make people self-sufficient and can change millions of lives. More than just an autobiography or a how-to guide to addressing poverty, The Blue Sweater is a call to action that challenges us to grant dignity to the poor and to rethink our engagement with the world.

From Publishers Weekly Novogratz combined her twin passions for banking and philanthropy after she left a lucrative corporate banking position to work with women's groups in microfinance, the pioneering banking strategy that won Muhammad Yunus a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. Her work merging market systems with development and social empowerment led her to create the Acumen Fund for entrepreneurs in developing nations, which she describes as the opposite of old-fashioned charity. Novogratz also focuses on her own developmental path as she charts her evolving views of capitalism and how she will change the world. Unfortunately, she stumbles when she strays into biographical territory, relying on cliché to bolster her professional decisions through a personal lens. The book is most interesting when it touches on the difficult decisions that Novogratz and her team must make about financial empowerment--should they charge interest on loans to poor women? can working women find acceptance in a patriarchal society?--but these dilemmas are facily glossed, keeping the book in an uncomfortable limbo between a personal narrative and a primer on globalization. (Feb.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Acumen Fund founder Novogratz blends two narratives in this memoir about her years fighting global poverty. In one thread, she recounts her early experiences in Africa developing microfinance organizations to assist women. Many of her reminiscences focus on

relationships with the local women in government who were key to her success as well as the personal trials she encountered matching her Western vision with their ideas about the future. She also writes about later work in India and Pakistan. The other thread focuses on her return to Rwanda after the genocide. Although her inside view of global poverty initiatives and politics at the most basic level makes for interesting reading, her personal story intrudes in a manner that some readers may find self-serving. Her reflections on the genocide also detract from the economic discussion in India and Pakistan, rendering the book more Rwanda-centric (and thus more political) than she may have intended. In the end, Novogratz does provide enough information on microfinance to make readers curious to learn more. --Colleen Mondor "This is a wonderful book by a remarkable woman. It's a story about doing enormous good while having some extraordinary experiences and even adventures. It touches the heart and the mind. I recommend it to anyone who wants to learn about what's really going on in the world out there." --Fareed Zakaria, Author of *The Post-American World* and editor of *Newsweek International* "The decency of Jacqueline Novogratz shines through these pages and so does her strength. The stories she shares about the people she has met show the nobility of the human spirit and the breadth of the desire to stop suffering, to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, to empower the poor - in short, to make the world a better place. *The Blue Sweater* is a book of hope written by a practical idealist who won't take "no" for an answer when it comes to building a better world. Jacqueline breathes new life into the phrase "a life of meaning" and she is living one everyday even as she asks us to join her." --Senator Bill Bradley "The Blue Sweater will inspire people around the world by seeing the difference one person can make in taking on challenges with courage, curiosity, drive and a great sense of possibility. It is a story for all of us, regardless of the country in which we were born." --Mary Robinson, Chair of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative "Jacqueline's book and her work represent an entirely new way to look at things, a vivid opportunity for change and most of all, an obligation to spread the word about the way the world has evolved. We need to wake up and listen to what she has to say. Hurry!" --Seth Godin, author of *Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us* and *Purple Cow: Transform Your Business by Being Remarkable*