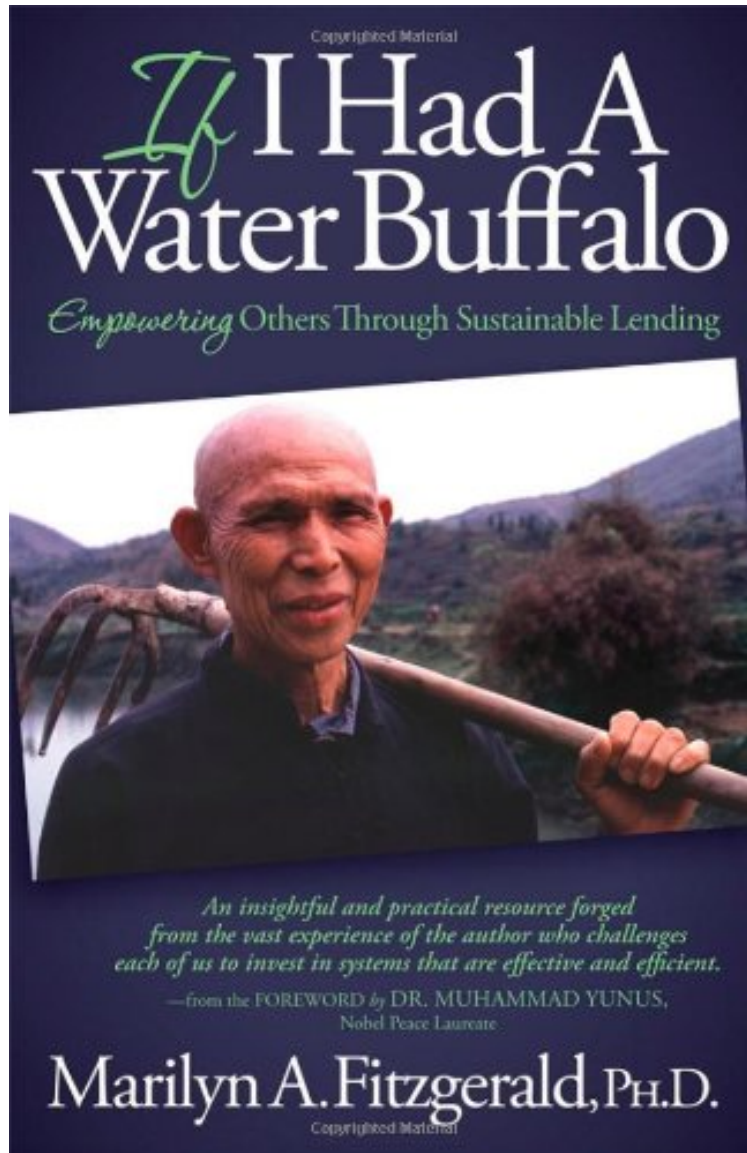


(Ebook pdf) If I Had A Water Buffalo: How To Microfinance Sustainable Futures

# 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 gauge 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.

Across the globe--from the remote villages and cities of Indonesia, Eastern Europe, South America, and Bangladesh--"*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" poignantly details an unending journey of discovery for Dr. Marilyn Fitzgerald. Her global efforts, working as a conduit between donors and recipients, provide an unparalleled opportunity to observe, learn from successes and failures, and ultimately focus on finding a better way. A way for those less fortunate that is not paved with uncertainty and dependency but rather built upon a foundation of voice, dignity, choice, empowerment, and a means to achieve self-sufficiency.

Divided into three parts, "*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" begins with both heartwarming and heart-wrenching stories of Dr. Fitzgerald's efforts to visit the international projects and then return home to face a never-ending cycle of soliciting the necessary funding or resources to support the projects and needs of individuals less fortunate. Individuals deprived of opportunities many take for granted but resolute in their determination to seek a better tomorrow for their families. One such individual's singular request for a water buffalo proved to be the catalyst that placed Dr. Fitzgerald on her path of discovery.

Presented in the remaining two parts of "*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" are the integration of Dr. Fitzgerald's academic efforts into the discovery process and concludes with lessons learned; lessons shared. A return to academic life, somewhat unexpected and an interruption to the straight forward path projected, proved to be a fortunate detour, providing a sharper focus on the destination and a smoother, straighter path to continue forward. Offered in Part Three are lessons learned; lessons shared, which represent not the end of the discovery process for Dr. Fitzgerald but merely a brief pause along the way.

Lessons shared in "*If I Had a Water Buffalo*" transcend their source and may be adopted by businesses, institutions, schools, parents and individuals seeking the best possible sustainable outcomes to life's situations.

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.