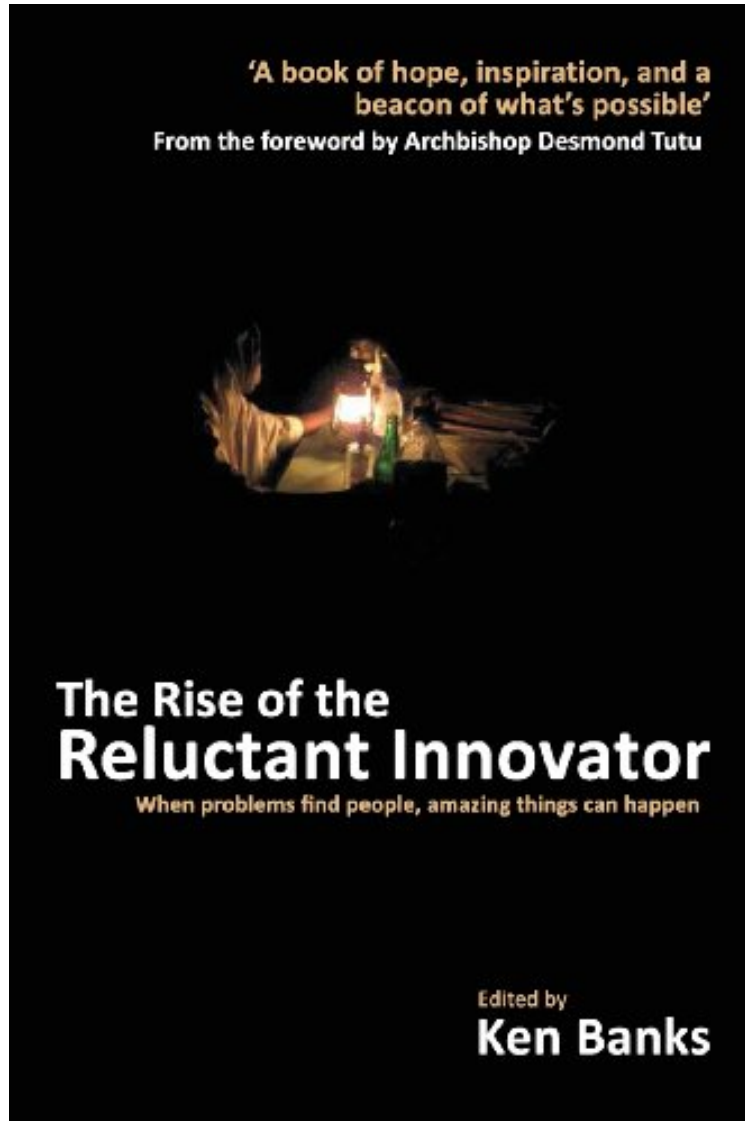


(Library ebook) The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator

## The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator

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**From London Publishing Partnership : The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thanks for a Great Book!By Jim KochThanks for a great book! My interdisciplinary class of upper division students at Santa Clara University really loved the Rise of the Reluctant Innovator. It introduced them to a world of possibilities for addressing seemingly intractable problems.No other book in the field captures the courage, imagination, unyielding commitment of social entrepreneurs in such an authentic

voice. The complex challenges and rich stories in *Reluctant Innovator* stimulated my Santa Clara students to examine how ideas, projects, and start-ups can "crack the code" to fostering systems change and creating a more just, sustainable, and equitable world for all people. Its pages are laced with heart and the realization that this is not an easy journey. Each week of my 10 week class began with a student presentation that analyzed the experience of a "reluctant innovator" from the point of view of the protagonist him or herself. These examples illustrate what it takes to succeed and, more important at times, how to fail. Students found these stories inspiring with the comment of one student in particular capturing the sentiment of peers, "changing the world for the better never felt more possible." As someone who has worked with hundreds of social ventures through the Global Social Benefit Incubator, the PopTech Social Innovation Fellows, the Tech Museum Awards, and the World Bank Development Marketplace, I found this book refreshing. In a field that is too often plagued by hubris and self-promotion, it provides an "authentic" voice for thinking about what is "doable," and for answering the questions. . . "why me, why now"? We owe a great debt of thanks to Ken Banks for being a beacon of compassion and humility. Jim Koch Senior Founding Fellow Center for Science, Technology, and Society Santa Clara University

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written and succinct. By D O T One of the best books you'll ever read. Great for sparking ideas and looking at another perspective towards what people do to help others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Immediately gripping By Sean Conrad I'm only 15 pages in to the book, and already there are fresh perspectives presented and fresh ideas percolating in my head. For example, in the book's first chapter, Ken presents a list of questions that one should consider asking and answering for themselves before venturing in to the world of social innovation - or, more accurately, before becoming a social innovator themselves. In many pursuits in life, this is one of the key challenges: finding your identity and your belief and your path. Feeling strong and secure enough to endure the hard times (because when you're off the well-trodden path, there will always be many). In my case, this book has played a part in leading me to that feeling, and that makes the book immediately worthwhile and a must-recommend for anyone finding themselves at a similar crossroads. (And to read the stories and lessons of 10 others who have gone through the same thing as I find myself considering? For me that's priceless.)

Classes in social innovation, social entrepreneurship and design thinking have become increasingly popular in recent years. On the one hand, this might be seen as a good thing. After all, the world needs as many smart, engaged citizens as it can get, particularly when you consider the multitude of challenges we face as a planet. But does a career in social change really begin in the classroom, or out in the real world? How much social change is planned, and how much accidental? And which approach tends to lead to the most meaningful, lasting or impactful solutions? With a foreword from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, *"The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator"* provides a welcome challenge to conventional wisdom in social entrepreneurship. It highlights the personal stories of ten social innovators from around the world. Ten social innovators - ordinary people - who randomly stumbled across problems, injustices and wrongs and, armed with little more than determination and belief, decided not to turn their backs but to dedicate their lives to solving them. Innovators featured in this book

Watching yet another Spanish movie in his friend's apartment to avoid writing up his doctoral dissertation, Brij Kothari makes a throwaway comment about subtitles, which plants the seed of an idea and spawns a literacy initiative that has had, in Bill Clinton's words, "a staggering impact on people's lives". Worried about the political turmoil in Kenya, and concerned at the lack of information that is forthcoming from his adoptive country, Erik Hersman mobilises his own five-strong army to conceive, create and launch a web-based facility that revolutionises how breaking news is disseminated worldwide. Parachuted into the middle of sub-Saharan Africa with a brief to collect public health data, and confronted with a laborious, environmentally wasteful paper-based system, paediatrician Joel Selanikio finds the perfect outlet for the skills he acquired as a Wall Street computer consultant. Intending to ground himself in the realities of global health during his internship in rural Malawi, Josh Nesbit discovers that it is hard to sit on the sidelines and soon finds himself proposing a solution to overcome the difficulty of connecting patients, community health workers and hospitals. After watching local doctors and midwives struggle to treat critically ill pregnant women in near-total darkness on a Nigerian maternity ward, where an untimely power cut can mean the difference between life and death, obstetrician Laura Stachel delivers a solar-based solution that enhances survival prospects. Observing how well the autistic son of a close friend responds to the therapeutic effects of a Chinese massage technique that she has advocated using, Louisa Silva is convinced that the treatment has the potential to benefit thousands of others, but she needs to prove it. Haunted by the memory of being separated from her older sister during a childhood spent in foster care, and horrified that other siblings are continuing to suffer the same fate, Lynn Price resolves to devise a way to bring such people back together. An unexpected conversation over dinner leads Priti Radhakrishnan to build an innovative new organisation with a mission to fight for the rights of people denied access to life saving medicines. Until a visit to the dermatologist turns her world upside down, Sharon Terry has never heard of pseudanthoma elasticum (PXE), but when she discovers that research into the disease afflicting her children is hidebound by scientific protocol, she sets about changing the system with characteristic zeal. Encounters and conversations with leftover people occupying leftover spaces and using leftover materials, at home and abroad, led architecture professor Wes Janz to view them as urban pioneers, not victims, and teach him a valuable lesson: think

small and listen to those at the sharp end.

'A book of hope, inspiration and a beacon of what's possible' - Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner  
'This book's vivid, engaging stories - of ordinary people who have devoted their lives to solving problems and injustices they never expected to encounter - make a major contribution to understanding what social innovation is all about. This is an inspiring and essential read for everyone who cares about our flawed, messy, beautiful world and believes in its myriad possibilities' - Hannah Bloch, Mission Projects Editor, National Geographic Magazine  
'The worlds most challenging problems are being taken on by people motivated by their personal passions, informed by their deep understanding of local realities and shaped by their frustration with inadequate solutions. Ken Banks and the other remarkable innovators here offer inspiration and insight into building practical solutions while calling into question established wisdom about social innovation. This is a must-read book for anyone who wants to solve problems with global implications through local knowledge and involvement' - Ethan Zuckerman, Director, Center for Civic Media at MIT  
'Why would anyone trade a life of comfort for the muddy boots of change-making? Ken Banks shows how global challenges trouble the waters of our conscience, and compel a new generation of innovators to action' - Andrew Zolli, Curator at PopTech  
From the Author  
Fuelled by the spread of the Internet and the ubiquity of mobile phones, there are more people working to solve pressing social and environmental problems in the world today than ever before in human history. For anyone wanting to join them, it is my hope that 'The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator' will show the way, or at least one way, and prove that the only qualifications you need to change the world are a little faith, hope and determination.  
About the Author  
Ken Banks, Founder of [kiwanja.net](http://kiwanja.net) and [FrontlineSMS](http://FrontlineSMS), devotes himself to the application of mobile technology for positive social and environmental change in the developing world. He has worked at the intersection of technology, anthropology, conservation and development for the past twenty years and, during that time, has lived and worked across the African continent. He is a PopTech Fellow, a Tech Awards Laureate, an Ashoka Fellow and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and has been internationally recognised for his work. Ken is also a published author, with his first edited book, "The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator", released in late 2013. His latest project, *Means of Exchange*, looks at how everyday technologies can be used to democratise opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, rebuild local community and promote a return to local resource use.