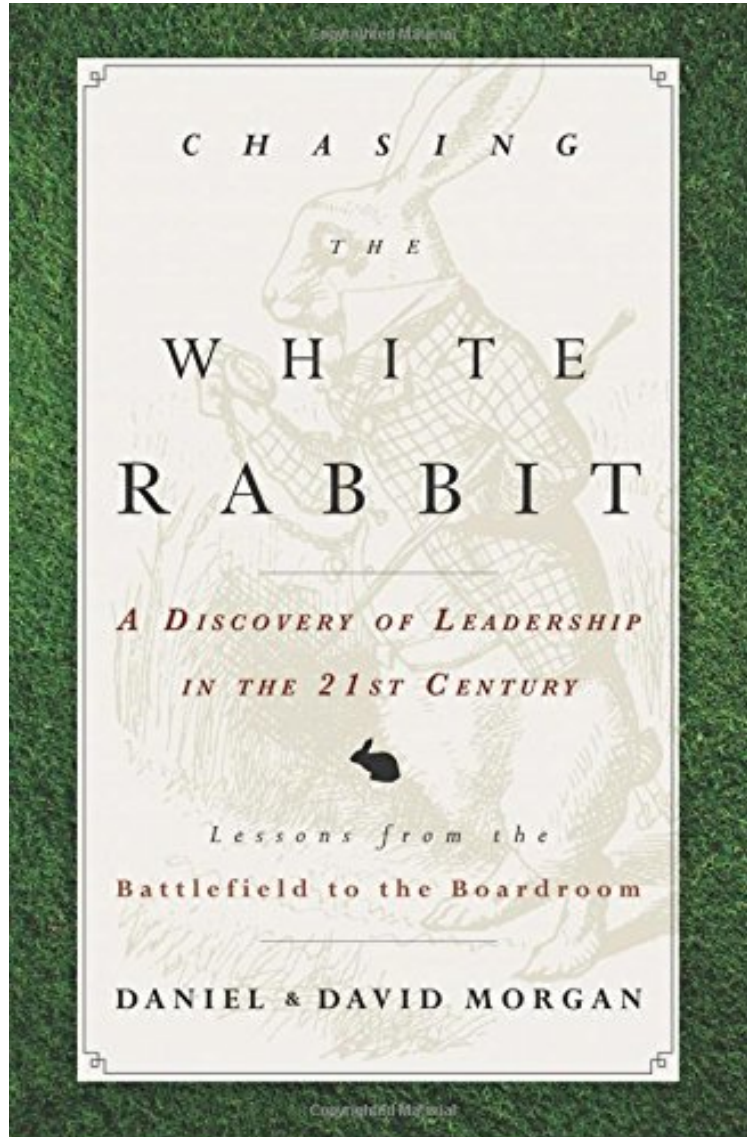


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Chasing The White Rabbit: A Discovery Of Leadership In The 21st Century

Daniel Morgan, David Morgan
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Daniel Morgan, David Morgan : Chasing The White Rabbit: A Discovery Of Leadership In The 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chasing The White Rabbit: A Discovery Of Leadership In The 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lessons in LeadershipBy MMThe book is a must read for executive

level leaders or those aspiring to ascend in business or military organizations. Dan and David draw on their own successes and missteps to educate. I took two key lessons from the book, one leader lesson and one personal. First I was reminded the importance of investing in my people. Second, Dan's chapter 11 helped me decide to stop measuring myself against who I once was and to instead leverage my maturity and wisdom to become a better leader. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Evan Tracey Excellent book, a must read for current and future leaders. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Call to All Leaders! By Erika Koss "But," said Alice, "the world has absolutely no sense, who's stopping us from inventing one?" Since one of my all-time favorite books is "Through the Looking-Glass," sometimes I wonder what Lewis Carroll might think about our digital age and the 21st century American work place. Both often feel to me something like Alice's Wonderland -- a paradoxical place of ever-changing rules and endless possibility. In "Chasing the White Rabbit," co-authors Daniel Morgan and David Morgan guide readers through ways they have both navigated our brave new world. Through their own careers in the military, U.S. government, and business, they articulate a model of leadership that is perceptive, persuasive, and rare. In prose both inspirational and personal, these two brothers imagine an audacious vision of leadership, using an unexpected source for its frame: the Victorian fantasy books "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass." Dan and David Morgan's book reminds us that not only are Carroll's novels far more than merely "children's books," but also that living and working in the 21st century may seem like Alice's Wonderland: an endless pursuit of a white rabbit and "stepping over thresholds, or jumping through virtual doorways, into unfamiliar territory where the rules of the past no longer seem to apply. That we're all traversing through unfamiliar terrain may be one of our only absolutes. And here the challenge exists for leaders, who must navigate such uncertainties, make decisions without knowing what's on the other side of the door, and then need to adapt and accept the consequences of such decisions. In these areas and more, Col. Dan Morgan and David Morgan share their own successes and failures from their distinguished experiences. In my own work, I've lately been pondering several of their insights, such as:--perfect information never exists; leaders must make decisions with the best information at any given moment and then accept consequences;--leaders know that he or she are not often the smartest person in the room, so they draw on the expertise of others;--transparency from leaders brings solutions; speak as honestly as possible without violating trust and responsibility. Each chapter highlights an aspect or challenge of leadership, but my favorite parts of the book occurred toward the end of the chapters, where each co-author shares personal stories from his past successes or failures of leadership. Their humility, honesty, and transparency model the very ideals they discuss throughout the book. For example, Dan Morgan describes a tragic moment when he questioned an order to destroy a bridge, which led to the death of a soldier. Although he knows that perfect information would never exist on the matter, he uses this as a moment to illustrate that he will forever own this risk and live with the consequences. In another section, David Morgan suggests ways to tap into the internal motivation of one's team, and he shares some of the ways he encourages innovation in his business teams. At the heart of this book is a challenge for leaders to understand their own values, purpose, and goals within an organization. The ability to know "Who You Are" is essential, even if we feel like Alice, who, "the more she learned about the whimsical Wonderland, the less she knew. As a leader, your expertise will constantly be challenged as you chase the white rabbits that pop up in your world" (43). As these brothers remind us: leadership is not a formula, but an evolution. My own eclectic career includes jobs in the federal government, higher education, NGOs, the arts, and the coffee industry, and I can confirm the kind of leaders that Daniel Morgan and David Morgan call for are extremely rare, perhaps like the Cheshire Cat. If you've ever had a boss with whom you could not speak the truth or who stifled your creativity, or if you've ever been a leader who found herself in a surprising strategic role, then this book is for you. I wish every leader could read "Chasing the White Rabbit," and be encouraged that innovation, humility, flexibility, and transparency are not weaknesses, but strengths, whether on the battlefield or in the boardroom.

DISCOVERING LEADERSHIP...Never Pass Up A Good Crisis I have known Dan for fifteen years and observed him in tough combat; he was invariably impressive. His brother, David, has also operated in dangerous environments, leading first responders in a host of tough missions. Their experiences and stories are not just compelling but full of insight for every generation at every level of responsibility. General David H. Petraeus (US Army, Ret.), former commander of US Central Command and of US and coalition forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In *Chasing the White Rabbit*, Dan and Dave remind us that leadership is about doing, not talking; about clarity, not confusion; and about focus, not chaos. They generously interweave their life experiences and insights, bringing military, commercial, and emergency responder insights and perspectives at every turn. I have known Dave for over ten years as a student, mentee, client, and friend, and at every turn he has exhibited wisdom, empathy, reliability, and compassion for everything that he undertakes that work ethic and character comes through loud and clear in this remarkable book. Andrew J. Sherman, senior partner, Jones Day and author of twenty-six books on business growth, governance, and entrepreneurship; adjunct professor, University of Maryland Smith School of Business and Georgetown University Law

About the Author Dan Morgan is an active duty infantry colonel in the US Army who graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in international affairs in 1992 and a master of arts degree in national security strategic studies in 1998. Currently, Colonel Morgan serves as the Joint Base Commander of Joint Base Lewis McChord in the State of Washington, where he delivers installation support and services to enable the readiness of joint Army and Air Force operational forces. He has served in Vicenza, Italy, as part of the 3-325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team (ABCT), which is NATO's spearhead rapid reaction force for Europe and Africa. After returning from Italy, Colonel Morgan was afforded an opportunity to serve as a GS 13/14 Executive Assistant to the Presidential Cabinet Officer, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. During this period of 1998-2001, he participated in Executive Office of the President, interagency, and legislative policymaking activities. His duties included extensive domestic and foreign travel in support of the United States National Drug Control Strategy. Under President Bill Clinton's administration, he engaged at the highest levels of service in the government of the United States and with foreign governments ranging from Colombia to China. Upon completion of his White House service, Colonel Morgan returned to active duty and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in 2001 through 2011. During this assignment, he served as an Air Assault Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, Brigade Operations Officer, and Division Chief of Operations, where he participated in over four years of combat two deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan. From 2011 to 2014, Colonel Morgan was stationed at the 10th Mountain Division (Light) where he commanded the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment. In January 2013, he deployed the battalion to Regional Command-East in Afghanistan for his fifth combat deployment. Following this deployment and command privilege, Colonel Morgan was assigned as the 10th Mountain Division Chief of Staff (Rear) from 2013 to 2014. Colonel Morgan spends most of off time with his wife, Patty, and children, Isabel and Gabriel, who are competitive athletes in lacrosse and wrestling. In between deployments, work, and family, Colonel Morgan tries to spend time hunting and fishing where he can relax and regain the physical and mental energy needed to provide for others. His favorite books that shape his leadership and always near him are Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of President Lincoln*, Ulysses Grant's *Memoirs*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*, and Viktor Frankl's *Pursuit of Meaning*. David Morgan is cofounder and chief operating officer of STS International, where he oversees worldwide operations responsible for rapid design, development, and deployment of cutting-edge antiterrorism and physical security technologies, medical simulation training applications, and professional engineering services. Through his innovations and strategic leadership, STS has achieved significant growth by penetrating new and emerging markets through a diversified client base in eighteen countries across four continents. David Morgan has led the development and deployment of programs to protect national interests for the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army's biometrics program and the Department of the Army and the Navy's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) technologies. He has deployed technical subject matter expertise to meet urgent Warfighter program requirements in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other austere locations. And he has led the development of medical simulation technologies for the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines. His strong commitment to research and development has translated his strategic vision into reality by producing technological and logistical advancements in the way in which US forces are supported in mission critical operations. Advancements include: advance body armor solutions that were recognized in the Army Greatest Inventions program; command and control technology that consolidates full motion video (FMV) into common display systems; forming unique, highly skilled teams to provide sustainment operations, logistical support, and training to US forces throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world for ISR and counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) systems for the US forces deployed; secure information screening, analysis, transfer, and dissemination in support of intelligence operations; and establishing the foundation and original program architectures for the development and integration of biometric technologies into DoD operations. David Morgan's core leadership principles are grounded in the strong belief that the investment in talented staff and challenging the very best in his staff is the greatest investment a company can make. Under his leadership, STS has grown almost 300 percent in the last three years. Most recently, STS was recognized as one of Inc.'s 5,000 Fastest Growing Companies in 2014 and 2015 and was a 2014 Small and Emerging Contractors Advisory Forum (SECAF) Government Project of the Year award finalist. As a small business entrepreneur, Morgan has a true passion for mentoring young and emerging entrepreneurs. He served as board of director member to a nonprofit and is currently on an advisory board of several private companies. He is a regular speaker on innovation and entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland Smith School of Business and Georgetown University Law School. He is a member of the Dingman Center Angels, who evaluate and invest in premier start-up technology companies. Recognized for his leadership and evaluation of emerging technologies, David Morgan has been named to the National Institute of Justice Peer Panel and is an active reviewer of innovative approaches to analysis, research, and development; information and sensor technologies; investigative and forensic science and technology; and law enforcement technologies. He is a contributor to McGraw-Hill Publishers as a technical editor, reviewing training materials and publications for first responders and homeland security professionals in emergency operations and

disaster response.