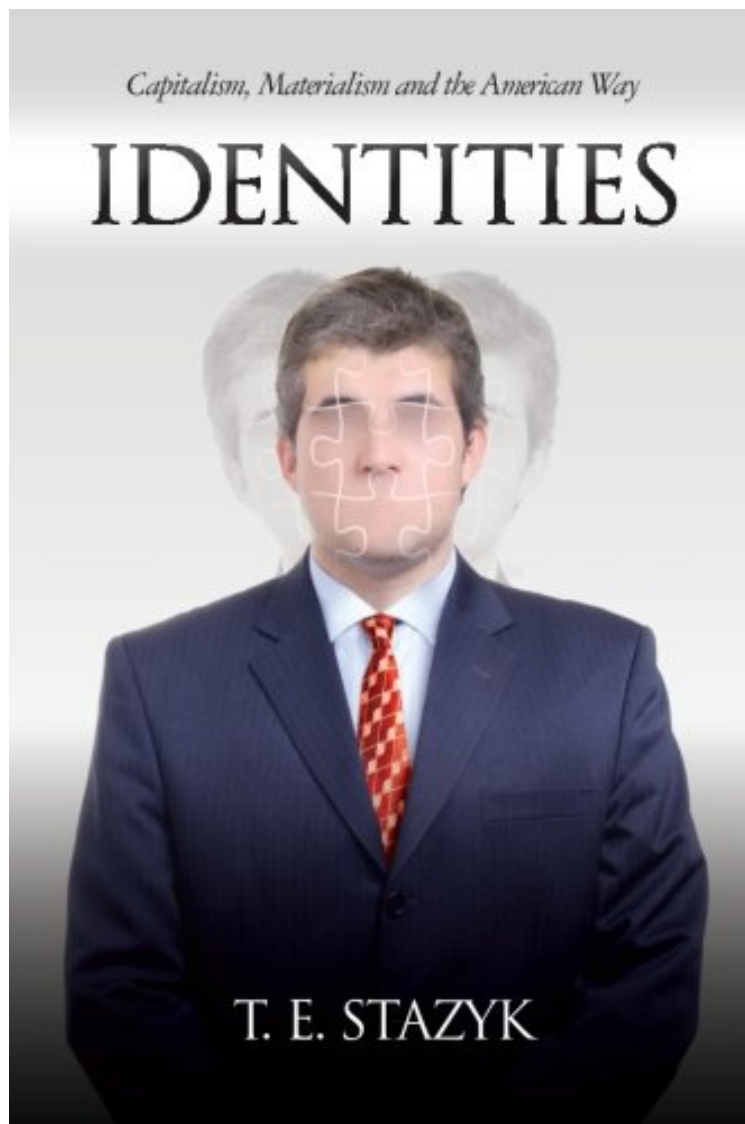


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Identities

T E Stazyk

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T E Stazyk : Identities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Identities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An insightful look into how we all form our identitiesBy Walter J. KennamerOn the surface, Identities is an expose about boardroom politics and CEO skullduggery. I don't think I've seen quite as much of that as Mr. Stazyk has, but his portrayal does ring true to me, if maybe a little over-the-top (in a fun way). I found this part of the book to be interesting and entertaining, but I don't think that's what Identities is

actually about. The most thought-provoking angle to the book was its examples of how people sometimes define themselves by, say, the job they currently hold or how much money they make, and how devastating it can be when their circumstances change. Mr. Stazyk is not the first author to make that point, but he created memorable and believable characters to illustrate it and drive the cautionary lesson home. I wish I had been able to read this a long time ago when I was just starting out. Highly recommended, and I'm looking forward to whatever he writes next.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Humorous, entertaining, insightful and never dull. By Like To Read Stazyk provides a delightful narrative on the business world in general and big-time consulting in particular. His observations on the ego driven, profit-only behavior of many senior executives are spot on. In addition, he sheds light on the me-first, career-only focus of many young professionals today. But, we also learn from the main character Dave, his wife Jill and their youngest son Alex, that there are other, better ways to provide executive leadership and live one's life while still successfully pursuing one's career and business goals. This book is humorous, entertaining, insightful and never dull. I highly recommend it.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating tale of navigating the world of corporate sharks! By Joseph T. Wells Stazyk, the author, is obviously a survivor in the shark-infected waters of Corporate America. His hero, Dave Locke, shows how to climb the business ladder with his dignity and ethics in tact. A really terrific read with a great message!

Thomas Stazyk's irreverent debut, *Identities*, objectively explores how individuals' constructed identities determine their worldview and examines the contemporary issues of materialism, corporate greed, and personal identity with startling clarity. Dave Locke just got the call all executives in corporate America dread: the company is going in a different direction, thanks for all of your hard work, but we don't need you any longer. His sense of self and his place in the world shattered, Dave's experience and connections quickly land him a role as a senior partner in a management-consulting firm. As he settles into his new job, Dave takes a hard look at how narrowly he has defined himself and his life so that the mere loss of a job could be so personally devastating. He is disturbed by the greed, selfishness, and shallowness of some of his fellow partners, clients, and even his own son, Jim, a Wall Street executive. At the same time, thanks to his wife Jill, who is doing meaningful volunteer work with the less privileged, and his younger, rebellious and altruistic son, Alex, he learns to see the world differently. Dave evolves a new perspective on life and career, and he decides to change corporate culture and the capitalist system from the inside. A lot of people don't like change, however, and Dave finds that he has to pick his battles carefully. His mission sets him on an entertaining collision course with entrenched bureaucracies and office politicians as well as his ambitious son. It turns out to be a frustrating and risky business. Stazyk's scathing satire takes aim at materialism and greed with intelligence and humanism, challenging our definitions of success with a fine-tuned understanding of collective behavior. As inspiring as it is insightful, *Identities* is a thought-provoking commentary that redefines the modern landscape and encourages us to change our world for the better.

From Kirkus SA management consultant jousts with the loonier aspects of American capitalism in Stazyk's canny debut satire of the corporate world. After Dave Locke is booted from the presidency of a technology corporation following a merger, he's relieved to land a partnership at tony Quantum Consulting. Unfortunately, this avowed bastion of best business practices turns out to be filled with nincompoops. The partners are obsessed with status and extreme-sports exploits; the management committee signs off on Dave's plans if he sprinkles them with the buzz phrase "world-class"; and clients are given the hard sell on outsourcing and layoffs, no matter what the long-term costs. (Alas, their clients are only too happy to pillage their own firms; one CEO wants to relocate his conglomerate to Panama for tax purposes.) As a deep recession takes hold, Dave picks his way through a minefield of office politics and callous management theories. Meanwhile, his sons—Alex, a would-be actor who doesn't want to be defined by his career, and Jim, a workaholic investment banker—debate the spiritual pitfalls of capitalism. Stazyk's cutting, funny tale furnishes plenty of Dilbert-esque office gags and colorful characters, including an Indian swami who turns his spiritual aura into a publicly traded corporation. The novel's greatest creation may be Jim's girlfriend, Jennifer, a frenzied Wall Streeter whose fussy budget consumerism reflects her hollow soul. Stazyk has written a novel that treats business as an important and absorbing subject; the author knows the terrain well and his naturalistic prose and dialogue has a nuanced subtlety that rings true. When Dave deploys his infighting skills against boardroom boobs and tyrants, his conviction that business can be both profitable and ethical starts to seem like a believable bottom line. An entertaining, covertly insightful satire. About the Author Thomas E Stazyk was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied business and accounting at the University of Dayton, Ohio, and then spent twenty-eight years with an international accounting firm in the US and Japan as a certified public accountant, certified fraud examiner, and certified information systems auditor. During that time, he worked with numerous large and small, local and international organizations and learned firsthand that organizations have a personality that reflects the people in them. He then moved to Auckland, New Zealand, where he earned an MA in English from the University of Auckland and since has completed post-graduate study in world literatures including Japanese, Korean, and Chinese. Thomas and his wife, Mahrukh, currently divide their time between Auckland and CUE Haven, a fifty-nine acre pastureland north of the city

that they are restoring to a native New Zealand forest preserve