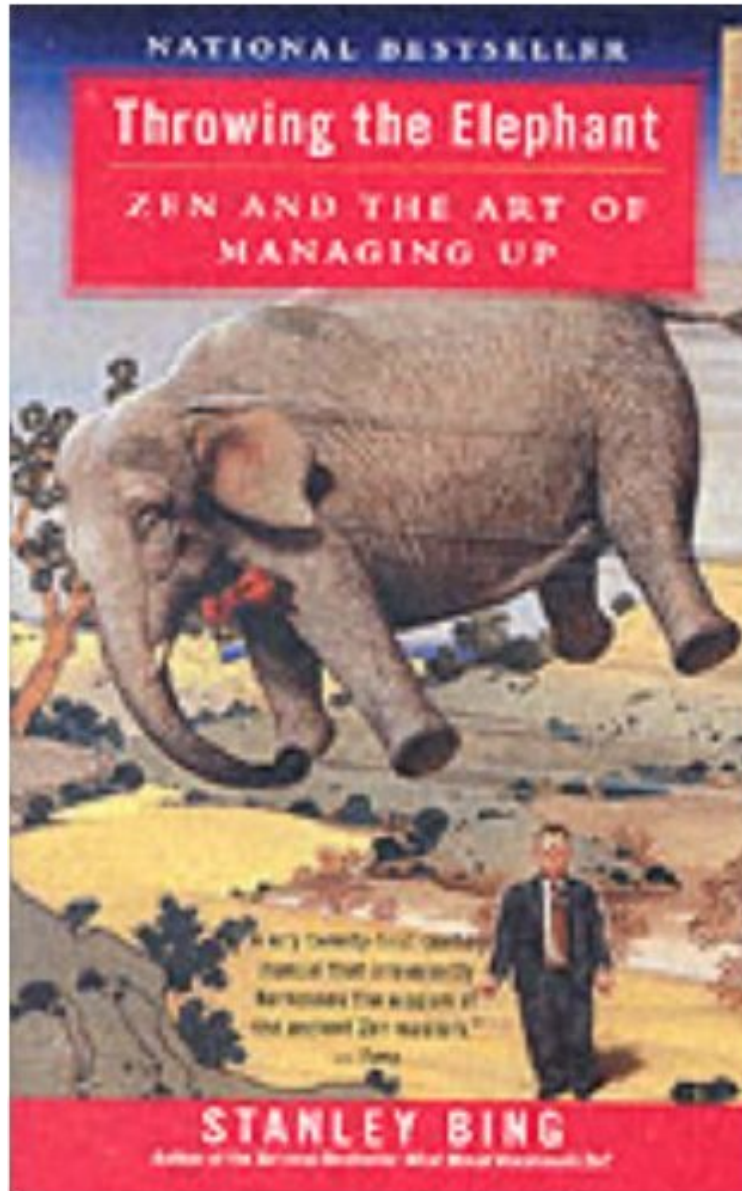


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## Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up

*Stanley Bing*

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**Stanley Bing : Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Throwing the Elephant: Zen and the Art of Managing Up:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My favorite business bookBy Wendy P. DanburyThis little tome is deceptively simple and amusing to read. It is also one of the most powerful business books out there, for those acolytes who wish to advance in their careers without being trampled by the large grey beast in the corner office. Using plenty of examples from real companies and famous elephants such as Jack Welch and Martha Stewart, author Bing shows

how the denial of self and the understanding of the nothingness that is business life can bring peace and power to the lowly elephant handler. The metaphor is perfect, and amuses the reader throughout. Most importantly, it provides a unique perspective that allows us to stay sane and even learn to enjoy, or at least tolerate, serving even the most unreasonable of elephant bosses. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Dear Johnon time and as expected!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ReviewBy SunflowerChildYes, there is some humor in this book. Yes, it explains the reason why narcissists are the way they are. Yes, it gives you advice in how to deal with narcissists. Was the read enjoyable? I found it frustrating that everything was written as an analogy or a philosophical parallel. I believe it would have been more enjoyable if they started out with a brief analogy/philosophical parallel and then used the authors humor to write the rest of the narrative as a personal anecdote.

Sit down. Breathe deep. This is the last business book you will ever need. For in these pages, Stanley Bing solves the ultimate problem of your working life: How to manage the boss. The technique is simple . . . as simple as throwing an elephant. All it takes is the proper state of mind, a step-by-step plan, and a great leap of faith. This humble guide provides all these and more. It is Zen that enables one to take an object of enormous weight and size and mold it in one's grasp like a ball of Silly Putty. For senior management, in truth, is the silliest putty of them all. This comprehensive course walks budding business bodhisattvas through basic skills needed to provide the simple elephant handling that makes everyday life possible, including but not limited to the primary task of following along after the elephant with a little broom and dustpan. Serious students will then move to intermediate steps, from Polishing the Elephant's Tusks to Hiding from the Elephant When It Has Been Drinking and Feels Quite Nasty. Beyond this level lies the land of the practiced Zen masters, culminating in the ability to leverage and then throw the now-weightless elephant--and even play catch with it at corporate retreats. If *What Would Machiavelli Do?* was the meanest business book since the Renaissance, *Throwing the Elephant* provides the yang to that yin. Because sometimes you've got to be selfless, compassionate, and completely empty to get the job done. Stanley Bing is a columnist for *Fortune* magazine and the author of *What Would Machiavelli Do?* and *Lloyd: What Happened*, a novel. By day, he works for a gigantic multinational conglomerate whose identity is one of the worst-kept secrets in business.

.com Stanley Bing's *Throwing the Elephant*, subtitled *Zen and the Art of Managing Up*, is a wise and hilarious--mostly hilarious--antidote to the extensive library of works by grim, clenched-fisted business gurus. Bing posits that power strategies cannot be "managed through rational means." Real success--corporate-niche enlightenment--comes only by embracing religion, specifically Zen Buddhism. This enables one to take "an object of enormous weight and size" (i.e. the elephantine boss) and "mold it ... like a ball of Silly Putty." In truth, he continues, senior management is "the silliest putty of them all." Bing doles out his thoughts in dozens of pithy chapters ("Playing Golf with the Elephant," "Getting Drunk with the Elephant"). He also includes many visual aids (some of which nearly make sense) and adds a sprinkling of the wisdom of others--from Martha Stewart and Jimmy Hoffa to the rock band the Doors--to make his wickedly entertaining points. --H. O'Billovitch From Publishers Weekly In a spoof of just about every career advice and management-by-metaphor book ever created, Bing (*What Would Machiavelli Do?*) delivers a Zen-like guide to managing your boss. The premise? Here's what Buddha would tell you if he were your personal career coach. A book juxtaposing faux-Zen advice with embarrassing corporate situations (e.g., how to handle a drunken boss) is almost guaranteed to be funny. Bing, "an ultra-senior officer at an elephantine corporation," has plenty of firsthand anecdotes to tell, and he supplements them with stories about some of the notoriously toughest bosses on the planet, like Martha Stewart and Citigroup's Sandy Weill. There are chapters on critiquing your boss ("any bitter pill of criticism one offers an elephant must be buried within a vast tub of cream cheese") and "facing the angry elephant" (when you're to blame for your boss's anger, "breathe deeply. Breath is life"). Despite the amusing anecdotes, though, Bing's narrative can become a bit wearying if one reads more than a couple of chapters in one sitting. However, if an employee only breaks out Bing's book when the elephant is having a particularly bad couple of weeks, enlightenment is certain. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Bing (*What Would Machiavelli Do?*) has written a clever book on how to manage elephants, a.k.a. bosses. According to the author, "only the power of Zen contemplation will result in a happy business life for the subordinate who yearns for understanding, control, and enlightenment. It is the practice of Business Zen that will enable you, in the end, after much trial and failure, to throw the elephant who is your boss." Through case studies and guidelines, Bing discusses steps to achieving control over the elephant, with such practical chapters as "Greeting the Elephant," "Rejoicing with the Elephant," and "Getting a Leash on the Elephant." Here, for instance, Bing's advice on greetings: "A quick handshake and formal greeting in an elevator is appropriate. A gushing invocation of lifelong admiration for the elephant is not." Witty and thought-provoking, this imaginative and unique work is recommended for public libraries and practitioners and students of business. Lucy Heckman, St. John's Univ. Lib., Jamaica, NY Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.