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## **Overview**

There are plenty of leadership how-to books, filled with advice such as “Just do this to get ahead!” Lots of books tell you how to become a leader, this book tells you how to *stay* *successful* once you’ve gotten into a leadership role.

*The Leadership Killer: Reclaiming Humility in an Age of Arrogance* aims to help aspiring, early-stage, and experienced leaders alike answer a critical question:

“How will I use my leadership power?”

Co-authored by globally renowned author and executive development trainer Bill Treasurer and retired U.S. Navy SEAL Captain John Havlik, this book unites civilian and military experiences to explore precisely why some good leaders go bad, so you can avoid their mistakes. With decades worth of insight drawn from leading elite military special operations teams, global companies and organizations, *The Leadership Killer* includes insightful stories and actionable strategies for becoming, and more importantly, staying, a more effective, confident and humble leader.

*The Leadership Killer: Reclaiming Humility in an Age of Arrogance* exposes hubris, the single most lethal leadership flaw. Being a good leader doesn’t require being a bad person, and if you know what to look out for, Treasurer and Havlik point out, you can keep your ego and hubris in check and become (and stay) a leader who is effective, successful, and good.

## **Author Bios**

**Bill Treasurer** is the founder of Giant Leap Consulting and author of five books on courage and leadership, including the international bestseller, Courage Goes to Work. Giant Leap has led over 1,000 leadership programs across the world for clients that include NASA, Saks Fifth Avenue, UBS Bank, and eBay. Treasurer is a former member of the U.S. High Diving Team, and attended West Virginia University on a full athletic scholarship.

[@BTreasurer](https://www.twitter.com/btreasurer) [www.BillTreasurer.com](http://www.billtreasurer.com/)

**CAPT John “Coach” Havlik, U.S. Navy SEAL (Retired),** led special operations teams around the world during his 31-year naval career, to include the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, the SEAL’s most elite operational unit. CAPT Havlik was a nationally-ranked swimmer, and is a member of the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame and Mountaineer Legends Society.

[@CoachHavlik](https://www.twitter.com/CoachHavlik) [www.CoachHavlik.com](http://www.coachhavlik.com/)

## **Endorsements for The Leadership Killer**

“In an age crying out for wise judgment and effective leadership, *The Leadership Killer* is an essential read. Making a convincing case for the lost art of humility, Bill Treasurer and John Havlik empower both aspiring and experienced leaders to ask questions, to take risks, to try new approaches, to fail — and to get up and try again. I recommend this book to all those who look at the state of leadership today and ask, “How can we do better?”

**E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University**

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“With plenty of books written already on how to succeed as a leader, Bill Treasurer and John Havlik offer us something new and greatly needed – practical wisdom on how to survive leadership success. This must-read gives leaders at all levels the tools to recognize hubris in ourselves and others and develop self-awareness before it’s too late.”

**John R. Ryan, President and CEO, Center for Creative Leadership, Vice Admiral, United States Navy (Retired)**

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“In a world where leadership seems to be about who is the loudest and most outlandish, Bill Treasurer and John Havlik’s new book, *The Leadership Killer,* reminds us that humility and integrity still is, and always will be, what matters most. This book is timely for those who care about leadership authenticity, and raising everyone’s game.”

**Mark Divine, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (Retired), founder and CEO of SEALFIT, Inc., and Unbeatable, LLC, and the NYT bestselling author of *The Way of the SEAL* and *Unbeatable Mind***

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“You can fill a bookshelf with superb books on leadership and apply all the lessons you learn from reading them. But you’ll miss a key factor. Good leaders are humble. They ask questions; they listen to advice; they admit when they make mistakes. Leadership guru Bill Treasurer and former Navy SEAL CAPT John Havlik’s book *The Leadership Killer* is short, entertaining, and an invaluable resource for leaders and wanna-be leaders. You’ll laugh at their stories, be moved by the experiences they describe, and, most importantly, you will learn how to be humble and how to succeed as a leader.”

**Ambassador Kristie Kenney (Retired), former US Ambassador to Thailand, the Philippines and Ecuador**

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“Leadership is a tough job— one that requires the skillful balancing of several behavioral traits—often to the backdrop of scant information and significant uncertainty. A leader needs to be decisive, yet contemplative; willful, yet considerate; confident, yet humble. It can be a tough balance to manage throughout one’s career—and yet the best leaders somehow do, without falling prey to hubris along the way. Bill Treasurer and John Havlik examine the causes and effects of hubris in the leadership mix and help us crack the code to avoid that landmine along our own journeys down the leadership trail. This book is a useful tool in every leader’s kitbag.”

**Randy Hetrick, Former Navy SEAL, Founder/CEO, TRX**

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“Leaders: I encourage you to read *The Leadership Killer* today! It is full of spot-on, ready-to-deploy wisdom that will make you a stronger and more humble leader.”

**Marshall Goldsmith - *Thinkers 50* #1 Executive Coach and only two-time #1 Leadership Thinker in the world.**

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“A pattern seen in leaders who succeed again and again is a deep sense of humility. This quality enables them to build strong teams and continually adapt. *The Leadership Killer*offers an essential guide for readers to cultivate and leverage humility to succeed and sustain success over time.”

**Sanyin Siang, Author of *The Launch Book*, and Executive Director of Fuqua/Coach K Center on Leadership & Ethics at Duke University**

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“The best leaders know that humility and approachability are as important as balance sheets and strategic planning. Maybe more so. Bill Treasurer and John Havlik provide a valuable resource on what every leader should know, embrace, and practice if they want to be successful in the most meaningful way.”

**Tony Bingham, President and CEO, the Association for Talent Development**

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“*The Leadership Killer*casts a fresh, contemporary eye on an age-old and almost universal native human tendency first articulated millennia ago by Sophocles and other practitioners of Greek drama. It is the temptation of hubris—ego, pride, the subversion of ennobling leadership into opportunity for self-gratification and reward. How could *The Leadership Killer* be any more timely than it is in these days of unfettered egotism and runaway self-aggrandizement? See the news headlines and it’s clear that every leader, or aspirer to leadership, should read this well-written book with a mirror in hand, to help combat their own unjustified entitlement.”

**Whitney Johnson, Bestselling author *Build An A Team*, and Thinkers50 Leading Management Thinker**

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“There are two really “hard to answer questions” about leadership. The first is, “With all the money and time being spent on leadership development, why don’t we have better leaders?” The second question comes less frequently, but is even more difficult. “Why do we have so many leaders who attain high positions and then fail?” This book insightfully addresses the more puzzling question. It contains a relevant and timely message for every leader to reflect upon, namely “Have I succumbed to the demon of arrogance?” Fortunately, it also provides practical steps to help all those who lead to move away from hubris and toward humility.”

**Jack Zenger and Joe Folkman, co-founders of Zenger-Folkman and co-authors of the best-selling *Extraordinary Leader***

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“*The Leadership Killer* is an uncannily timely book about a regrettably timeless problem. The disease of hubris has been killing leaders—and innocent bystanders—forever. But the infection, it seems, has spread, and Bill Treasurer and John Havlik thankfully remind us that it’s time for a mass inoculation of the only known antidote: humility. *The Leadership Killer* is both a disturbing book and a comforting one. It’s unsettling to be reminded of the ruinous costs of excessive pride and self-confidence, yet it’s also reassuring to be reminded that there is a cure. The stories and examples are humbling reminders of how easy it is to fall prey to the disease, and the prescriptions they offer in the form of coaching tips are simple things we can each do to stay healthy and humble. *The Leadership Killer* is an important book for this moment in history, and it should be read by every leader who wishes not only to achieve success but also to sustain it over time.”

**Jim Kouzes, coauthor of *The Leadership Challenge*, and the Dean’s Executive Fellow of Leadership, Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University**

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“*The Leadership Killer* is the literary equivalent of a super tough workout or a day of SEAL training. It forces you to re-examine your ‘why’ and push past your limits. Bill Treasurer and Coach Havlik wrote a book every leader must read.”

**Rear Admiral Kerry Metz, USN (Retired), Former SEAL and first Commander of Special Operations Command North**

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“This book is way overdue! You might think you’re a great leader, but there is one lethal vice (the “Killer”) that, left unchecked, can undermine all your success. *The Leadership Killer* is a must-read that when shared with your team, will prevent a lot of heartache and that makes a great gift for people who are unaware of their true impact.”

**Jesse Stoner, founder Seapoint Center for Collaborative Leadership, and coauthor *Full Steam Ahead! Unleash the Power of Vision.***

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“Filled with examples of the seductive nature of leadership, authors, Bill Treasurer and John Havlik show us why it’s so easy to be sucked into believing leadership equates to superiority. The examples define how arrogance may be masquerading as confidence and that the only real cure for hubris is humility. This is a book that needed to be written—for the events of today and the leaders of tomorrow. Read this book. Don’t jeopardize your career, integrity, and reputation. It is surely a wakeup call for all of us. The 10 Tips for Thriving Leadership should be hung on every leader’s wall.”

**Elaine Biech, Author #1 Bestseller *The Washington Post, The Art and Science of Training***

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“Bill Treasurer and John Havlik have lived and led through challenges - as leaders in their families, in the military and in business. They write with an honest, experience-based sharing of the real trials that all leaders will face. What is power for? What gives you legitimacy as a leader? The worst use of power is to not use it. We need leaders who have strong internal compass that guides both their exercise of power, and where they choose to put limits on their own power. This book will help you develop that inner compass.”

**Conor Neill, President of Vistage in Spain and Professor of Leadership Communication at IESE Business School**

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“We are living in a time where leadership is being discussed, challenged and debated like never before. I always tell my kids that leaders don’t follow—true leaders are the ones who create the way. Genuine and effective leaders can only set ethical standards and demonstrate integrity if they are humble and release all arrogant attitudes. Bill Treasurer and John Havlik have lived careers embodied by humility, discipline and determination, and because of that, you should listen closely to what they have to say.”

**Kyra Phillips, Investigative Correspondent, ABC NEWS**