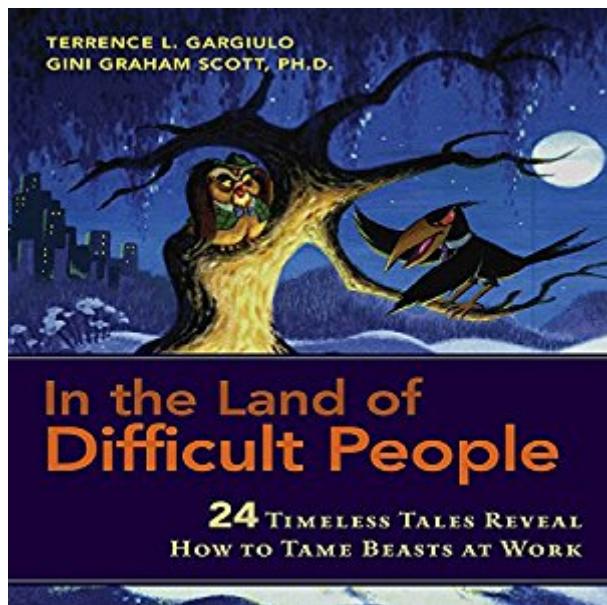


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# In The Land Of Difficult People: 24 Timeless Tales Reveal How To Tame Beasts At Work



## **Synopsis**

Treasured for centuries, the world's folk tales have left a legacy of wisdom for countless generations. Going beyond simple entertainment, stories such as "The Lion and the Hare" and "The Woodcutter's Daughter" instruct through example how to live in a world populated with dishonest, petty, and conniving characters. "In the Land of Difficult People" presents 24 charmingly illustrated fables. Taken from around the world, each exemplifies the best methods to use when dealing with the difficult people at work. This helpful book identifies eight major types of difficult people, giving readers strategies for working with each of them. From untrustworthy ravens to commitment - avoiding snails and poor-communicating monkeys, this instructive collection follows each story with a down-to-earth analysis of how to manage any situation involving the toughest of characters. For anyone venturing 'into the woods' of modern-day workplace, this book is a powerful potion of common sense that will lead to happily-ever-after endings every time. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

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## **Customer Reviews**

The book is entertaining but not as good as I expected. It gives good advice at employee/team member level but not at a managerial level. It is easy to read, presents a good variety of situations but not practical advice for managers.

It's amazing that a book on tape like this should be so necessary in today's world even in the human service and counseling offices. If i'd listened to this previous to my last practicum (internship in a

counseling office), i'd likely have survived much better! With no choice in working with bullies, how is a normal person able to survive in the workplace? Where do they come from? What is their purpose? How do we stop the onslaught of antagonistically dealt attacks on personal and being set up to fail in the work we're adept at? This should be required listening in interpersonal skills courses and probably for anyone going into the workforce who is naive enough to think co-workers are all going to be pleasant to work with and bosses all appreciative of what is done for them. Loved the audio version but the melodious reading does make it a little difficult to not just think more about the analogies in the folk tales than instill the instructions on first listen so this is one to listen to at least twice.

I've seen Gargiulo in his facilitation practice and he uses stories effectively to get to the "heart" of corporate matters. In this book he uses folk tales and myth with great effectiveness to cut through to the core of complex interactions among conflicting personalities, and guides participants in how to effectively resolve these issues in a managerial or corporate environment, or even in institutions like schools or churches. Gargiulo contends and I agree that putting these dynamics into stories inhabited by animals and other creatures makes them less threatening and easier to digest, but still allows a skilled analyst like Gargiulo to derive the deeper meanings from these interactions and create a space where readers can learn how to deal effectively with wolves, sheep and lions in their own lives. You can get a taste for how Gargiulo works and the flavor of this excellent book in his radio interviews, which are currently taking place -- I recommend his warm and humorous way of delivering timeless truths in the wrapping of "Once Upon a Time" comfort. Great source material for trainers, HR, managers and executives who inhabit the jungle of corporate America.

This book recounts 23 folk stories from outside of the United States and one Native American story. The tales are grouped into eight chapters, each of which tells three stories centering on a common theme: wolves (tyrannical bosses), cats (independent individuals), foxes (crafty villains), lions (power-hungry people), snails (lazy people), ravens (tricksters), snakes (defensive people), and monkeys (poor communicators). Each chapter has a short introduction, and each story is followed by a few paragraphs explaining how it applies to work situations. Each explanation is followed by suggestions about how one might handle those tricky situations. Due to the short application sections, I do not feel that the book has the theoretical or practical depth needed for a book on working with difficult people in a variety of situations. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in ideas about dealing with difficult people in the work world or anyone who wants to

identify his or her traits and how people may be reacting to them.

24 fables taken from around the world illustrate 'best practice' ideas for handling difficult people at work. Unlike the usual Western approach, this book provides analysis of different cultural and social reactions to difficulty, and juxtaposes the folk stories with a brief analysis discussing organizational habits that adversely affect organizations at all levels. A lively, intriguing format, this will be enjoyed by both business and general-interest libraries.

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