



Sara Kay reviews Omar L. Harris,
The Servant Leader's Manifesto

By Sara Kay

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An astounding number of books have been written about leadership. Yet bad leaders abound. A homeland security practitioner could be forgiven for wondering whether it's a worthwhile pursuit to read yet another leadership tome. Luckily, *The Servant Leader's Manifesto* isn't a tome. True to its title, it is manifesto length. The time investment is short and the payoff rewarding.

Written by the author of *Leader Board: The DNA of High-Performance Teams*, Omar Harris, *The Servant Leader's Manifesto* explains the why and how behind the servant leader approach to leadership, in just under 100 pages. Harris's efficient book draws on lessons from a range of trusted leadership books, such as *Start With Why* by Simon Sinek, *Good to Great* by Jim Collins, and *How Full is Your Bucket* by Donald O. Clifton to explore the positive psychology model of leadership. In the servant leadership approach, support of the employee and the customers they serve is the most important organizational goal. Good servant leaders leverage influence over authority, focus on the team over individuals, and lead with love. *The Servant Leader's Manifesto* discusses each servant leader approach pillar in economical chapters "without unnecessary fluff" in the words of one CHDS Executive Leaders Program student.

The Servant Leader's Manifesto isn't for everyone. Proponents of the Jack Welch style of vitality-curve-leadership or the traditional top-down leadership style often equated with military organizations may find the servant leadership model too mushy for their liking (let the "leading with love" eye-rolls commence). However, we are in an age where employees across sectors are disaffected and multiple disciplines within homeland security are experiencing catastrophic declines in recruiting and retainment of employees. This is a time for new approaches to leadership to drive employee satisfaction and engagement.

About the Author

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