

The Books CHROs Recommend Reading Now

What's on your summer reading list? We asked for book suggestions from members of the M1 CHRO Community and former CHROs who helped coach Modern Future CHRO Academy participants. Here's what's on their list.

Diane Gherson

Former CHRO, IBM
Director, Kraft Heinz Co.



“I’m reading a historical novel called *There Are Rivers in the Sky*. I'm always trying to understand the Middle East in as many ways as I can. It's so complicated, and this book really helped me understand what was going on. It starts with the Assyrian Empire and follows the same place into the current time with four different stories. It just reminds you of how much we have to really understand history.”

“I’ve started Stephen King’s *On Writing*—it’s probably one of the best books written about writing. *Breath* by James Nestor was recommended to me by a team member and seems right up my alley; it explores the ancient wisdom of breath and the impact on health. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* has been on my list and I’m committed to completing it—Arundhati Roy is a sublime writer. *Emperor of Rome* is being read as the U.S. approaches its 250th birthday. That's the time most large empires fall and I'm curious about the dynamics behind how highly successful empires decline.”



Kelly Jones

Chief People Officer,
Cisco

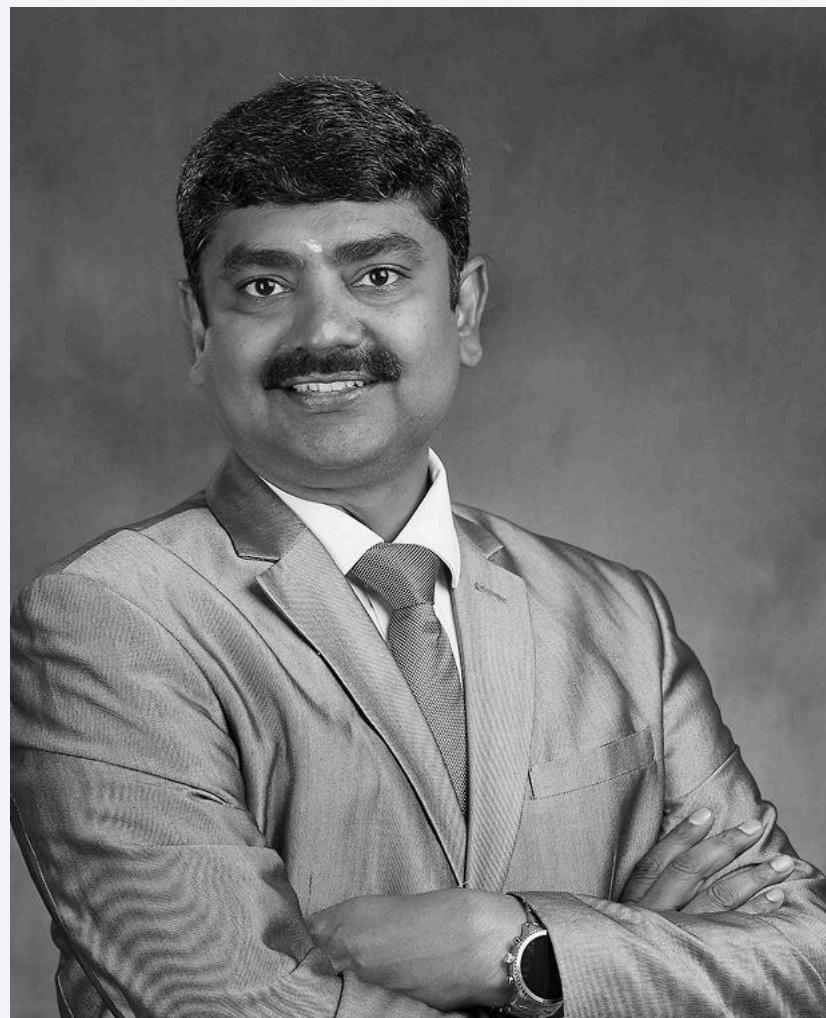
Andre Joyner

CHRO,
Catalyst Brands



“I’ve spent time with behavioral scientist Jon Levy and I’ve found his book, [Team Intelligence: How Brilliant Leaders Unlock Collective Genius](#), to be a refreshing take on the power of collective intelligence. It blends non-traditional thinking with pragmatic application, which I value as a leader enabling enterprise-wide transformation. If you are looking for a book to help unlock the power of existing teams to achieve impactful results, it’s worth a read.”

“*Who Not How* by Dan Sullivan and Benjamin Hardy presents a transformative approach to achieving personal and professional goals by emphasizing collaboration over solitary effort. The central premise is that instead of asking, ‘How can I accomplish this?’ one should ask, ‘Who can help me achieve this?’ This shift from a ‘how’ to a ‘who’ mindset can lead to greater efficiency, freedom, and success. I also recommend their book *10x is Easier Than 2x*, and my all-time favorite is *Nine Lies About Work* from Marcus Buckingham.”



Kannan Raghavan

Worldwide VP of HR,
Kemin Industries

Elizabeth Thompson

Founder and CEO, Intuitive Quest
Former Chief People Officer,
Southeastern Grocers



“I would suggest *The Four Agreements*. If we could all just live by those four, we’d be in a much better world. If you can at least take away two of the four, they’d be ‘don’t make assumptions’ and ‘be impeccable with your word.’ It’s a book I’ve known for many, many years and it’s guided me through my career and personal life. It’s been a great guide for life.”