



Organisational Consulting
@ the Edges of Possibility

Kathleen King and John Higgins

With a foreword from Peter Reason

Ashridge Consulting
in association with Libri Publishing
are pleased to invite you to the launch

Thursday 16 September 2010
18.30 – 20.00

Wren Room
RIBA
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD

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I happily pronounce this book as among the very best of a new genre of leadership texts, which I broadly characterize as “action inquiry” books. This genre can help you improve your practice as a leader or consultant more than any other because the language is often personal, inviting us not only into the writers’ lives and work but also into our own. What does the path of a lifetime of inquiry-in-action look like, feel like? How can we experiment with as well as wonder at the surprising, unprecedented experiences that action inquiry brings? This book is full of usable clues and of inspiring examples of humility – a high virtue in communities of peer inquiry.

Bill Torbert, Professor Emeritus of Leadership at the
Carroll School of Management at Boston College

This book offers a rich mixture of stories about people’s actual experience when working with organisations and wanting to make a difference. The situations are vividly described, not sanitised in any way and bring to life all the paradoxes and contradictions which we, as organisational leaders and consultants, face every day as we struggle to provoke thinking and bring insight through our work. In particular, the cases highlight the difficulty of working with teams when you hold an alternative view of the world: to what extent must you play by the rules in order to engage; how helpful is it to take your client to an uncomfortable place; what happens if you step off the cliff; most importantly when is this in service of your beliefs and when does it actually effect change. The book serves to inspire us to hold our nerve and go for it – sometimes in the smallest ways – to bring about surprising results.

Sally Hulks, Director Leadership and Change, Home Office

