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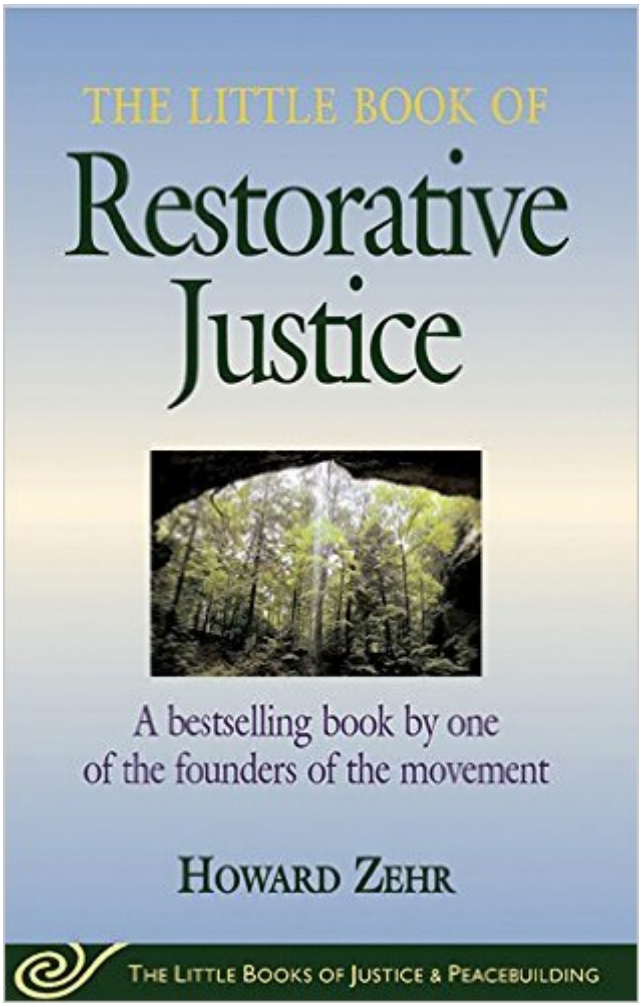
The Little Book Of Restorative Justice (The Little Books Of Justice & Peacebuilding)



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Synopsis

Vengeance and bitter violence have had their turns -- without redemptive results. How should we as a society respond to wrongdoing? When a crime occurs or an injustice is done, what needs to happen? What does justice require?Howard Zehr, known worldwide for his pioneering work in transforming our understandings of justice, here proposes workable Principles and Practices for making restorative justice both possible and useful. First he explores how restorative justice is different from criminal justice. Then, before letting those appealing observations drift out of reach, into theoretical space, Zehr presents Restorative Justice Practices.Zehr undertakes a massive and complex subject and puts it in graspable form, without reducing or trivializing it. This is a handbook, a vehicle for moving our society toward healing and wholeness. This is a sourcebook, a starting point for handling brokenness with hard work and hope. This resource is also suitable for academic classes and workshops, for conferences and trainings.By the author of Changing Lenses; Transcending: Reflections of Crime Victims; and Doing Life: Reflections of Men and Women Serving Life Sentences.

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Customer Reviews

This small book holds a great amount of wisdom. Justice as it is currently practiced in american courts is more vengengance than concern for the individuals involved and their needs. This Book gives ways that we can make justice a process that is caring and effective in helping all involved feel heard, in provide restitution for victims and helps offenders become valued members of society again.I highly recommend this book to anyone dissatisfied with our current justice system.

A very short read, clearly stated, and very well worth the hour.I love these "Little Books." This one brings to mind the Mennonite influences in America, these very same people whom W.E.B. DuBois celebrates in his essay "Atalanta."What a relief to read about justice that might restore person and place, while accounting for wrongdoing. It is a breath of fresh air to think of something other than fear-based Nixonian "law and order," which is the idea that retribution brings justice. (It never does. Think of Iraq.)One wonders whether these ideas are discussed in Criminology programs in universities across our country.

Where to start? As I was reading this book on an Amtrak commuter train, a rider a few rows ahead turned in is seat to the person in the row behind to point out that someone accused and convicted of robbery "got what he deserved". Old testament vengeance appeals to most, if not all of us, on a deep emotional level. I would hope human beings want to rise above our animal origins and more primitive instincts to create a civil society where we focus on making things right as much as possible. That is much more difficult, much more challenging and far more mature and highly evolved than "getting even". Most people would answer "Yes, but..." This book, if read carefully and reflectively makes the best case I have seen for explaining how that is really the only rational way to approach crimes from the most petty through the most horrendous. This also provides the history to show that this approach is not new, has been around for centuries, but has been sidelined. Everyone is exposed the the workings of the "criminal justice" system on a daily basis through news, etc. This book forces a re-evaluation of all of it in a very accessible and compact format. I cannot recommend this book highly enough if you want to have a more complete understanding of what is this thing called justice.

If you’re looking for an introduction to Restorative Justice, this should be your first stop. Howard Zehr is the so-called "grandfather" of restorative justice and has been helping to frame and promote the practices of restorative justice for decades. It’s clear and concise and will no doubt invite curious people into more in depth exploration of this essential transformative practice for our times, our communities and our criminal justice system.

I wish this book would just rain down on all the earth. It’s that important. It speaks of necessary changes for human evolution.

This book explained how personal justice could happen and how it works. Victims, offenders and the community they live in could all prosper with a restorative justice approach to crime.

Zehr offers an overview of the principles of restorative justice to the reader. For a new/old way of looking at criminal justice, Zehr looks at traditional methods of justice as opposed to the simple punitive/warehousing model in use today.

I've been familiar with the subject and the works of Howard Zehr for 15 years or so, and this book is the best, concise but thorough treatment of this approach to criminal justice. The best introduction to it for those interested in learning what it is.

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