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**Books**  
from the July 10, 2007 edition

## Book bits

**Review of "Got What It Takes?," three books about the wealthy, recommendations from readers.**

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### Got what it takes? By Bill Boggs

So how do you get to the top of your field? In **Got What it Takes?**, the überfamous share what they've learned.

Real estate mogul Donald Trump says he's come to expect problems "as part of the deal" and doesn't fight them. New York Yankees manager Joe Torre offers advice on handling tough bosses. Entrepreneur of the Virgin brand Sir Richard Branson explains how crucial it is to hire the right people.

In all, 44 leaders in fields from business to media to medicine to academia spill their secrets to award-winning talk show host Bill Boggs.

Boggs isn't an academic, career coach, or a motivational speaker. Instead, he's an interviewer who uses his finely honed skills to extract pearls of wisdom and little-known anecdotes from these go-getters.

Matt Lauer, coanchor of NBC's Today Show, recounts for Boggs how dejected he was after four of his shows were canceled in

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### Today's print issue



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the early days of his broadcasting career. In financial trouble, he moved to a tiny cabin in upstate New York and applied for a job as a tree trimmer. Then came a call from a general manager of a New York TV station offering Lauer an interview. And he aced it, he says.

For Maria Bartiromo, a financial journalist for CNBC, it has been all about a rigorous work ethic instilled in her youth when she worked as the coat-check girl on weekends at her family's Italian restaurant in Brooklyn.

In between such stories, Boggs doles out advice he's received along the way, including his father's admonition that: "You're only going to get out of something what you put into it."

Most of these 44 dynamos weren't handed everything in life. Actress Renée Zellweger, whose parents were immigrants from Switzerland, went out on her own when she was 18. Music industry giant Clive Davis grew up poor and had to maintain an almost perfect average to keep his college scholarship.

And how grounded some have remained. When Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist.org, is asked, "Where do you place yourself in the pantheon of tech pioneers?" he replies, "I don't." Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and novelist, says she was in her 40s when she figured out "that not only was I not a fraud, but there were an awful lot of people in positions of power and influence who were."

Wherever you are careerwise – anywhere from your first day of work to your last – this easy read of a pep talk speaks volumes.

– Ari Pinkus

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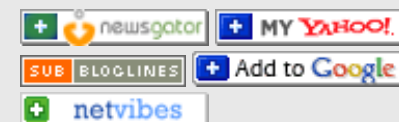
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