

HARNESS THE POWER OF LOW EXPECTATIONS WITH *THE OFFICIAL SIDEKICK HANDBOOK!*

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO BE NUMBER ONE? Must you be the fastest rat in the race? Are you condemned to endless grasping for fleeting glory to find fulfillment? No! This indispensable guide to the sweet sidekick life will show you the art of being SECOND best. Eat what you want, cash a nice paycheck, and avoid the heavy lifting while getting co-billing! Illustrated chapters include:

- *Locating a suitable hero*
- *The delicate art of ingratiation*
- *The critical difference between a buddy's support and aiding and abetting*
- *How to execute a winning pratfall*
- *Sidekick role models, from Attila the Hun's obscure sidekick Jimmy the Hun to Batman's Robin the Boy Wonder.*
- *The nuances of attaching yourself to a new hero when the old one is fired*
- *and much more!*

TOO SLIM is the bassist for the Grammy-winning western music and comedy group Riders In The Sky. He lives on the Too Ranch near Nashville, Tennessee.

TEXAS BIX BENDER is the author of eighteen books, including the best-selling *Don't Squat With Your Spurs On* series. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

\$12.99 U.S.
Humor



THE OFFICIAL **SIDEKICK** HANDBOOK
SLIM & BENDER



GIBBS
SMITH

THE OFFICIAL **SIDEKICK** HANDBOOK



**HOW TO UNLEASH YOUR
INNER SECOND BANANA AND
FIND TRUE HAPPINESS**

TOO SLIM & TEXAS BIX BENDER

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: WHY A SIDEKICK?

Reasons and Rationales

CHAPTER 1: YOU CAN'T BE A SIDEKICK BY YOURSELF:

Tips on Finding a Hero

CHAPTER 2: HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL SIDEKICK:

The Art of the Supportive Guffaw and More

CHAPTER 3: SIDEKICK TRAPS AND PITFALLS:

Knowing the Difference Between a Supportive Relationship and Aiding and Abetting

CHAPTER 4: SIDEKICK SUCCESSION:

The Delicate Nuances of Attaching Yourself to a New Hero When the Old One Is Fired

CHAPTER 5: WHEN A SIDEKICK NEEDS A SIDEKICK:

Sidekicks and Marriage

CHAPTER 6: SIDEKICK ARCHETYPES

from the Western Sidekick to the Superhero Sidekick and Beyond

CHAPTER 7: ROLE MODELS AND INSPIRATIONS:

from the Fairly Obscure Jimmy the Hun to Ronald Weasley

CHAPTER 8: SIDEKICKS GOING GREEN:

Settling for Less Is Good for You and the Planet!

INTRODUCTION

WHY A SIDEKICK?

LOOK AT ALL THOSE OTHER BOOKS on the self-help shelf. What do they all have in common? A relentless striving to be Number One, that's what. A crazy desire for Top O' The Heap-dom. An absurd need to sacrifice time, energy, psychic and emotional resources, and your very identity in mad pursuit of winning, whatever "winning" means.

Must you be the fastest rat in the race? Are you condemned to endless grasping for fleeting glory in order to find fulfillment? Does your hair have to be THAT perfect? Do you have to keep late hours and never get enough sleep because somebody else might get ahead of you, whatever "ahead" means? Are shouldering endless responsibilities and worrying about that fifteen extra pounds your only future?

No, there is another way. And this book will show it to you.

The Sidekick Solution, my weary friend, to the rescue.

We are convinced that deep inside most of us is an inner sidekick, a self happy to settle for less, lower those sights, and trade the constant struggle for "success," whatever "success" means, for a comfortable, fulfilling, stress-free life as Second Banana. Plus, you can eat what you want.

We're not talking about slacking here, or extolling the virtues of laziness. We're talking about "The Art of Under-Achieving," "The Seven Habits of the Highly Mediocre," "The Power of Positive...ly Letting Someone Else Hog the Spotlight While You Do Just Fine, Thank You Very Much." Here, hungry pilgrim, is "Chicken Soup for the Sidekick."

Do you have what it takes to be a sidekick? Yes, you do, and these pages will show you how.

WHY A SIDEKICK? REASONS AND RATIONALES

.....

1. Sidekicks are always forgiven. Go ahead, screw it up. You don't have to be perfect. Use the Power of Low Expectations!
2. Avoid the heavy lifting while enjoying co-billing.
3. Eat what you want! Loosen your belt and take nap. Who cares? You're just a Sidekick!

TRIPPING AND FALLING: MAKING YOUR HERO LOOK GOOD BY COMPARISON

Never underestimate the power of a well-executed pratfall.

Careening into a file cabinet, banging your toe on a coffee table, inexplicably stumbling on the way to the elevator are valuable weapons in the Sidekick's arsenal.

We recommend the classic Carboni Stumble as a basic move. While walking normally, merely hook your right toe behind your left heel. The resulting falling and flailing will make you look like a fool and always amuse your Hero.

You might also try the old Finger Stuck in the Bottle Ruse, or the Busted Ink Pen in the Shirt Pocket Gambit.

These maneuvers, not to mention spit-takes, wacky sneezes, and walking into telephone poles reinforce your position as a harmless, amusing mood lightener. The perfect companion for a hard-charging Type A personality. Judicious use of the pratfall can deflect unwanted attention from your Hero during an awkward moment and insure that the joke is properly centered on, who else, you, the Sidekick.

EXAMPLE: You're in a tense meeting with your Hero and the Mergers and Acquisitions Investigators from D.C. There seems to be some discrepancy between the sales numbers your Hero reported for the last four years and actual inventory.

They're asking pointed questions, using phrases like "What did you know and when did you know it?" and "You realize bail is out of the question."

You say, "Anybody for coffee?" You get up, cross towards the bagel and coffee tray, and go into a Carboni Stumble, pulling the whole thing down on you in a hilarious mess.

When the laughter finally dies down, and your Hero says, "Let's get the cleaning staff in here . . . again!" and more laughter, the Feds may say, "Oh heck, let's wrap this thing up. We've got a plane to catch. Looks like your figures are close enough for government work. Ha ha ha."

Good work! You might be looking at a Sidekick Bonus!

CLASSIC SIDEKICK COMPLIMENTS

When today's Sidekick needs to compliment her Hero, she has a treasure trove of the classics to choose from. Feast your eyes and adapt as needed.

Dr. Watson: "By Jove, Holmes, how in blazes did you ever deduce that?"

Gabby Hayes: "Nice piece of shootin', Roy."

Mr. Spock: "Highly illogical, Captain, but effective."

Ethel: "Gosh, Lucy, that was great. Say, I bet you could win Ricky's talent show!"

HERO



SIDEKICK

