



David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants

By Malcolm Gladwell

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David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants By Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell's provocative new #1 bestseller -- now in paperback.

Three thousand years ago on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a pebble and a sling-and ever since, the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. David's victory was improbable and miraculous. He *shouldn't* have won.

Or should he?

In DAVID AND GOLIATH, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, suffer from a disability, lose a parent, attend a mediocre school, or endure any number of other apparent setbacks.

In the tradition of Gladwell's previous bestsellers-*The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers* and *What the Dog Saw*-DAVID AND GOLIATH draws upon history, psychology and powerful story-telling to reshape the way we think of the world around us.

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Editorial Review

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Starred Review Gladwell's best-sellers, such as *The Tipping Point* (2000) and *Outliers* (2008), have changed the way we think about sociological changes and the factors that contribute to high levels of success. Here he examines and challenges our concepts of "advantage" and "disadvantage" in a way that may seem intuitive to some and surprising to others. Beginning with the classic tale of David and Goliath and moving through history with figures such as Lawrence of Arabia and Martin Luther King Jr., Gladwell shows how, time and again, players labeled "underdog" use that status to their advantage and prevail through the elements of cunning and surprise. He also shows how certain academic "advantages," such as getting into an Ivy League school, have downsides, in that being a "big fish in a small pond" at a less prestigious school can lead to greater confidence and a better chance of success in later life. Gladwell even promotes the idea of a "desirable difficulty," such as dyslexia, a learning disability that causes much frustration for reading students but, at the same time, may force them to develop better listening and creative problem-solving skills. As usual, Gladwell presents his research in a fresh and easy-to-understand context, and he may have coined the catchphrase of the decade, "Use what you got." --David Siegfried

Review

"Truly intriguing and inspiring."?Hector Tobar, *Los Angeles Times*

"Provocative....*David and Goliath* is a lean, consuming read."?John Wilwol, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"As always, Gladwell's sweep is breathtaking and thought-provoking."?Joe Nocera, *New York Times*

"Fascinating....Gladwell is a master of synthesis. This perennially bestselling author prides himself on radical re-thinking and urges the rest of us to follow suit."?Heller McAlpin, *Washington Post*

"What propels the book, like all of Gladwell's writing, is his intoxicating brand of storytelling. He is the master of mixing familiar elements with surprise counter-intuitions, and then seasoning with a sprinkling of scientific evidence....Gladwell is a master craftsman, an outlier amongst authors."?Rob Brooks, *Huffington Post*

"Gladwell's most provocative book yet. *David and Goliath* challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, drawing upon history, psychology, and powerful narrative talent to rethink how we view the world around us and how to deal with the challenges life throws at us."?Susanne Jaffe, *Columbus Dispatch*

"Gladwell has made a career out of questioning conventional wisdom, and here he examines the allegedly unlikely triumph of the weak over the mighty and shows it's not so unlikely after all. 4 stars."?Judith Newman, *People Magazine*

"Engrossing.... Gladwell's singular gift is animating the experience of his subjects. He has an uncanny ability to simplify without being simplistic: clean and vivid Strunk and White prose in the service of peerless storytelling."?David Takami, *Seattle Times*

"Contemporary society can't escape history when Malcolm Gladwell explains the world as he does with *David and Goliath*."?Jane Henderson, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell explores the dynamics that inform and effect our everyday lives. By analyzing the Biblical account of the clash between David and Goliath, Gladwell presents a bold new interpretation of the lessons we should apply from it." *Today Show*

About the Author

Malcolm Gladwell has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1996. Prior to that, he was a reporter at the *Washington Post*. He is the author of *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, and *What the Dog Saw*. Gladwell was born in England and grew up in rural Ontario. He now lives in New York.

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