



## The Boss

By Andrew O'Keeffe

Published by Great Bosses

RRP: \$24.95

SENIOR HR practitioner Andrew O'Keeffe's *The Boss* is a novel based on true stories about bosses in the workplace. Some of the bosses depicted could be role models in their professions; others are so bad, they made me cringe. Most readers will be able to readily relate to some, if not all, of the bosses characterised.

O'Keeffe is a former Broken Hill High School student who studied industrial relations at university.

The story he tells follows a fictional professional, Lauren, as she makes her way up the ladder in a marketing career while juggling family responsibilities. We are introduced to the bosses who hold her future in their hands, including Deadly Di whose bullying is the catalyst for Lauren leaving the company she used to love. Her new job, with a boss with a great reputation, promises to take her career to a new level. But things begin to go very wrong from day one, and Lauren is forced to move on to a dysfunctional executive team in which each member has a unique way of intimidating and demotivating.

O'Keeffe has written a good read designed to improve the quality of Australian managers. He hopes there is an "irresistible drive" for managers to recognise their deficiencies and improve their own standards, but, in my experience, the poorer the manager, the less insight they have into their limitations.

*The Boss* would be a great training tool.

O'Keeffe is donating 20 per cent of the profits to charitable programs that equip young people for work.

Reviewed by **Graham Evans**, FAHRI, technical director of Corporate HR Solutions, Sydney, and chair of the NSW IR/ER Special Interest Group.

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