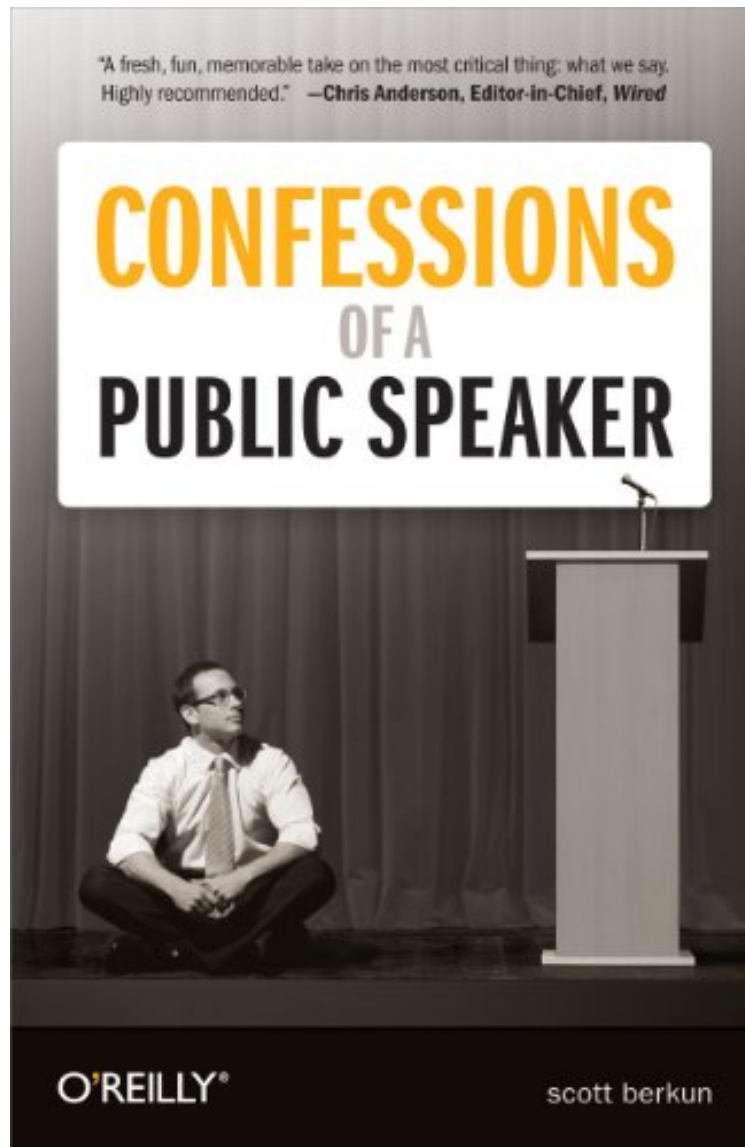


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## Confessions of a Public Speaker

*Scott Berkun*

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**Scott Berkun : Confessions of a Public Speaker** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confessions of a Public Speaker:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Stever Robbins of Public SpeakingBy Matt Deaton, Ph.D.As someone who speaks and coaches others to speak, Confessions was an especially enjoyable read, affirming some of my anxieties, causing multiple laugh breaks, and conveying some fantastic new tips along the way. Berkun's mix of honesty, practical insight and comedy reminded me a lot of admired productivity coach Stever Robbins, author of Get-It-Done Guy's 9 Steps to Work Less and Do More (Quick Dirty Tips) -- so if you like Confessions and want to get

more done, definitely check out Steve. Cool tips I learned: Tip 1: Use PowerPoint's presenter view (which previews the next slide and your notes, just in case, on your laptop but not the projector screen) Tip 2: Invest in one of those super fancy presentation remotes with the vibrating timer (never pull out your smartphone to check the clock again!) Logitech Professional Presenter R800 with Green Laser Pointer Tip 3: Your response to mistakes influences the audience's mistakes (so don't freak out, or they'll freak out) Tip 4: Always end early (no one complains when you give time back) Tip 5: A tightly-packed audience will receive your message better than a thinly dispersed audience (so if your crowd is small, ask everyone to come down front) Last, no matter what pressures I face on stage, the story of the guy invited to a conference in the Republic of Georgia, but not told he needed to deliver a complex lecture until he was IN THE ROOM and SURROUNDED BY ANTICIPATING OFFICIALS will always put my public speaking woes in perspective :-)

Thanks for the great read, Scott! P.S. Though after reading *Confessions* (and great public speaking books by Brian Tracy and Carmine Gallo) I may need to change the title, for a really good book on the nuts and bolts of public speaking, primarily for novice and journeymen speakers, consider my *The Best Public Speaking Book: How to Conquer Nervousness, Polish Your Authentic Stage Self, Develop Deliver Dynamite Presentations*. Cheers!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It's Scott's Fault! By Mark L. Mathia

Public speaking is one of those things that people fear the most. So they tell me. My first opportunity to speak to a large corporate crowd happened in 1998. Our firm had just created a new product and service offering. With only a small 6 month trial period, I stood in the basement of a large retail chain's corporate headquarters. Stood there prepared to deliver a top-notch roll out to all the Executive level leaders and store Managers affiliated with the company. There were only a few hundred in attendance, but it felt like thousands. I was ready - I had a robust yet embarrassingly dull PowerPoint presentation and my notes safely on the podium in front of me. (That's when tragedy dashed my hopes of a stellar presentation.) An executive who was not happy with the illumination of the projector ordered all house lights off. "Click" - no notes. I became only a voice behind the podium. A shadow of the presenter I had hoped to be. Lost - I knew that the show must go on. An it did - painfully so. Many of my speaking blunders could have been avoided if Scott had written, *Confessions of a Public Speaker* a decade or so earlier. I blame him for that moment in 1998. However, I also must give him credit for writing one of the funniest, most complete books on the triumphs and tragedies of a life spent sharing ideas with others. *Confessions of a public speaker* should be read by anyone who must someday walk the plank and stand in front of a crowd. Whether it's just a few people or an auditorium filled with eyes, this book is a must read if you would like to avoid a lot of pain and learn to laugh at yourself. Story after story the raw, exposed nature of his speaking life is easy to relate to. He's a great writer and excellent speaker. He is also crazy in a stupid kind of way. That makes his book all the more real and relatable. Scott is the kind of writer that makes coffee taste even better. He holds nothing back in his encouragement for us all to speak and offers practical tips to overcome almost every kind of stage dilemma. His book starts with a disclaimer. I feel its appropriate to my review. Scott's Disclaimer: "This book is highly opinionated, personal, and full of behind-the-scenes stories. You may not like this. Some people like seeing how sausage is made, but many do not. Although everything in this book is true and written to be useful, if you don't always want to hear the truth, this book might not be for you. This book is written with faith in the idea that if we all spoke thoughtfully and listened carefully, the world would be a better place." - Scott Berkun, *Confessions of a Public Speaker*. I can't recommend this book enough. Thank you Scott.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book

By J

Overall I enjoyed the book. I have probably seen most of the information in different places over the years but reviewing it again and with the author's humorous spin was worth whatever I paid for the Kindle edition. As I already knew and the book highlights throughout, the only solution to bad public speaking or fear of public speaking is practice. Before purchasing I also noticed several negative comments about the profanity in the book. I don't know if this is a later edition and some of the previous profanity has subsequently been edited out, but overall I think I counted maybe three or four words in the author's text and maybe two or three more in the guest stories in the appendix. Based on the comments I was expecting much worse. If what I read is what the complaints are about then my opinion is they are extremely overblown and you can purchase in confidence that this book in no way deserves a "parental advisory" sticker.

In this hilarious and highly practical book, author and professional speaker Scott Berkun reveals the techniques behind what great communicators do, and shows how anyone can learn to use them well. For managers and teachers -- and anyone else who talks and expects someone to listen -- *Confessions of a Public Speaker* provides an insider's perspective on how to effectively present ideas to anyone. It's a unique, entertaining, and instructional romp through the embarrassments and triumphs Scott has experienced over 15 years of speaking to crowds of all sizes. With lively lessons and surprising confessions, you'll get new insights into the art of persuasion -- as well as teaching, learning, and performance -- directly from a master of the trade. Highlights include: Berkun's hard-won and simple philosophy, culled from years of lectures, teaching courses, and hours of appearances on NPR, MSNBC, and CNBC Practical advice, including how to work a tough room, the science of not boring people, how to survive the attack of the butterflies, and what to do when things go wrong The inside scoop on who earns \$30,000 for a one-hour lecture and why The worst -- and funniest -- disaster stories you've ever heard (plus countermeasures you can use) Filled with

humorous and illuminating stories of thrilling performances and real-life disasters, *Confessions of a Public Speaker* is inspirational, devastatingly honest, and a blast to read.