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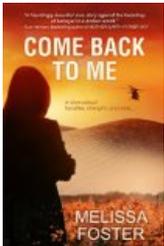


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Two Dads Talk

Author Spotlight!

Welcome to The Author Spotlight where  
authors get treated like the stars they are!

Today we have special guest host Peter Hobbs! <---clicky for  
his awesome site and to support his fantastic 'jump-in-to-  
save-the-day' fabulousness!

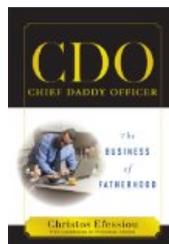
*(The crowd does flips and goes into a raving, foaming-mouth standing ovation)*

Peter has joined us here before and he was such a hit, we just had to  
bring him back!

Chris Efessiou,



author of *CDO, Chief Daddy Officer*



joins him today and WOW what a great interview these two have put  
together for you today.

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Collection NO MERCY
- would like to review
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- Friday, July 13: Alien

We also want to point out that on March 22, 2012, Chris will be launching a radio show on VoiceAmerica Internet radio called "StraightUp with Chris: Real Talk on Business and Parenthood." You can tune in at 6:00 p.m. EST every Thursday! For more information check [Chris's website](#) in the next couple of weeks.

Gentlemen...take it away!

Hello Y'all its me, Peter again with another guest interview for Zencherry's Blog. She is terrific and lets me do these cause she is way cool. So without further ado let's get to know Chris Efessiou. Hi Chris and welcome to Zencherry's Guest Blog on the WLC. I have read your book *CDO, Chief Daddy Officer* and must admit I found myself reading it non stop. For the readers that have not had that pleasure yet please give us a brief outline of how you came to write it?

**Chris: Unbeknownst to each other, my wife and daughter had been urging me to write a book about my story. I always felt I wasn't interested in doing an autobiography.**

**About 2 1/2 years ago, I was approached by a publisher to write a business book. Though flattered, I stated there were many business books on every topic possible and the world didn't need another business book stating the similar principles. I, then, suggested I would be interested in doing a book about my experience of raising my daughter as a single dad with no "manual" on raising a child of 7 years, using successful business practices from my business and applied them to raising my daughter.**

**Their response was something like, "Hmmm, ok we will get back to you." I thought that was the end of it. Surprisingly, they called back after about a week and wanted to go forward with my suggestion. They had researched the topic and saw there weren't any business/parenting books and found in a poll that there was great interest.**

I know you completed the book recently but how long did you take to write it, was this something that took years of compilation or something you were able to pen in a relatively short period of time.

**Chris: From signing the contract to going to press it took 370 days. It became a family affair.**

As parent myself I admire how you handled your divorce. How long were you married and how long did it take you and your ex-wife to come to the conclusion that your daughter was better raised by you?

**Chris: I was married for 10 years. The decisions for my daughter to stay with me was made by my daughter when her mother decided to move out of town. She looked at me and said "Daddy, mom can move wherever she wants. I'm staying here with you."**

That had to pull at the heart strings, you have done an amazing job of looking at child rearing as a business. Did your daughter buy into this quickly or did it take some convincing on your behalf?

**Chris: Simply looking at parenting like a business gives a cold and detached feeling but it is quite the opposite. In**

[Invasion of the Zombie Apocalypse](#)  
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**business we do everything to have a successful outcome using learned skills and strategies. I had to take a hard look at this most important aspect of my life, raising my daughter to be confident, un-entitled, self assured, compassionate, independent, accountable, and loving young woman. The love and affection were already in place before her birth. There wasn't a manual. The closest thing I had to a manual was a book written by Bill Cosby, *Fatherhood*. But the Coz didn't quite fit my cause so, I turned to what I knew best, running a successful business. I examined what made the business successful. I was surprised to realize it would simply be a matter of applying these same principles at home. For me and my daughter it worked beautifully. She is now 24 and is everything and more than I could ever have hoped she'd be.**

The chapter titles of the book alone are enough to compel the reader to get this book, how did you come up with the "layout" of the book?

**Chris: Thank you for noticing that. I gave it a lot of thought. It was very important to me to make *CDO Chief Daddy Officer* a simple and short read filled with many ah..ha moments for the readers who would identify with the many guiding principles. I wanted parents to easily be able to pick it up and turn to a section that was applicable to them. Hence the "layout" was born out my desire to speak to each subject from both the business and parenting point of view and the crafty guidance of a very capable editor.**

Now that you have *CDO, Chief Daddy Officer* completed, do you intend to keep writing and if so what are you going to write about?

**Chris: Absolutely, I currently have a blog and post 2-3 times a week on combining many parenting and business topics. On the back burner, I am planning on collaborating on writing a book with wife, Juliana, on blended families and careers.**

Outside of family members can you name one person that you feel supported you the most while you were writing this book?

**Chris: I received abundant encouragement from many people. As people I interact with learned of my project they were very encouraging, from my team at the office, to certain business associates, to friends who had known of my journey over the years.**

This question may sound silly, but did you learn anything about yourself by writing your book and if so what was it?

**Chris: Yes, it was an amazingly cathartic process for me and my daughter Persephone who is a contributing author. What has totally blown me away is our relationship has become closer and deeper and I thought we were as close as a father and daughter could possibly be. That was an absolutely delightful outcome.**

The two endorsements at the beginning of the book are excellent, are these people you interact with professionally?

**Chris: Interestingly, I met Gordon Bernhardt, CEO of Bernhardt Wealth Management, when I was being interviewed by Peter Schwartz, of Executive Leaders Radio over a year ago.**

**We spoke afterwards and he was very interested in the book I was writing and asked to receive a copy when completed. He liked the book enough to offer his endorsement and buy copies of the book for his clients.**

**Matthew Cronin, PhD is a Business School Professor at George Mason. He was one of my daughter's professors. I was asked to lecture in his class on negotiations with a real case example about 2 years ago. I admired and appreciated his viewpoint and asked him to read the manuscript. As a result I am honored to have his endorsement.**

**Since the book was published I received endorsements from people I did not know, including one from Dr. Michele Borba, and educator, author of 23 books, parenting expert and contributor to the TODAY Show. I have also received endorsement from Maria Bailey, CEO of BSM Media, Author, and Host of Nationally Syndicated Radio Show Mom Talk Radio. Just last week I received the endorsement of Peter Schwartz, Vistage Chair, Vistage International which is a CEO think tank.**

*For a complete list of endorsements please visit [Chris' website HERE](#)*

Chris, thank you for the information on your book, and I must say it is an amazing read, not only for a single parent, but for any parent or about to be parent. Now, comes the part of the interview where we get to know Chris a little better. You know, the stuff that a dry old interviewer would never ask.

Where were you born and raised?

**Chris: I was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. At the age of 19, I came to the states as an exchange student not knowing anyone or a word of English. In a brief time, I knew I wanted to make the states my home.**

Are you an only child, or one of a huge brood?

**Chris: I am the oldest of three. I have sister and a younger brother. They reside in Greece with my mother.**

I ask this question of everyone, and one of these days someone will trip me up on it, did you have a normal old boring childhood or were you on a merchant marine ship growing up?

**Chris: I grew up in a strict ethic loving family. At age 19, I boarded aviation's equivalent of a merchant marine ship (a commercial jet liner) bound for the US.**

What is your favorite musical group or Artist?

**Chris: My taste in music is broad. Among my favorites are Bruce Springsteen, Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Usher, Cee Lo Green, Bryan Adams, Toby Keith, Pavarotti, Verdi and many more.**

When you get home at night, what is the typical routine?

**Chris: I kiss my wife and rest my eyelids for 30 minutes. After that decompression time, I am ready for anything.**

If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you change about your life, if anything?

**Chris: I would trade in my single engine airplane for a jet. Otherwise, I would change nothing in the way I live my life.**

Where would you like to retire, and why?

**Chris: I love what I do. So, retiring in its classic sense is not in my plans. When I slow my schedule somewhat, I will like to spend my free time in either Southern California, Southern Florida, or both. I favor those states because the sky is beautiful and allows me to fly whenever I chose.**

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

**Chris: When you come to a fork in the road take the path least traveled. Without exception, the journey is always more interesting and the destination far more rewarding.**

If you could change one event in history, what would it be?

**Chris: The existence of any Genocide.**

How would you like to be remembered?

**Chris: I would be honored to be remembered as my daughter's father.**

Did you have a nickname? How'd you get it?

**Chris: Doodle; my daughter christened me with it and it is in use even today.**

What is your biggest pet peeve?

**Chris: I am deathly allergic to people who avoid accountability and have a propensity for entitlements.**

What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

**Chris: For my 40th birthday, I gave myself the present of flying in the back seat of a fighter jet.**

If we looked in your refrigerator, what would we find?

**Chris: Feta cheese, Tzatziki, olives, tomatoes, milk, veggies.**

Have you ever been to a school or college reunion?

**Chris: Yes. My 30th High School Class Reunion in my hometown, Thessaloniki, Greece. It was especially wonderful to be the Co-Chair and help organize the festivities, and very much to my surprise I found that I was one of a handful of people closest to their ideal weight, and one of 3 classmates with a full head of hair.**

If you had only six months left to live, what would you do with the time?

**Chris: I'd live as if I were dying.**

Here is the challenging part for any writer, I need one or two word answers please:

Favorite color? **Cobalt blue or Black**

Lucky Number **13**

Fast dance or Slow Dance? **Slow dance**

Boxers/Briefs **Briefs**

Movie that you watch every year or more often? **The Scent of a Woman**

Favorite Season? **Spring**

Regular or Decaf? **Regular**

City Guy or Country Guy? **City Guy**

4 door sedan or sports car? **4 door sedan**

Take out or cook at home? **Cook at home**

How many books a year do you read? **12**

Favorite Day of the Week? **Wednesday**

Cat or Dog? **Dog**

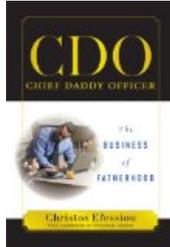
Chris, a recent addition to my interviews is a chance here at the end to give the subject of the interview a chance to plug their favorite charity, non-profit or cause. Anything you would like to promote?

**My favorite organization where I hope to join their board soon is Prevent Child Abuse America Another favorite is Fathers.com**

Thanks Chris, you have been a delight to talk to and your answers have been terrific. I would like to again thank Zencherry for the opportunity. Bye Y'all

Zencherry: Thank YOU Peter I think we need to bring you back all the time! You're fantastic at this!

Thank YOU Chris for a wonderful read and for doing the interview here on the WLC. We were mighty glad to have you.



**Chris Efessiou on Facebook**  
**Chris Efessiou on Twitter:**  
**@ChiefDaddyOfcr**  
**LinkedIn: Christos Efessiou, PhD**

Remember, while you're here to check out the cool forums where the literati and such hang out and have wordy sorts of wordy-word things going on and remember:

Comments make angels sprout wings, floors mop themselves into glaringly shiny masterpieces and oranges squeeze themselves juicy with delightful drinks. (Or so they say.) Just hit preview before saving and voila! You've saved the world, (or a piece of this blog any ol' way)!

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## Comments

### FANTASTIC interview you

March 3, 2012 by *zencherry*, 18 weeks 6 days ago  
Comment id: 8017

FANTASTIC interview you two!

(Whistles and loud noise-makers in the crowd blaringly tell the tale of your awesomeness)

Thank you so MUCH!

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