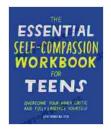
# Overcoming Your Inner Critic: Achieving Health and Wellness by Embracing Your True Self



The Essential Self Compassion Workbook for Teens:

Overcome Your Inner Critic and Fully Embrace Yourself
(Health and Wellness Workbooks for Teens)

by Katie Krimer MA LCSW

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Our inner critic is that nagging voice in our head that constantly criticizes and belittles us. It can make us feel inadequate, unworthy, and incapable. If left unchecked, our inner critic can wreak havoc on our self-esteem, our relationships, and our overall health and wellness. However, there is hope! We can learn to overcome our inner critic and embrace our true selves.

#### **Understanding Your Inner Critic**

The first step to overcoming your inner critic is to understand it. Where does it come from? What is its purpose? The inner critic often develops in childhood as a way to protect us from harm. It may have been a critical

parent, teacher, or peer who made us feel inadequate. As we grow, our inner critic can internalize these negative messages and become a permanent fixture in our minds.

The inner critic's purpose is to keep us safe. It tries to protect us from making mistakes, getting hurt, or being rejected. However, the inner critic often oversteps its bounds and becomes too harsh and critical. It can make us afraid to take risks, try new things, or express ourselves authentically.

#### The Impact of the Inner Critic

The inner critic can have a profound impact on our health and wellness. When we are constantly criticized, we may start to believe that we are unworthy and incapable. This can lead to low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems. The inner critic can also lead to physical health problems, such as headaches, stomachaches, and fatigue.

#### **Overcoming Your Inner Critic**

The good news is that we can overcome our inner critic. It takes time and practice, but it is possible to quiet the negative voice in our head and embrace our true selves.

Here are five techniques to help you overcome your inner critic:

- Identify your triggers. The first step to overcoming your inner critic is
  to identify what triggers it. What situations or thoughts make your inner
  critic the most critical? Once you know your triggers, you can start to
  avoid them or develop strategies for coping with them.
- 2. Challenge your negative thoughts. When your inner critic starts to criticize you, don't just accept it. Challenge your negative thoughts and

ask yourself if they are really true. Are you really as worthless and incapable as your inner critic says you are? Often, you will find that your inner critic is exaggerating or even lying.

- 3. **Talk to yourself kindly.** When you catch yourself being critical, talk to yourself kindly. Imagine what you would say to a friend who is going through the same thing. Be compassionate and understanding.
- 4. **Practice self-care.** Self-care is anything that you do to take care of your physical and emotional health. When you practice self-care, you are showing yourself that you are worthy of love and respect. Self-care activities can include eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, exercising, and spending time with loved ones.
- 5. Seek professional help. If you are struggling to overcome your inner critic on your own, don't hesitate to seek professional help. A therapist can help you understand your inner critic and develop strategies for coping with it.

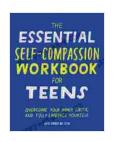
#### **Benefits of Overcoming Your Inner Critic**

Overcoming your inner critic is one of the most important things you can do for your health and wellness. When you embrace your true self, you will experience a number of benefits, including:

- Increased self-esteem
- Reduced anxiety and depression
- Improved physical health
- Stronger relationships
- Greater success in all areas of your life

Overcoming your inner critic is not easy, but it is possible. By understanding your inner critic's purpose and developing strategies for coping with it, you can quiet the negative voice in your head and embrace your true self. The benefits of overcoming your inner critic are numerous, and they include improved health and wellness, increased self-esteem, and greater success in all areas of your life.

If you are ready to overcome your inner critic and live a happier, healthier life, start by identifying your triggers and challenging your negative thoughts. Then, practice self-care, talk to yourself kindly, and seek professional help if you need it. With time and practice, you will be able to quiet your inner critic and embrace your true self.

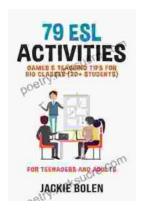


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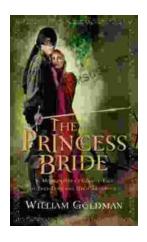
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