**For Immediate Release**

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**New Book Reveals Our Mental Patterns that Steal Our Happiness and Wreck Society**

*“The Five Thieves of Happiness” sheds light on how combating our internal “thieves” will leave behind a tough 2016 and make a difference for society in 2017.*

**Lambertville, MI** Jan. 2, 2017—2016 was a tough year for most. A U.S. presidential election divided our nation. Military conflicts and financial hardships created pain throughout the world. Many are starting the new year feeling powerless in how to make 2017 better.

But a new book out today reveals how we can look internally to make a difference worldwide.

*The Five Thieves of Happiness*, available on Amazon in [paperback](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CWhitney%5CDownloads%5Camzn.to%5C2d3RRtU), by John Izzo identifies five “thieves,” or mental patterns, that rob us of our internal happiness. According to Izzo, happiness is the natural state for human beings and harmony is the natural state for humanity as a whole. But the way we often think steals our personal happiness.

Izzo believes that the same thieves that steal our personal happiness are also robbing our societal harmony.

“Almost all the misery of the world is wrought by unhappy people who bring their pain onto others in various forms of violence and oppression. If the inner life is good, the outer manifestation is good,” explained Izzo. “That is why helping people find happiness is more important than it seems. The person who is truly happy in the deepest way will not bully or do violence.”

Izzo, a bestselling author and world-renowned business consultant and researcher, uncovered the five thieves as he sought the true source of happiness during a year-long sabbatical, walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain and living in the Andes of Peru.

The five thieves are control, conceit, coveting, consumption, and comfort. Izzo’s book outlines these mental patterns and also offers ways to combat them, e.g. serving others combats conceit and expressing gratitude combats coveting.

Izzo, a pioneer in the environmental sustainability movement who has advised more than 500 companies in workplace trends and sustainability, believes that the same mental thought patterns are getting in the way of humanity’s progress. Conceit keeps us destroying nature and focused on our tribe/nation, comfort keeps humanity locked in patterns that no longer work, control causes us to try to dismiss ideas different than our own, and coveting allows us to blame others for our misfortune.

“I am very optimistic about humanity because what we need is a shift in the inner life which will shift the outer world as a natural step,” said Izzo. “I think we don’t talk enough about the internal mindsets that must be tamed for us to thrive as a species. Once again, the outer world seems easier; but in the end, if you can’t shift the inner thinking, you will always come back to the same external result.”

*The Five Thieves of Happiness* has already received rave reviews:

* “Most of us are waiting for happiness to be given to us from the ‘outside.' John shows us how to ­find it on the ‘inside.' I hope this book helps you as much as it helped me.” — **Marshall Goldsmith**, Bestselling Author of *What Got You Here Won't Get You Th­ere*
* “A powerful guide to becoming world-class happy.” — **Robin Sharma**, Bestselling Author of *­The Leader Who Had No Title* and *­The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*, and Founder of *The Titan Academy*
* “Brilliantly conceived, beautifully written, and thoroughly engaging. It's a sparkling gem of a book, rich in timeless wisdom and abounding in contemporary truths—a book that you will want to return to again and again as you ponder what it means to live a good life.” — **Jim Kouzes**, Co-Author of *Th­e Leadership Challenge* and Dean's Executive Fellow of Leadership, Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University
* "In a world on the brink of returning either to the dark ages, or entering the next great renaissance, John's book comes along to help us remember that happiness is available to us all, despite our circumstances, if we become present to the things that are keeping us from it, and choose it for ourselves. He also shows how taming these thieves is a path to a sustainable future.” KoAnn Vikoren Skrzyniarz, Founder/CEO, Sustainable Brands

For more information, visit drjohnizzo.com/five-thieves-happiness.

***The Five Thieves of Happiness***

**By John Izzo, PhD**

**Berret-Koehler Publishers, Inc.**

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**About John Izzo:**

John Izzo is the bestselling author of six books including the international best seller The Five Secrets You Must Discover before You Die which was the basis of a public television series, He has advised over 500 companies across the globe on creating high engagement, purpose-driven workplaces. He has personally spoken to over one million people and his work has been featured by the likes of Fast Company, Investor’s Business Daily, CNN, Inc. Magazine, and the Wall Street Journal.

He has been a pioneer in understanding the future of workplace trends and what companies must do to succeed in the rapidly shifting world of new expectations. Twice in his career he was a pioneer, both in employee engagement and corporate social responsibility (Awakening Corporate Soul, 1994) and changing employee values (Values Shift, 2002/2005). His latest books, *­The Five ­Tieves of Happiness* and *Purpose Revolution*, will be released in 2017.

As John Izzo traveled the world for four decades, the vast majority of human beings he encountered in many diverse cultures across six continents seemed to be good and decent people. Why then was the evening news fi­lled with unimaginable horrors, and why were we running like buffalo off a cliff toward environmental catastrophe, when it seemed so obvious that change was needed? Maybe the same thieves who were stealing our personal happiness were also robbing our societal harmony. After all, what was society but an outgrowth of each of our inner worlds write large. This is why all global or community change must begin in the heart of each of us.

Over the last twenty years, Izzo has worked tirelessly to create a more sustainable world including extensive volunteer work in East Africa and leadership positions in the sustainability movement. He was Chair of the North American Environment Caucus at the U.N. Conference on Population and Sustainable Development in Cairo, the chair of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club in California. He is a distinguished fellow at the East-West Institute, a New York based think-tank, dedicated to creating a more peaceful and sustainable future.