

HEALING THE INNER CRITIC



PROFESSOR FIXIT

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Chapter 1: Meet the Critic

If you've ever heard a voice in your head whispering, "You should be doing more," or, "That wasn't good enough," you're not crazy. You just met your Inner Critic.

Most people don't realize they've been living with a saboteur in their mind for years. Sometimes it sounds like your own voice. Other times, it echoes someone else—your parents, a teacher, an old bully, society.

It's the voice that double-checks your worth every time you rest. The one that makes you re-read an email 12 times before hitting send. The one that turns compliments into suspicions, and silence into rejection.

And here's the kicker: It *thinks* it's keeping you safe.

The Inner Critic is a survival adaptation. Born in your earliest moments of fear, shame, or rejection, it showed up to keep you in check. Because in your little nervous system's logic, if you're perfect, you won't get hurt again.

So it started scanning everything:

- Your tone
- Your performance
- Your body
- Your relationships

Always on high alert. Always trying to "fix" you before anyone else could criticize you first.

But what started as protection became a prison. Because no matter how hard you work, it's never enough. And that voice? Louder than ever.

"You're falling behind." "Everyone else has it figured out." "Don't mess this up."

Sound familiar?

You're not lazy. You're not ungrateful. You're just tired of fighting a voice that was never yours to begin with.

In this book, we're not going to shame the Inner Critic. We're going to study it. Decode it. And then... we're going to rewrite the script.

Because the Inner Critic isn't the villain. It's a scared part of you that needs an upgrade.

And Professor FixIt is here to rebuild from the inside out. Let's begin.

Chapter 2: The Voice That Isn't Yours

There's a voice in your head that sounds like you but it's not.

It says things like: "You're too much." "You'll just screw it up." "Why even try? You'll fail again."

You've heard it so long, you stopped questioning it.

But here's the truth:

That voice? It's a recording.

Not from you. From *them*.

Parents. Teachers. Church. Society.

Anyone who made you feel small, ashamed, or not enough.

Their judgments became your *default script*.

Now it runs on autopilot.

And every time you try to rise, it drags you back down.

This voice isn't protecting you.

It's policing you.

And guess what?

It's outdated.

Professor FixIt says it's time to rewire the intercom.

Time to separate what's *yours* from what was *downloaded without consent*.

Here's your assignment:

1. When that inner critic starts talking, pause.
2. Ask: "Whose voice is this really?"
3. If it's not yours—you don't have to obey it.

You're not broken.

You're just running corrupted code.

Good news?

Professor FixIt's here with the patch notes.

Chapter 3: The Inner Courtroom

Your mind has a courtroom and the Inner Critic is both the prosecutor *and* the judge.

Every move you make gets put on trial:

- You rest? “Lazy.”
- You speak up? “Too much.”
- You hesitate? “Failure.”

The verdict is always the same: **guilty**.

And what’s wild?

You keep showing up.

Every single day.

Trying to prove your worth to a jury that doesn’t even exist.

But let me ask you something:

Who’s defending you in there? Where’s the part of you that says,

“I’m allowed to be learning.”

“I don’t owe perfection to be valuable.”

“This moment doesn’t define me.”

Silence, right? That’s because the defense hasn’t been trained.

Only the critic got a megaphone. Here’s what Professor FixIt wants you to do:

Build your Inner Defender.

Not a delusional cheerleader. A rational, grounded, compassionate advocate who fights back.
Start simple:

- Write out the accusation. (“I’m behind in life.”)
- Cross-examine it. (“Compared to what?”)
- Offer evidence. (“I’m healing. I’ve survived. I’m growing.”)

The goal isn’t to never feel doubt.

The goal is to stop letting it be the only voice in the room.

Chapter 4: The Fix-It Mask

Some people drink. Some people are numb. You? You fix it.

Every problem becomes a puzzle. Every emotion becomes a task. Every moment of stillness becomes a red alert:

“Do something.”

This is the Fix-It Mask and behind it?

Exhaustion.

Shame.

A deep fear that if you stop fixing... you'll fall apart.

You learned to be useful as a way to be safe.

You became the reliable one.

The capable one.

The one who holds it all together—even when you're falling apart inside.

Because if you're needed, you won't be abandoned.

If you're fixing, you're not failing.

If you're performing, no one can see how much you're hurting.

But fixing isn't healing.

And being strong all the time?

It's just a trauma response in a suit and tie.

Professor FixIt says this:

You're allowed to *just be*.

You don't have to rescue everyone.

You don't have to prove your worth with productivity.

And you're not broken just because you're finally tired.

Here's your tool for this chapter: **The Permission Statement**

Write this and keep it somewhere visible:

“I don't have to earn rest.

I don't have to fix everything.

My value is not tied to what I produce.”

Say it. Live it. Rewire the script.

Chapter 5: Recognizing the Voice

The Inner Critic is sneaky. It doesn't always yell. Sometimes, it whispers. It pretends to be logical. Helpful. Motivational.

"You should know this by now."

"Don't get too confident."

"This isn't good enough yet."

"If you mess up, it's all over."

It hides inside your self-improvement. Your perfectionism. Even your "high standards." It wears masks like:

- *Productivity*
- *Responsibility*
- *Realism*

But here's how you know it's the critic talking:

It makes you feel small.

It doesn't correct with kindness—it shames with certainty.

It doesn't teach—it threatens.

It doesn't invite you forward—it beats you backward.

Professor FixIt says this:

If the voice in your head speaks to you like someone you'd never speak to a friend...

it's not your voice.

It's the critic.

Here's your tool for this chapter: **The Callout Drill**

1. When a harsh thought hits, ask:
"Would I say this to someone I love?"
2. If the answer is no, say this aloud or write it:
"That's not true. That's the Critic."
3. Replace it with:
"I'm doing the best I can with what I have."
"Mistakes don't make me unworthy."
"Progress is more important than perfection."

Because you don't need another critic, you need a coach.

Chapter 6: Rewiring Thought Loops

You've been running on autopilot. Same thoughts. Same feelings. Same reactions. That's not a coincidence—it's a neural loop. The Inner Critic carved a trench in your brain:

Thought → Emotion → Behavior → Shame → Repeat.

Break the loop? You have to *interrupt the pattern*. This is where rewiring starts. Not with mantras, but with *awareness + action*. Let's break it down:

Step 1- Catch the Trigger: Thought: "I'm falling behind."

Ask: *What just triggered this?* A text? A scroll? A silence?

Step 2-Name the Emotion: Anxiety. Guilt. Shame.

Get specific. Don't just say "bad." Name it and disarm it.

Step 3-Challenge the Thought: Ask....

- Is this fact or fear?
- Who taught me this belief?
- Would I say this to someone else?

Replace with something grounded:

"I'm moving at my own pace."

"Being behind isn't the same as being broken."

Step 4-Choose a New Action: Instead of spiraling, do something small:

- Drink water
- Step outside
- Text a friend
- Open your journal

Neuroplasticity isn't a buzzword—it's your exit route. Every time you choose a new path, your brain *notices*. Repeat it, and it becomes the new default. Professor FixIt's rule:

"You don't erase the loop. You rewrite it."

Every new thought is a new track. Every kind word is a new connection.

Every choice to pause is proof:

You're not stuck. You're *reprogramming*.

Chapter 7: The Inner Nurturer

You've spent years mastering the voice that tears you down. Now it's time to meet the voice that builds you up.

The Inner Nurturer isn't weak. It's not cheesy. It's not fake optimism. It's the part of you that:

- Sits with you instead of fixing you
- Speaks gently when you're spiraling
- Reminds you you're safe when you feel like a failure

Most of us never developed that voice.

We were taught "tough love" or nothing at all.

So now when kindness shows up—even from ourselves—it feels foreign. Suspicious. Soft in the worst way.

Professor FixIt says: *That's exactly why you need it.*

Reparenting Drill – Build the Nurturer

1. Close your eyes.
Picture younger you at the age you needed love the most.
Scared. Confused. Trying so damn hard.
2. Say out loud:

"I'm here now. I've got you."
"You didn't deserve the pain, but you survived it."
"You don't have to be perfect to be worthy."
3. Now—make it a practice.
Write it.
Record it.
Look in the mirror and say it again.

The Inner Critic was wired by fear.

The Inner Nurturer is wired by presence.

You don't destroy the critic. You *dethrone* it. You give the mic to the voice that knows how to hold space, not just control outcomes because the goal was never perfection.

It was *peace*.

Chapter 8: You Don't Need Fixing

You picked up this book because you thought something was wrong with you.

That if you could just find the right formula, the right mindset, the right system—maybe you'd finally be enough.

Let me be clear:

You are not broken.

You are not defective.

You are not a malfunctioning machine in need of constant repair.

You were shaped.

By trauma. By pressure. By people who couldn't see your full worth.

And to survive it, you built systems inside yourself—hypervigilance, perfectionism, criticism.

They helped you cope.

They got you here.

But they can't take you any further.

The truth?

You don't need fixing.

You need **freedom**.

Freedom to rest without guilt.

Freedom to fail without shame.

Freedom to exist without having to *earn* your right to peace.

So here's your last tool:

Grace Over Grit

You've fought long enough.

Let the next season be softer.

Not because you're giving up.

But because you're finally giving yourself a chance.

Let this be the day you stop calling your healing "work" ...
and start calling it *home*.

You made it.

And you're still here.

— Professor Fixi