

# RESET — AND — RISE

## WITHOUT BURNOUT

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# When the Hustle Becomes a Hollow Echo?

They told you to work hard, prove yourself, climb the ladder. But they never told you what to do when your ladder leans against the wrong wall—and you're too exhausted to move it.

This isn't about motivation. You've had enough of those LinkedIn posts that shout "Hustle harder!"

This is about reclaiming the clarity, calm, and confidence you once had... before meetings became marathons and your to-do list became your personality.



# A Note from Elvina

Hi there,

If you've picked up this guide, I want to start by saying something that's not said nearly enough in the professional world:

You're allowed to be tired.

You're allowed to pause.

You're allowed to want more than just titles and targets.

This isn't just a guide. It's a quiet conversation I wish someone had with me when I was deep in the "I should be grateful, but I feel like I'm drowning" phase of my career.

You might be somewhere between doing everything right on paper and feeling completely off-balance inside. You're likely a go-getter, a high performer, someone people rely on—but maybe, lately, it's felt heavy.

This is for you.

I wrote this guide to help you notice the signs, find your center, and build a version of success that includes peace of mind—not just productivity. Inside, you'll find stories, self-checks, and strategies to not just survive corporate life, but shape it in a way that feels good to live in.

Take your time. Read what you need. Skip what you don't. This space is yours.

Here's to sustainable growth, deeper calm, and the version of you that you've quietly been craving.

With grace,  
Elvina



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# Introduction

## The Quiet Question Behind High Performance

In every coffee-fueled conversation with a manager in their late 20s or early 30s, I hear the same quiet question:

Is it always going to feel like this?

As someone who has walked that tightrope between ambition and anxiety, I get it. We were told that success meant saying yes, staying late, and solving everyone's problem before we solved our own. Somewhere along the way, our passion blurred into pressure, and our days started feeling more like survival than success.

This book is your pause button.

Let's talk honestly about what burnout looks like, why we stay silent, and how to shift from drained to dynamic—without quitting your job or ghosting your responsibilities.



# Chapter 1:

## What Burnout Really Feels Like (and Why You Didn't See It Coming)

Burnout doesn't announce its arrival. It creeps in subtly—like an app running in the background, draining your battery. You're not lazy. You're not disorganized. You're just maxed out in a system that treats overwork as a standard.

### Core Feelings and Signs:

You might be experiencing:

- Dreading Mondays... by Sunday morning.
- A constant, low-grade exhaustion.
- Snapping at minor inconveniences.
- Feeling indifferent about once-important work.
- A sense of failure despite high productivity.

### Examples:

- Priya, a team lead, used to love her job. But now, even good feedback feels hollow. She finds herself fantasizing about running away—not to a vacation, but to silence.

- Rohan, always the high-performer, finds himself zoning out in meetings. He knows something's off, but keeps saying, "I just need to get through this month." That month never ends.

### Strategy:

- Name it to tame it: Use a burnout diary. Write down one thing that drains you each day.
- Rest doesn't mean weak: Schedule downtime like meetings. Block a non-negotiable 30-minute solo recharge daily.
- Micro-wins: End your day by listing three things you did enough. Not perfect—enough.

Burnout isn't just a result of doing too much—it's a symptom of doing too much of the wrong things, or doing what matters with no replenishment. The first step? Acknowledge the fatigue without shame.



# Chapter 2:

## The Hidden Triggers of Burnout in Mid-Management

Mid-management is the sandwich layer—caught between delivery and diplomacy, with a side of delegation. It's where expectations multiply and clarity thins out.

**The Triggers:-** Let's meet three managers:

### 1. The Meeting Juggler – Riya

She's constantly switching roles, attending back-to-back meetings. She never finishes a thought before jumping to the next agenda.

- Trigger: Fragmentation of attention
- Consequence: Chronic overwhelm

### 2. The Approval Chaser – Amit

He fears saying "no." Each request feels like a test of loyalty.

- Trigger: Fear-based performance
- Consequence: Emotional burnout

### 3. The Lonely Leader – Fatima

Recently promoted, she now walks a lonely path. Peer support vanished overnight.

- Trigger: Isolation in leadership
- Consequence: Quiet suffering

### Strategy:

- Audit your triggers: Note recurring feelings before and after meetings or tasks.
- Boundary scripts: Practice saying, "I can help with this starting Thursday," instead of an immediate yes.
- Build micro-connections: Message one peer weekly just to check-in. Loneliness thrives in silence.

Burnout is not always about effort. Sometimes, it's about emotional inflation—giving too much energy to the wrong places, silently. Awareness is your first defense.

# Chapter 3:

## Your Burnout Self-Evaluation Questionnaire

You can't fix what you don't see. Burnout isn't just exhaustion—it's a multi-layered fog that clouds judgment, saps motivation, and distorts your sense of self-worth.

### The Questionnaire:

Rate the following on a scale from 1 (never) to 10 (always):

1. I feel tired even after a full night's rest.
2. I struggle to enjoy things I used to look forward to.
3. I feel irritated or impatient with colleagues.
4. I find it hard to concentrate or stay motivated.
5. I experience headaches, tension, or other stress-related symptoms.
6. I feel emotionally distant or disconnected at work.
7. I feel like I have no control over my schedule.
8. I keep pushing myself, even when I'm drained.

9. I often feel guilty for taking breaks.
10. I avoid social interactions after work due to exhaustion.

Total Score: \_\_\_\_ / 100

### Reading Your Score:

- 10–30: Light stress
- 31–60: Approaching burnout
- 61–80: Burnout zone
- 81–100: Critical state

Numbers don't define you, but they do guide you. Use your score as a flashlight, not a verdict. Where you are today isn't where you have to stay.





# Chapter 4:

## Exit Strategies – Categorized Action Plan

Knowing your burnout level is only half the journey. Now comes the shift: small, strategic pivots that allow you to restore your energy, boundaries, and clarity.

### **Category 1: Light Stress (10–30)**

Focus: Prevention & Awareness

- Use time-blocking for task clarity.
- Practice digital hygiene—turn off unnecessary notifications.
- Start a daily morning mantra: “Today, I choose what matters.”

### **Category 2: Approaching Burnout (31–60)**

Focus: Recovery & Realignment

- Negotiate or redesign responsibilities with your manager.
- Create space—one calendar block per day for non-reactive work.
- Reduce energy leaks: batch similar tasks, avoid multitasking.

### **Category 3: Burnout Zone (61–80)**

Focus: Boundaries & Intervention

- Take a pause—a weekend off without guilt or digital clutter.
- Journal your non-negotiables and write them down visibly.
- Say no without apology. Start small, build the muscle.

### **Category 4: Critical State (81–100)**

Focus: Pause, Protect, Pivot

- Seek professional support: therapy, coaching, counseling.
- Take a medical or mental health leave.
- Redefine success. Ask: “What would bring me peace, not just praise?”

Healing isn't linear. It's layered. You'll have days of clarity and days of chaos. The goal isn't to avoid burnout forever—it's to build habits that make burnout optional, not inevitable.

# Chapter 5: From Chaos to Clarity — The New Definition of Growth

Most of us were raised to chase milestones. But true success isn't linear. It's cyclical. You grow, you rest. You push, you pause.

You don't have to choose between success and sanity. You just have to reframe the path. Growth means knowing when to rise—and when to rest without guilt.

## **Rethinking Growth:**

- Growth is not speed—it's direction.
- Productivity without peace is just survival in disguise.
- Your title is not your identity. Your energy is your asset.

## **Strategy:**

- Start the week by answering: "What do I want to feel by Friday?"
- Schedule one task weekly that's nourishing, not productive.
- Celebrate enough. Redefine achievement to include peace of mind.



# Before You Go

From Elvina

If this guide made you pause—even for a moment—know that it wasn't by accident.

You're not lost. You're just being asked to stop carrying what no longer fits.

Burnout isn't your fault. But healing is your choice.  
One small step. One honest moment at a time.

You don't have to rise in a rush.  
You just have to rise in truth.

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# Continue the Journey With Us

We hope this eBook gave you the clarity and calm you needed to recognize what's been weighing on you—and the strength to shift it.

But real transformation doesn't happen in one sitting. It unfolds through consistent reflection, intentional action, and the right support.

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Keep showing up. Keep evolving. Your future self will thank you, for not giving up on the version of you that truly matters.