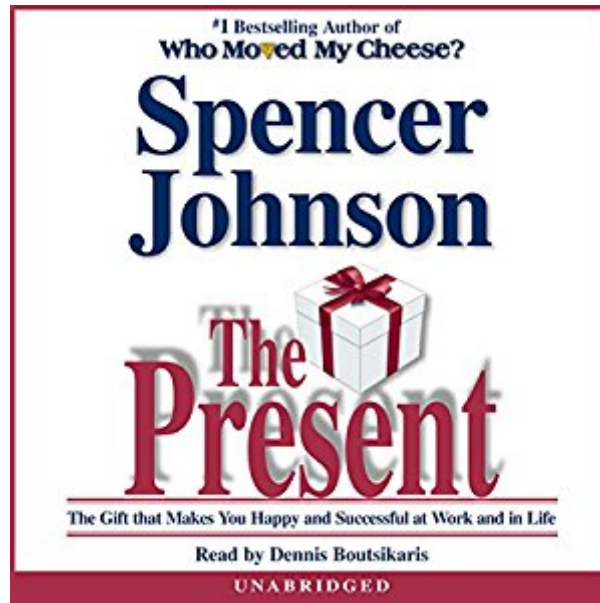


The book was found

The Present: Enjoying Your Work And Life In Changing Times



Synopsis

For over two decades, Spencer Johnson has been inspiring and entertaining millions with his simple, yet insightful stories of work and life that speak directly to the heart and soul. THE PRESENT is an engaging story of a young man's journey to adulthood, and his search for The Present, a mysterious and elusive gift he first hears about from a great old man. This Present, according to the old man, is 'the best present a person can receive.' Later, when the young boy becomes a young man, disillusioned with his work and his life, he returns to ask the old man, once again, to help him find The Present. The old man responds, 'Only you have the power to find The Present for yourself.' So the young man embarks on a tireless search for this magical gift that holds the secret to his personal happiness and business acumen. It is only after the young man has searched high and low and given up his relentless pursuit that he relaxes and discovers The Present - and all the promises it offers. THE PRESENT will help you focus on what will make you happy and successful in your work and in your personal life. Like the young man, you may find that it is the best gift you can ever give yourself. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm surprised that no one has noted that this is Spencer Johnson's follow-up to his classic 1984 book "The Precious Present". When I first saw this book in fact, I thought it was just a repackaging and renaming of the original. But it is a new book that continues and expands the fable of the boy and the old man. I frequently still give "The Precious Present" as a gift to friends and loved-ones.

Now I plan on giving those same people this new book, which deepens the message of the original book. I suggest you do the same - if the recipient appreciated the first book they will love this sequel too. There is also a convenient card included in "The Present" that contains a summary of the principles. Some people complain that the message of this book is too simple. Rather than a negative, I see the simplicity as a powerful positive. Knowing something and actually doing it are two very different things. Who among us could not benefit from a simple reminder of the power of living and focusing in the present? To reinforce the message so that I actually live it rather than just know it, I try to reread the original book once a month (it is very short and takes less than 10 minutes). I highly recommend both books.

I'm probably in the minority for not having been crazy about Spencer Johnson's megaselling WHO MOVED MY CHEESE? (though the book he co-authored with Ken Blanchard, THE ONE MINUTE MANAGER, is one of my all-time favorites). Yet that said, I jumped at the opportunity to listen to Johnson's latest effort, THE PRESENT . . . and I'm glad I did . . . it was fantastic! Though the subtitle (THE GIFT THAT MAKES YOU HAPPIER AND MORE SUCCESSFUL AT WORK AND IN LIFE, TODAY!) is perhaps just a tad ambitious, I really did feel better after listening . . . it is a short story, told in the parable fashion that Johnson likes to employ, about a man who learns a valuable lesson about living in the present from a wise old gent. The key: In order to achieve bliss in life, it's important to pay equal attention to the past (learn from mistakes), the present (live in the moment) and the future (plan for it as best as possible, but don't "lose yourself in worry or anxiety"). There were so many worthwhile ideas presented that I almost ran out of paper writing them down; for example: It is hard to let go of the past if you have not learned from the past. As soon as you learn and let go, you improve the present. The more you learn from the past, the fewer regrets you have. Only two things can rob you from joy of the present: your negative version of the past or your negative version of the future. You can't change the past, but you can learn from it. It is important to plan for the future if you want the future to be better than the present.

I did like the book. You can read it in an hour if you stay focused in The Present. (sorry, I couldn't resist) The purpose of the book is to let the world know that focusing on the present moment, learning from the past and preparing for the future will improve your life tremendously. That is an awesome message everyone should listen to! There is just one problem. The story which is set up to convey this message is overly simple and honestly boring. Having said that, this book can work for people. It is simple and a bit dull, but the most important thing about this book is not the story but

the message. The Present reminded me of that other book, FISH, that was popular a few years ago. It has the same boring, simple story but a powerful message. I think this book can be useful to many people. Just don't buy it thinking you are going to read a great story.

I have previously read and enjoyed "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson, so I was anxious to read his book entitled "The Present". Unfortunately, I was very disappointed. He seemed to take one simple thought-"Just Enjoy Today"-and stretch it into a book, albeit a very quick read. I did not feel the content was inciteful or useful beyond the one simple statement made above, which we've all heard before. Anyone can quote a concept, but few people can make the concept workable. Johnson leaves out the "how" part of living in The Present by giving example after example of how everything will just be wonderful if we would just worry about today. Maybe I'm one of those people he mentions in his book....maybe I just didn't "get it".

Like "Who Stole My Cheese" this is an extremely light short story couched between a forward that heaps praise on the story and an afterward that lays claims to life altering effects that result from reading the story. The story itself is fluff about learning from the past, living in the present and preparing for the future...mixed in with a great deal of praise about the story. It is a very interesting format...the book spends about half of its effort praising itself. It praises you for being so smart as to read and seek wisdom from this totally wise and pure author. This is an interesting format for creating a "feel good" story. But I am a kurmudgeon who doesn't like marketing hype, and have a history of tossing wrenches in marketing schemes...two stars, and no recommend. BTW: If you are a CEO planning a major re-engineering...you should consider giving a copy of "Who Stole My Cheese" to all the people you laid off, and a copy of "The Present" to the people you expect to work harder with your reduced workforce. It will make you feel wonderful about yourself. In fact, you might even want to increase your stock options.

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