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Death By Living: Life Is Meant To Be Spent



Synopsis

A poetic portrait of faith, futility, and the joy of this mortal life. In this astoundingly unique book, bestselling author N.D. Wilson reminds each of us that to truly live we must recognize that we are dying. Every second we create more of our past—more decisions, more breathing, more love and more loathing, all of it slides by into the gone as we race to grab at more moments, at more memories made and already fading. We are all authors, creators of our own pasts, of the books that will be our lives. We stare at the future or obsess about the present, but only the past has been set in stone, and we are the ones setting it. When we race across the wet concrete of time without purpose, without goals, without laughter and love and sacrifice, then we fail in our mortal moment. We race toward our inevitable ends without artistry and without beauty. All of us must pause and breathe. See the past, see your life as the fruit of providence and thousands of personal narratives. What led to you? You did not choose where to set your feet in time. You choose where to set them next. Then, we must see the future, not just to stare into the fog of distant years but to see the crystal choices as they race toward us in this sharp foreground we call the present. We stand in the now. God says create. Live. Choose. Shape the past. Etch your life in stone, and what you make will be forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

N.D. Wilson is an incredible writer. I have enjoyed his fiction and this was my first non-fiction book of his and I was not disappointed. A well written book by a man who knows the Lord. Many times his story was freakishly like my story. Thanks N.D. I was moved and blessed by this book.

As he did in "Notes from the Tilt-a-Whirl," N.D. Wilson takes us on a wonderful word-picture ride through life, death, and all things between. He has a great knack for turning a phrase that makes you think deeply about what he's telling you. By telling you stories about himself and some of his ancestors, he tells you why the Bigger Story matters and about the Author of that story. This can be a quick read, but it is one that should be lingered on and savored.

I read this book in the window seat of a red-eye flight during a snowstorm (exactly as it should be read). It made me more ready to die--thus, more ready to live. This is one of N.D. Wilson's best works of non-fiction. I'd highly recommend it.

I'm an N. D. Wilson fan. I raved about Notes from a Tilt-a-Whirl and was eager to read Death by Living. If you love Wilson, Death by Living won't disappoint. It's more of the same joyful, all of life Christian worldview. It's vivid imagery, poignant snark, and exuberant faith in the God who created all and ordains all will excite to live to die. He takes you on an adventure. He tells the story of his grandfather who fought in World War II, almost died on multiple occasions, and loved evangelism. He shows how living always leads to death, and death is a gift for the living. Within the framework of his grandfather's life, he encourages, admonitions, and prods us to be grateful for everything we have. He points out how God acts providentially on our behalf and how we have a thousand things daily to be grateful for. He recommends slowing down and considering each of these when we're tempted to feel sorry for ourself. In the same vein, he joyful embraces God's sovereignty over all of life. He shows how God is sovereign when he saved his grandfather from being killed by a bomb in WWII, and, also, when a friend died when taking a post in the military unexpectedly from a friend. God gives and He takes away. Bless him. He also aptly notes how often "God calls our bluffs and makes narrative hypocrites of us all" (40). What I appreciated most was the way Wilson took

something that's emphasized ad nauseum (life as story. I frequently talk this way) today and makes it fresh. We often tire of truth because it's told so poorly. Wilson thrives as storyteller, but also has the chops to deliver on the theology, worldview, and philosophy behind it all. That's what makes this book enjoyable. It's not your average philosophy book. It's not your average theology book. And it's not your average story-telling book. It's the delightful cocktail of an expert mixologist.

I love the way he writes. The beautiful poetry in his words and the truth that sinks in reading them. I needed to read this book now to be reminded of story and choices and dust. I'm grateful. Adding high on the list of favorites.

This is undoubtedly one of my most favorite books ever. (I rarely read fiction.) This book is real-life. It's full of stories and real people. It's slightly philosophical, definitely Biblical, insightful, wise, fun, and witty. It confronts the reader with a most basic truth about life -moments vanish, and so will we. How we choose to live those moments as they unfold before us tells a bigger story than we often realize. I would hope that this book would appeal to more than just the deeper thinkers among us because it's so honest and well written. Love of family and gratitude for each one is evident. I'm now thinking about God in the details again. I saw a recommendation for this book in Christianity Today. Glad I went for it.

Great book Very interesting the way the author describes his fun and adventures like a Tom Thumb ... novel....This book will make you think Don't mess it up,,,,Life will be gone like the wind,,,,Go have some clean fun,,,,

N.D. WILSON writes with such powerful words so beautifully woven into a tapestry of his grandfather life, who apparently lived a life full of living. Obviously men of faith, but written with such sensitivity and purpose to emphasize the Master of life without whom there would be no reason or purpose to the joy of living to the fullest. A testimony of such humble greatness.

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