



Moment Maker: You Can Live Your Life or It Will Live You

Carlos Whittaker

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An intentional life, a life lived deliberately, a life with purpose.

At the end of our days, all of these are things we would like to hear someone say about how we lived our lives. But they don't happen by accident. A life rich with meaning doesn't simply fall into your lap.

For Carlos Whittaker, renowned blogger, musician and worship leader, husband and dad, living life deliberately is a way of life. Making moments that are significant, memorable, or impactful are a part of how he navigates each day. Carlos is currently blowing up the blogosphere with people tuning in by the hundreds of thousands to share in these moments with him.

In Moment Maker, Carlos explains his methodology for living intentionally and for working at making moments in his life that touch the lives of others, whether that be his family, his friends, his colleagues, or total strangers.

Carlos isn't asking anyone to make a big investment in time, energy, or money. He is simply uncovering the investment of attention. You don't have to buy tickets to special events or orchestrate elaborate surprises. You just have to be aware -- of your surroundings, the people you encounter, the things that interest those important to you, the opportunities that present themselves -- and be prepared to seize those moments and see lives changed.

Moment Maker: You Can Live Your Life or It Will Live You Details

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From Reader Review Moment Maker: You Can Live Your Life or It Will Live You for online ebook

Rich says

My brother turned me on to this book - Carlos is an old friend of his. I picked it up last night and really couldn't put it down. This book is full of stories that I would love to have been part of. Carlos inspired me to be better at making moments, and making them count.

It is a very quick read. Carlos is not a trained theologian, so you get an honest look at the Scriptures through the eyes of a guy who simply loves Jesus. That is what we should all strive for.

Definitely worth a look, friends!

Lynn Tweedie says

I hadn't heard of Carlos Whittaker until he was on a podcast I love. Then I wanted to hear everything about him. I wish there was some more biblical teachings in the book (because I especially love his retellings of scripture), but I still think it's great! Hearing it in Carlos' voice makes it come alive all the more.

Steven Hinkle says

I have to admit, when I first began reading Moment Maker, I thought, "Oh no. It's an autobiography filled with uninteresting stories and wasted pages." That's bad, right? You see, I'm a highlighter-in-hand, let-me-find-the-cool-quotes, idea-seeking kind of book reader. However, Carlos Whitaker does an amazing job of captivating his readers with real and raw stories from his life that challenge us to make the most every moment. He makes sure that his readers come to grip with the fact that every moment is a gift and without them we miss out on our purpose for being here. These moments come from our failing, learning, connecting, loving, feeling, and being!

There are lessons about how to handle those moments that disrupt, the moments that call us to wait on God for something more beautiful, and the moments that can only be rescued through silence. Each reader is encouraged to embrace their weaknesses to find their strengths, persevere and push on, find hope from the moments that scar us, and to seek the great possibilities that can be outside of our comfort zones.

One of my favorite parts of the book arrives early on, when Carlos encourages us to create value with our moments. Nothing is quite as important as helping others experience moments of greatness, compassion, and being. He states, "When someone feels the true worth of who they are because you stopped what you were doing and made life about them, you have hit on essential component of Moment Making."

Your story matters and you can make a difference in the life of others when you create these moments of values for those you come in contact with each and every day. I took a few moments this week to write a short hand-written note of encouragement to a few of my students. The three notes resulted in a smile, a tear, a "thank you", and a couple of hugs. They felt valued and I knew I had (at least for a moment) impacted a

life for good.

“Dear Lord, I’m here again. I’m unsure of our future and where you will have us minister next. As we wait, my prayer is that you will allow me to be aware of those moments where I can speak life and show value into someone else’s life here and now. Like never before, help me make the most of each moment in the life of my students, my family, and those you bring my way. Amen.”

Sunny says

the author is constantly talking about god, but on the other hand spanking his kids. this is just not right!!!
the advise given is ok, but just too generic.
listening to the book was a waste of time!

Cassie says

This is such a good book! I can honestly say that it is the only e-book I have ever highlighted anything in.

I tend to be very comfortable in routine, but this book really made me think about how I could step out of my comfort zone to make great memories for myself, my family, my friends, and complete strangers.

It's a quick read, with great flow. I highly recommend it if you are looking for ways to really live life instead of just letting life happen to you.

Tricia says

I've followed Los' blog for many years and I loved this book just as much. I appreciate the importance of making moments and that life is so much more than your bucket list. (And the elf story totally made me laugh out loud!)

Jamesandrobyn Wright says

I am really glad that I read this book. So often I watch moments happen around me and fail to jump into them. I think those moments are for others and maybe not for me. Carlos does a great job of being raw and open his stories and how the moments he has jumped into have not only changed him, but helped others.

Story after story tells of times that Carlos jumped into a moment and loved people for who they were and not for who or what he thought they should be. He shows how living out the gospel will not always fit in the mold of what our traditions have made Christianity to be and how loving people means reaching into the moment and taking hold of it.

One of my favorite quotes speaks volumes about who we are as a society, content to let moments happen, and speaks to our need to jump in to moments:

"When we are the moment, the moment become engrained in us. But when we are more concerned with having something to show for it, we miss out on the experience. We may have a photograph of our child's smile when they discover something new, but we didn't get to experience the discovery with them. When we are in the moment, the moment stays with us." (pg. 149)

If you love stories, this book will captivate you. If you love redemption, this book will encourage you. If you want see how loving like Jesus loves really looks, this book will show you.

As you will see Christianity isn't always pretty and taking advantage of a moment will sometimes lead to things you may not normally do. Carlos never asks you to compromise your faith, he simply asks you to take advantage of moments, to show others love, to make a difference in the world.

"Be a moment maker, not a moment taker."

Sue says

my review is under private notes

Amy Lawson says

Sometimes life is so very daily. We wake up and most days it feels like life is coming at us 150 miles an hour until it's time to turn off the lights and set the alarm so we can get up and do the very same thing the next day. In my quest to get everything done on my To Do list, I forget to stop to think about what in the world I'm really doing.

This book was a perfect opportunity for me to stop and think about the moments that make up the days that make up the years that make up my life and my family's life. This is probably one of those books I need to read once or twice a year just to remind myself that the moments are what matter most.

Moment Maker isn't a super cerebral read. It's a quick read. It feels more like a conversation you'd have with Carlos Whittaker sitting around a table, enjoying a meal, making moments. I appreciated that this book not only stresses the importance of intentional living, it also gives specific, creative examples of how Carlos and his family have and are making moments on a daily basis. I also love that in every chapter Carlos includes times Jesus was a Moment Maker.

This is a great book to read with friends and family because it's full of stories and ideas you're going to want to discuss with the people in your life.

Sonja Allen says

Wonderful read. Uplifting and real. Bring out the kleenex-this one will take you right to Jesus

Crystal says

This book is engaging, entertaining, and enthralling. Through Carlos stories and examples of the lifestyle he introduces us to simply as "Moment Making", we find ourselves poured into his steps and thrown into memory after memory of how he has been challenged to make other people feel seen, important, and loved. The moments that he has shared with us, though some very personal and bright burning failures in his own eyes give the reader a chance to see that even if the moment making isn't exactly one for YOU, it can still impact others, and it can still help redeem that place in your heart that may still be full of shame even years upon years later. We all have that tape reel re-playing and reliving moments in our heads every now and again of where we fell short, or what we should have done differently- and Carlos invites us to grab hold of those moments when they are happening, or even before they happen to accept them, and put yourself out there living your life, not letting it live you.

Some of my favorite quotes from Moment Maker are "Jesus served everyone he encountered. He was all about making the moments with them about them-- showing them they were loved, that they were valued by their Father in heaven."

"When someone feels the true worth of who they are because you stopped what you were doing and made life about them, you can have hit on an essential component of Moment Making."

"Jesus came to do something incredibly special for us. He came to make sure we knew our worth, our value to God."

"It's about making someone feel valued through that moment. Because of the thought you put into it. Because they know they are worth that much."

"That initial act is all that is needed sometimes to induce the little bit of bravery in someone that will set them free."

This book shatters our hiding in that place of inadequacy and doubt and teaches us that no matter where we are in our lives, no matter what kind of Ragamuffin shape we are in, we can have an impact on the lives of others just by making an investment in them with just a moment of our time. Shed your life of insecurity one moment at a time, loving others and setting their hearts free from the bondage of being unseen, unheard, and unknown.

I will very happily recommend this book as I embark on my own journey of Moment Making!

Andrew says

In the Moment Maker, Carlos Whittaker encourages readers to live each moment and make it count because you will never get to relive the special moment. In the book, he explored three different types of moments including created moments- we are in control of creating special memories, received moments- we received a surprise gift, and lastly rescued moments- making every day count. Throughout the book, he shared immeasurable stories about living your life to the fullest.

One of these stories that Carlos Whittaker shared was about meeting a transgender at a coffee shop named Nicole. He sat down next to her and began to ask her questions in order to understand her story. She opened up about the struggles about being transgendered and what it truly means. Later that night, Carlos went to a honky-tonky with her and a couple of her friends. They all started fighting a crowd and they were trying to prove a point to the world. Carlos reached out to Nicole and told her to stop fighting and that she was worth so much more than this. His words eventually got through to her and she stopped fighting. And Carlos word's deeply touched Nicole because no one has ever told her she was worth anything. Carlos took this special moment and decided to instill hope into her life.

I would recommend this life changing book to anyone who is longing to make their life count for something significant. I immensely loved the stories that Carlos Whittaker revealed about the many different moments that has impacted his life. He is an excellent teacher and writer and he was very relatable. This book has reinforced to me the importance of living my life to make a difference and to enjoy and seize the opportunity in the present moment. This book was a wonderful reminder to me that my destiny is essential and the many moments will add up to a legacy good or bad. If you're looking for an inspiration book, then please read this book!

"I received this book free from the publisher through the BookLook Bloggers book review bloggers program."

Shalimar Cabrera says

I really enjoyed this as an audiobook because he is so funny! Hearing him talk thru his experiences was so entertaining. Not your typical heavy scripture Christian book. His family's personal stories are light and fun and hilarious and woven with the important message of making special moments and recognizing God's blessings.

Elizabeth says

"Every day we have an opportunity to make our lives meaningful, to make them matter. Yet, for so many of us, we let too much of life happen without taking notice." ~Moment Maker by Carlos Whitaker

I feel a pattern in my reading this year - how to make the most of the life we are given. Having read several books on this topic this year written by women, I was interested in reading something written by a man.

I loved the comedic real life stories. I loved the premise of the book.

Unfortunately, I felt like the first several chapters missed the mark. The story of his meet-up with a transgender female was just odd (not the transgender part, but rather the part where a married father is going out at night to a club to hang with these complete strangers). The moral of the story was lost in the strangeness of this decision.

The second chapter had me lost as well, especially the part where Carlos and his wife are quite obviously talking sexually in front of a child. I don't find it appropriate to say "I can't wait till tonight. I need you right now!" and "Okay kids, go pick out a movie. Mommy and Daddy are gonna go have special time." in front of or to a child. This just made the chapter seem creepy and awkward.

In many of the stories Carlos just comes across as annoying and too self-assured. Too up in everyone's business.

But. But. But. This was an overused word in the book. So much so that it started to grate on my nerves.

It was a quick read and there were many things that hit home for me. So even with all the faults I found it is worth reading.

Disclaimer: This book was given to me by BookLook Bloggers in exchange for my honest opinion.

Matt B. says

If you can imagine the movie "Dead Poet's Society" encapsulated in book form, shaken up, throw around in a heaping helping of spice, then repurposed as a collection of stories and great advice, you would have "Moment Maker". "Seize the day" would be an okay way to sum up this book, but I think the more appropriate version would be "seize the moment", and this book has it right.

Carlos does a great job of telling his self-effacing stories and interpreting those in light of what he has learned about making the most of the moments in life. The book never feels pushy or false, and his stories come across as very genuine and authentic. It never felt like he was trying to force meaning into the stories he shared, and I found myself nodding along with his revelations and words of wisdom.

I read this book in the course of a few hours, so it was definitely a fast read. I had difficulty putting the book down, because I enjoyed the stories and insights so much. I did not underline as much in this book as I would have some other ones, but only because I thought the whole book was great, not just a few quotes here and there.

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