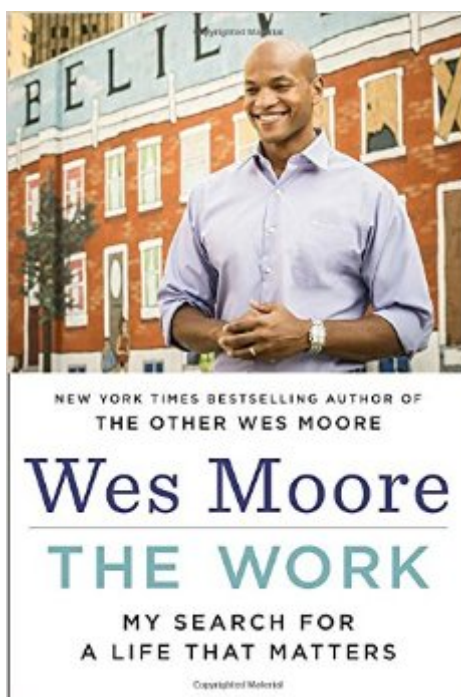


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# The Work: My Search For A Life That Matters



## Synopsis

The acclaimed author of *The Other Wes Moore* continues his inspirational quest for a meaningful life and shares the powerful lessons about self-discovery, service, and risk-taking that led him to a new definition of success for our times. *The Work* is the story of how one young man traced a path through the world to find his life's purpose. Wes Moore graduated from a difficult childhood in the Bronx and Baltimore to an adult life that would find him at some of the most critical moments in our recent history: as a combat officer in Afghanistan; a White House fellow in a time of wars abroad and disasters at home; and a Wall Street banker during the financial crisis. In this insightful book, Moore shares the lessons he learned from people he met along the way—from the brave Afghan translator who taught him to find his fight, to the resilient young students in Katrina-ravaged Mississippi who showed him the true meaning of grit, to his late grandfather, who taught him to find grace in service. Moore also tells the stories of other twenty-first-century change-makers who've inspired him in his search, from Daniel Lubetzky, the founder of KIND, to Esther Benjamin, a Sri Lankan immigrant who rose to help lead the Peace Corps. What their lives—and his own misadventures and moments of illumination—reveal is that our truest work happens when we serve others, at the intersection between our gifts and our broken world. That's where we find the work that lasts. An intimate narrative about finding meaning in a volatile age, *The Work* will inspire readers to see how we can each find our own path to purpose and help create a better world. Praise for *The Work* "Powerful and moving . . . Wes Moore's story and the stories of those who have inspired him, from family members to entrepreneurs, provide a model for how we can each weave together valuable lessons from all different types of people to forge an individual path to triumph. I've known and deeply admired Wes for a long time. Reading *The Work*, I better understand why." —Chelsea Clinton "Wes Moore proves once again that he is one of the most effective storytellers and leaders of his generation. His gripping personal story, set against the dramatic events of the past decade, goes straight to the heart of an ancient question that is as relevant as ever: not just how to live a good life, but how to make that life matter. Above all, this book teaches us how to make our journey about more than mere surviving or even succeeding; it teaches us how to truly come alive." —Arianna Huffington, author of *Thrive* "How we define success for ourselves is one of life's essential questions. Wes Moore shows us the way by sharing his incredible journey and the inspiring stories of others who make the world a better place through the choices they've made about how they want to live. We come away from this important book with a new understanding of what it truly means to succeed in life." —Suze Orman "An intriguing follow-up to his bestselling *The Other Wes Moore* . . . Moore makes a convincing

case that work has the most value if it's built on a foundation of service, selflessness, courage, and risk-taking. "Publishers Weekly" "A beautifully philosophical look at the expectation that work should bring meaning to our lives." "Booklist" "The Work will resonate with people seeking their own purpose." "BookPage"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wes Moore has lived a varied and kinetic life. Born poor amid hardscrabble circumstances, he nevertheless enjoyed a muscular support network that hoisted him upward, smashing barriers few African American youth successfully beat. Many peers, lacking his support, faced similar challenges and collapsed, an experience recounted in his blockbuster first book, *The Other Wes Moore*. That book, like its author, shattered barriers. This one, well... doesn't. Moore's prior volume ended with Moore headed for college, triumphant over life's adversities. This one commences with Moore boarding a plane for Britain, a newly minted Rhodes scholar. Where his first book covered a specific theme, the struggles that guided a child out of the stark poverty that crushed his peers, this second lacks a unifying through-line Moore expects us to glean meaningful lessons from his life experience, but he avoids making decisions about what to include, what to leave out. From Oxford, Moore caroms into an internship at the nascent Office of Homeland Security, through a big-spending but brief career in high finance, into the peak of fighting in Afghanistan while America's focus held on Iraq. Completing his national duty, he returns to America, assumes a career in public service, and eventually campaigns for Barack Obama. Moore has enjoyed a very active, socially engaged life.

And he wants to share it all with you. Each major portion gets equal space in this book gets an equal-sized chapter.

There are many 2 star reviews of this book by Wes Moore - for lacking flow and being disjointed by inserting other people's biographies in between his own story, for covering too much breadth without the depth of emotion and detail, for being distant while detailing what is for most of us an aspirational career. Those criticisms of this book are justified, yet I found it a powerful read. The title of this book gives us a clue - *My Search for a Life that Matters*. And Wes Moore details this search in this book. That's what caught my attention and made me want to read his story. The observer's tone and approach that Wes Moore takes in this book helped me step back, get a historical background and perspective, and understand what guided his career and life choices. The people and stories that inspired him were also telling - although each came as a little jolt in between his own narrative. However, it wasn't too hard to pick the thread back up once the other story was done. It gave me an insight into the people and stories that influenced Wes Moore in making his choices, and some were pretty powerful. I found myself identifying with Wes Moore as he spoke about the nagging feeling if he had made the right choice while engaged in a role that most would consider the height of achievement. Although I have not read Wes Moore's first book I understand that it was deeper and grittier as it talked about growing up in the Bronx and finding redemption as he gets accepted into military school and then a Rhodes scholarship. I liked the fact that this second book read a little like a resume from that point onwards. I also liked the fact that he did not pick and choose certain experiences over others.

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