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Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations



Synopsis

A generation stands on the brink of a "rebelution." "Most people don't expect you to understand what we're going to tell you in this book. And even if you understand, they don't expect you to care. And even if you care, they don't expect you to do anything about it. And even if you do something about it, they don't expect it to last. We do." —Alex and Brett Do Hard Things is the Harris twins' revolutionary message in its purest and most compelling form, giving readers a tangible glimpse of what is possible for teens who actively resist cultural lies that limit their potential. Combating the idea of adolescence as a vacation from responsibility, the authors weave together biblical insights, history, and modern examples to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life. Then they map out five powerful ways teens can respond for personal and social change. Written by teens for teens, Do Hard Things is packed with humorous personal anecdotes, practical examples, and stories of real-life rebelutionaries in action. This rallying cry from the heart of an already-happening teen revolution challenges a generation to lay claim to a brighter future, starting today. Now includes: -- A new introduction from the authors, "Looking Back, Looking Ahead" -- Questions (and Stories) To Get You Started -- A list of 100 Hard Things to help inspire you -- A study guide for personal or group use

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Multnomah; Reprint edition (April 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601428294

ISBN-13: 978-1601428295

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 456 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,688 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens > Teens > Values & Virtues #2 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens > Teens > Inspirational #3 in Books > Teens > Religion & Spirituality

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for *Do Hard Things* – “Do Hard Things is an extraordinary book. In fact, I believe it will prove to be one of the most life-changing, family-changing, church-changing, and culture-changing books of this generation. I’d love for every teenager to read this book, but I’m just as eager for every parent, church leader, and educator to read it.” – Randy Alcorn, best-selling author of *Heaven and The Treasure Principle*

– “This book is one I would recommend to any of my friends, teen or not. If it doesn’t help you, you are lying.” – Carter B., age 14, North Carolina

– “Do Hard Things is so important. It is challenging teenagers to rebel against the low expectations placed on them. And the voices that are asking teens to rise to meet this challenge are voices from their own generation. That thrills me.” – Chuck Colson, bestselling author of *How Now Shall We Live?*

– “I love the way it is written. It is crystal clear, to the point, interesting, funny, challenging, encouraging, and an easy read.” – Lisa R., age 15, Australia

– “Adult expectations for youth are too low. And these twins are out to raise them. Don’t adapt to the low cultural expectations for youth. Set high ones. Youth can become examples for adults. Think that way. Dream that way. Or as the Harris brothers would say, Rebel against low expectations.” – John Piper, bestselling author of *Don’t Waste Your Life*

– “The message of *Do Hard Things* is going to awaken the dreams and passions of thousands of young people all over the world. How do I know this? This radical, yet relatively simple idea, has changed my life.” – Erika H., age 18, Michigan

– “In a culture where laziness and ease is often the order of the day for teenagers, *Do Hard Things* presents a radical and provocative alternative. I heartily recommend this book.” – R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

– “This book has totally changed the way I think. I recommend it to any and every teen who has a desire to turn their life around and make a difference.” – Ashley W., age 13, Georgia

– “Alex and Brett capture the passion and potential of our generation perfectly in this book. In *Do Hard Things* they encourage us to go above and beyond the status quo in everything from schoolwork to serving the poor. This is a truly unique and sorely needed book.” – Zach Hunter, author of *Be the Change and Generation Change*

– “This book is amazing. It changes your whole way of thinking. I believe that every single teen needs to buy a copy of this book. Thanks, Alex and Brett for challenging us!” – Stacie L., age 15, Kentucky

– “This is an important book. And not just for those wanting to launch successfully into adulthood, but also for discontent twenty- and thirty-somethings who long to be catapulted into significance.” – Ted Slater, editor of *Boundless*, Focus on the Family

– “I’m not exactly a teenager anymore. But as I was

reading I began to see how this can apply to anyone. It's never too late to start. I absolutely cannot wait to suggest this book to the 'kidults' in my life. — Matt R., age 26, Georgia — “Alex and Brett are the real deal and Do Hard Things is a real wake up call, not just for young people, but for all God's people. I can't recommend it highly enough. — Shannon Ethridge, bestselling author of the Every Woman's Battle series — “This book is a wake up call to a generation that is down in the dumps. It's like a coach screaming from the sidelines, — “You can do it!!! — I'd recommend it to anyone, young or old. — Douglas A., age 17, England — “Do Hard Things is the textbook for anyone who works with teens; it's a philosophical and foundational must-read. — Timothy Eldred, executive director of Christian Endeavor International

Alex and Brett Harris founded TheRebelution.com at sixteen years old and co-authored two best-selling books by the age of twenty-one. The twins have been blessed to travel and speak in major cities around the world and have been featured nationally on ABC, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR, as well as in publications like the Wall Street Journal, Wired magazine, and The New York Times. They are sons of homeschool pioneers Gregg and Sono Harris and younger brothers of best-selling author Joshua Harris (I Kissed Dating Goodbye). Raised in Portland, Oregon, the brothers are graduates of Patrick Henry College.

My 13yo dd grabbed this up before my 15yo ds could (I bought it for him), and she has been challenging herself to make and keep routines, be more helpful, and even wants to start a non-profit helping the homeless now! She has all kinds of great ideas. I haven't read the book yet myself, but just judging by her response, I am impressed!

Amazing. A great way to look at things. I have always enjoyed Teenagers. I used to teach middle school and the preteen age is just amazing. They feel they can do great things and they are on the cusp of being ready to change the world. They have the energy and desire and time to make the world a better place. They are able to look at some of the ridiculous situations in the world and point them out to the rest of us. This book is for those kids and their parents. Do hard things. Use your energy and your beliefs and your time to make a difference. Help the candidate that you like run for office, find a problem and fix it. Change the world. This book encourages teens to stretch themselves and grow and make a difference. This book also encourages parents to let the teens do hard things. Doing things that are hard to them encourages them to grow into amazing adults. I

bought a copy for both of my teen age children and myself. More people should read this book.

This is a book that can change every teenagers life. The message that God has a plan for your life and it starts now, not when you turn 21, is so inspirational to a young person who wants more. This message can plant a seed in your heart that grows into a deep belief that God has bigger ,greater plans for you when you trust Him.

Great book. Highly recommended! We did this book with the high school guys at our church. It is a very powerful thought that this generation has tons of potential that they are not tapping into because society doesn't expect much out of them. I enjoyed it as an adult. It has caused me to look at the middle school and high school students with expectation. It has also caused a change in my vocabulary. I don't call teenage guys "boys" anymore. I call them young men, because that's what they are. By calling them "boys," I play into the lie of society that they're still kids and we shouldn't expect much from them.

If you have a teenager, are a teenager, work with teenagers, know a teenager, or have a heart for building God's Kingdom whatever your age, you must read this book. Don't argue with me--go get it today. I'm not kidding! Go! Alex & Brett Harris were only 16 when they founded TheRebelution.com--"a teenage rebellion against low expectations." This book was born of that movement and, though written for teens, is full of sage advice for adults as well. The Harris brothers took Paul seriously when he said, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" -1 Timothy 4:12. Through their web site, book, and conferences, they are encouraging others to do the same. In the book, they start by telling their story, then move into a history of "teenagers." Did you know they've only existed since the early 1800's? The Harris brothers explain how teenagers came to be and some of the results society is seeing today. After that, they give examples of historical "teenagers," then considered adults, who accomplished some amazing things. They call this first section of the book, "Rethinking the Teen Years." In section two, they define hard things and tell why teenagers should attempt them--to grow, to pursue excellence, to dream big, to be faithful and choose integrity, and to stand for what is right. They also explain what is needed to accomplish hard things: courage, commitment, competence, collaboration, character and so on. Finally, they tell stories of teenagers today who have done hard things and who are planning to do hard things. They encourage the reader to make a plan to attempt his or her own hard things. In the appendix, Alex

presents the Gospel for any reader who doesn't yet know Christ. "Do Hard Things" is a well-researched, well-organized, and well-written. It's an easy and interesting read. It's also a very good idea! I highly recommend it. Happy reading!

This book really gets teens excited about owning not just their faith but their future as a whole. I have seen students be stifled by adults who don't think teens can do big things, this book gives them the motivation and tools to go and do things many would tell them they can't do. Best read with the group study, just try it and see what the students come up with.

The future of America rests on the backs the upcoming generation of young adults. So why then does our culture have such low expectations and standards for how teenagers should act? The book, "Do Hard Things" rebels against these cultural standards and challenges us to do more. Authors of the revolutionary book, Alex and Brett Harris are leading the charge that hits them so close to home. They call teenagers to be different, to hold themselves to a higher esteem and strive for greatness in the adult world, bringing glory to god.

I never review anything on , but I feel compelled to write a quick comment about this book. I only just finished the first part (about 60 pages) and I've decided that this is easily already one of my all-time favorite books. If you're looking for some vision in life and motivation to change your life into something more fulfilling (especially, in light of eternity) - read this book! I'm 26 and so wish I had this when I was 12. I recommend this book to ALL AGES because, as Alex and Brett say, "It's never too late to start doing hard things."

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