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Posted on 18 February 2019 By Randy Pausch

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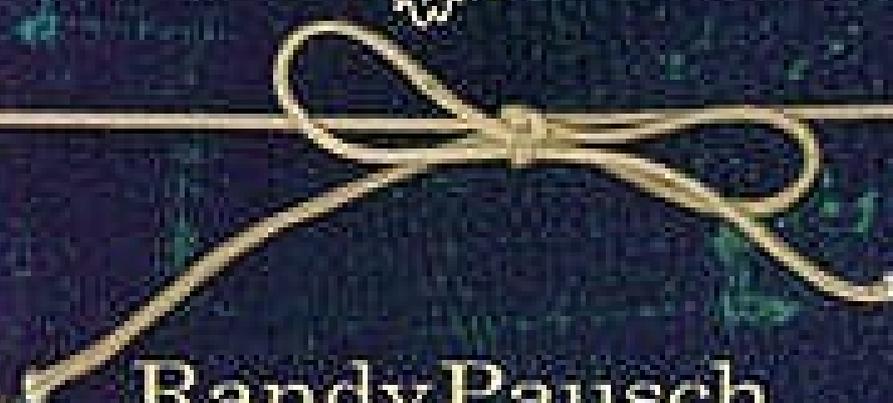
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Matters Most To Them What Wisdom Would We Impart To The World If We Knew It Was Our Last Chance If We Had To Vanish Tomorrow, What Would We Want As Our Legacy When Randy Pausch, A Computer Science Professor At Carnegie Mellon, Was Asked To Give Such A Lecture, He Didn T Have To Imagine It As His Last, Since He Had Recently Been Diagnosed With Terminal Cancer But The Lecture He Gave, Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams , Wasn T About Dying It Was About The Importance Of Overcoming Obstacles, Of Enabling The Dreams Of Others, Of Seizing Every Moment Because Time Is All You Have And You May Find One Day That You Have Less Than You Think It Was A Summation Of Everything Randy Had Come To Believe It Was About Living In This Book, Randy Pausch Has Combined The Humour, Inspiration, And Intelligence That Made His Lecture Such A Phenomenon And Given It An Indelible Form It Is A Book That Will Be Shared For Generations To Come No doubt Randy Pausch was a nice guy But this book is smarmy, self indulgent crap which is ok given the circumstances under which he gave this lecture But it is not worth reading. This is typical 1980 s individualistic, unreflective advise on how to succeed in life Alas, Professor Pausch does not realize that he was born white, male, middle income, in exactly the time in the 20th century where he could avoid confronting WWI, WWII, the depression, Korea, Vietnam, urban riots of the 1960 s, the civil right movement, and the women s movement because he was too young And he got to miss all of the problems of Bush 1 and Bush 2 in the middle east because he was too old and affluent. So he has the privilege and lack of social awareness to totally ignore the entire social context that provided and constructed his wonderful, if unfortunately short, life Thus he leaves out the advise that was most important to his success Have the pre natal intelligence to be born male at the right time, in the right place, to parents who are racially privileged citizens of a superpower in ascendance during a brief window of peace at a time of expanding educational opportunity for middle income working people in an expanding economy Then these individualistic platitudes, if you are also very, very fortunate, may possibly help but then again, they may not. Nice guy, sweet sentiment, save your money. what wisdom would you impart to the world if you knew it was your last chance if you were gone tomorrow, what would you want to be your legacy carnegie mellon university is known for its last lecture series, in which professors are invited to give a talk where they consider their demise and ruminate on what matters most to them, essentially answering those very questions randy pausch was one of those professors and this book was his last lecture. i have found it rather difficult to critique a dying mans thoughts and words to his wife and children because of the nature of this book, i cant review this how i normally would with a novel so i am only left with the option of sharing how i felt after i closed the final page i will admit, i have never given much thought about dying but regretfully, i have never given much thought about living in most aspects, i am content im healthy, i have a loving family, i received a wonderful education, i can provide for myself, i have travelled, i have hobbies that make me happy what is there to life i could be kinder i could be grateful i could

complain a little less i could be patient i could reach out to others i could be curious i could set goals for myself i could be optimistic there is nothing wrong with contentment, but there is also nothing wrong with seeing how we can better improve ourselves we are all works in progress and we should continually strive to be the best possible versions of ourselves, living a life that inspires us daily

randy pausch had months to live when he spoke wrote similar thoughts about what it means to live life i dont want to wait until the end of my life to realise i never focused on the importance of really living i need to start today you know how to pick great books, john 4.5 stars While this man has a 5 star attitude, I can only give the book two yeah, everyone is raving about this guy Five star attitude the author gets diagnosed with terminal cancer He refers to this as an engineering problem understated and true has 3 6 months to live, tops Has 3 small children ages 6 and under who will never know him he was scheduled to give a last lecture , ya know, how to live your life as if you were dying irony and he writes it in such a way that it s a celebration of his life his children will know who he was and what he believed in a story of how life can throw brick walls in your way and you have a choice, to stop or go around them play the cards you get dealt instead of bitching about themI applaud the great attitude he takes to enjoy the time he has left and focus on what matters But is this earth shattering Is any of this a surprise The Last Lecture is Randy Pausch s last hurrah a final note to the world and his family about how to live, love and let go It is beautiful.I think that we re all here for a reason and have stories to tell How fortunate for us all that Randy had the time and ability to tell his particular story.I recommend this book for fans of memoirs, computer engineering and heart felt narratives I listened to the audiobook and it was excellent.Then, once I finished the book, I looked up Randy s actual last lecture on YouTube Bring your kleenexes, friends. This is a father s love letter to his family It is beyond beautiful. The Last Lecture, literally, for a professor with a terminal illness Taken from a speech that he wanted to impart to his students, family, friends, really everyone as he came to grips with his condition.This is about as emotionally charged and spiritually powerful as you may expect, the author is exploring territory that we all face, but he was at the edge of existence when he put this together Randy Pausch was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had months to live, from this perspective he shares with us what is most important Read it, discuss it, share it.

The  
**LAST LECTURE**



**Randy Pausch**  
PROFESSOR, CARNEGIE MELLON  
with Jeffrey Zaslow

I think this was one of those books where knowing the criticisms before starting it ultimately upped my enjoyment factor. Randy Pausch, the author, was one of those people who became wildly popular in 2008 thanks to the internet. He was a popular professor at Carnegie Mellon and was invited to give a last lecture, a tradition of sorts where a professor is urged to give a specially prepared lecture as though it were the last s/he were to ever give. And so they are encouraged to break down all the knowledge learned in their lives and during their careers into one hour long presentation and say, this is the best of what I know, here you go. But for Randy Pausch, his Last Lecture became somewhat of a sensation because shortly before he was scheduled to give his presentation, he learned that he had late stage pancreatic cancer and he only had 36 months left to live. Throughout it all, he remained very upbeat, he was charismatic and his nerdy persona was infectious. And so copies of the lecture spread and spread and spread over the internet and suddenly Pausch was an overnight sensation. Only in America. Given his shortened life span at the time of publication, I can understand why the book felt so rushed. There are some chapters that are little more than a couple paragraphs with a random anecdote that doesn't really have anything to do with anything. And many of the longer ones appear to be run-ons. About halfway through the book I realized that each chapter of this book reminded me of a blog entry. Then I realized that that may be some of the appeal to this generation, because as a piece of literature, this book is just well no. This book came highly recommended to me by my sister and my mom who love it. My mother-in-law has read this book and also loves it. And at the time I write this review, 8,197 4 star and 5 star reviews on GR and there are fewer than 500 ratings that are 2 stars or less, so Pausch's story has clearly touched the lives of a lot of people. Since discovering this site, I almost always scan some of the top vote getting reviews before starting a book. Whether someone loved it or hated it, I'm always curious to know why. And in the case of this book, since there were so many glowing reviews, I found myself focusing on the negative ones if only because they appeared to be in the minority and the minority has always intrigued me. Most of the complaints had to do with the fact that Pausch sucks as an author. Pausch's personality: what did this guy do so differently that he actually deserved a book? The book is too preachy, it's too Hallmarky, it's too Disney. So going into the book expecting these faults, I found myself focusing on what is probably the most important thing about this book: Randy Pausch, who isn't alive any more, had three children under the age of five who may not remember that once upon a time, he was their father who loved them very much. And realizing that this year, next year, five, 10, 15, 45 years from now, his children will still have a record of who he was and what he stood for, whether I agree with all of it or not is an unbelievably beautiful thing. My husband was a teenager when his mother died unexpectedly and years later, we still have items in our home that belonged to her: a set of water color paintings she'd had since college, a hand written recipe on a post-it note, a baby book full of hand written notes and stories and photographs. Having that connection to the past is a tangible reminder not only of what was

lost, but of where we come from And losing a parent before their time makes that connection even powerful And so I can't help but feel glad and happy for Randy Pausch's children because they will grow up knowing that their dad's life inspired so many millions of people I hope that will be a tremendous source of pride for them They can't have their dad, but the legacy he left them was the best he had to offer in the short amount of time he was given to work with. My review of this book will not be popular, but I must be honest I'm halfway through this book, and although I appreciate a positive voice, it's really not that interesting or helpful If I could sum up this book in three words, they would be yay for me The author tells us how great his childhood was, then that he accomplished all his childhood dreams, got the girl of his dream etc etc etc It's really not a book how to better your own life, as much as it is him telling us how great his life has been Yes I realize it was born from a lecture, but maybe every life, achievement, and event in this world doesn't necessarily need a book to be made about them. Having said all negative stuff, Mr Pausch sounds like a good guy. I was first introduced to Mr Pausch while watching the Oprah show in the fall My father in law was in the hospital at the time, fighting melanoma that had metastasized to his lungs Simply stated, I stopped folding clothes and cried so hard during that show Soon after, the emails began to circulate with links to the last lecture on utube and I watched every link I got and cried even I read all the internet articles and was touched every time When I saw the book was coming out, I jumped on board and knew I had to read it I never knew how emotional this book would be for me The day August 15, 2007 Randy Pausch got the devastating news that his cancer had spread and there was nothing the doctors could do any, is the same day that we arrived at MD Anderson with my father in law, knowing things were not right I came across this in the book and had to put it down for days This was just hitting too close to home for me I finally was able to pick it back up and continue This book and Mr Pausch's stories are so touching and true that we can all find something in there that will help us want to be a better person We can all find some bit of wisdom that can be carried into our lives I cried so many times reading this, but I laughed several times too Anyone who has had their life touched by cancer will benefit from the optimism Mr Pausch has, but it will be a very difficult read just because of the seriousness of the issues at hand Just the sheer optimism in such a negative world is very uplifting. I ran across several quotes from the book that I felt were so important that I needed to use my trusty post it notes to mark them for future reference Here they are Pg 51 The brick walls are there for a reason They're not there to keep us out The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something Mr Pausch refers to the brick walls so many times, but it is so true pg.111 Time is all you have And you may find one day that you have less than you think This has been a major realization in my life this past year We thought we had so much time with my father in law And we lost him so quickly Take the time to do the things you want and never put them off.pg 119 Luck is indeed where preparation meets opportunity This goes back to my old Girl Scout motto Be prepared pg.148 Experience is

what you get when you didn't get what you wanted Glad to know I've gotten something And now it makes sense.pg.156 A lot of people want a shortcut I find the best shortcut is the long way, which is basically two words work hard Wow If we could all stop taking the shortcuts and work a little harder, could imagine what might happen pg.159 All you have is what you bring with you This is the chapter title and it sure says a lot.

## New Post

Fire Bringer  
Into the Wild  
The Cricket in Times Square  
A Bear Called Paddington  
The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents  
The Last Unicorn  
Just So Stories  
Wild Magic  
The Rescuers  
Bambi  
The Sight  
Three Bags Full  
Time Cat  
Lirael  
The Story of Doctor Dolittle

## Recent Post

Charlotte's Web  
Watership Down  
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
Animal Farm  
Winnie-the-Pooh

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH  
The Golden Compass  
The Wind in the Willows  
Redwall  
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz  
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass  
The Jungle Book  
The Velveteen Rabbit  
Stuart Little  
Bunnicula  
The Phantom Tollbooth  
Black Beauty  
The Tale of Despereaux  
The 101 Dalmatians  
James and the Giant Peach  
Fantastic Mr. Fox  
The Mouse and the Motorcycle  
The Chronicles of Narnia  
The Tale of Peter Rabbit  
The Trumpet of the Swan  
The Little Prince  
Fire Bringer