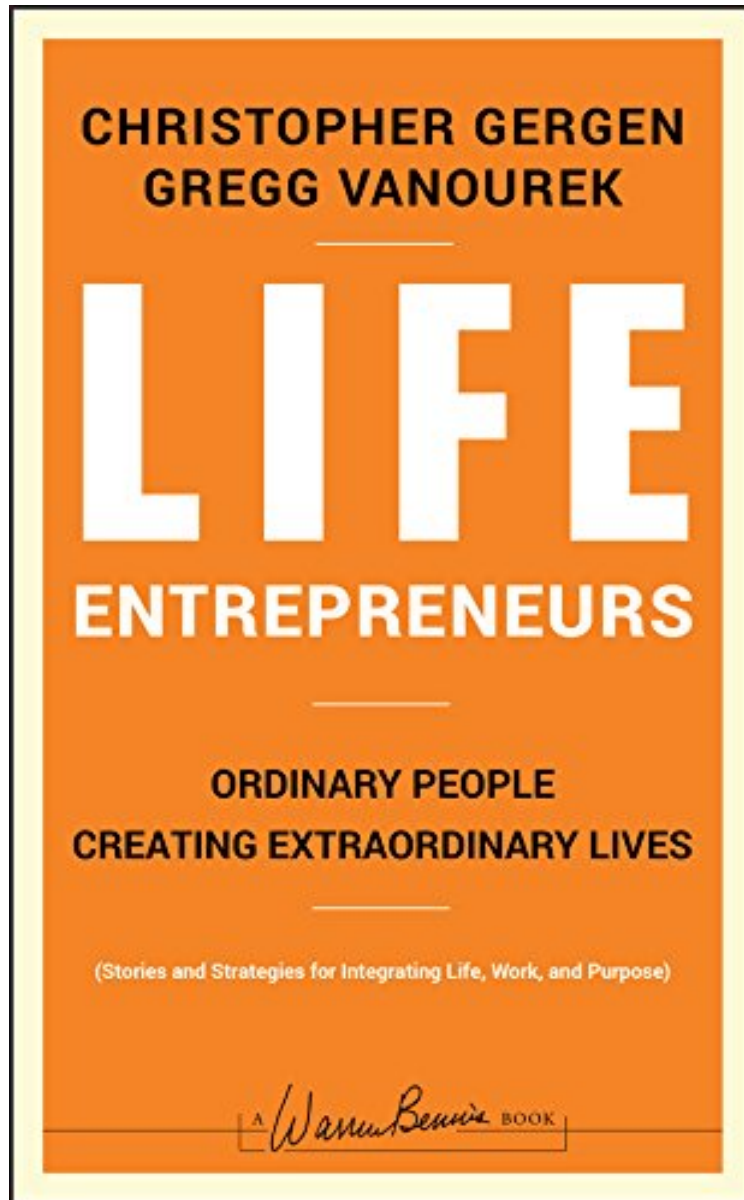


(Read now) Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary People Creating Extraordinary Lives (J-B Warren Bennis Series)

Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary People Creating Extraordinary Lives (J-B Warren Bennis Series)

Christopher Gergen, Gregg Vanourek
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Christopher Gergen, Gregg Vanourek : Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary People Creating Extraordinary Lives (J-B Warren Bennis Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary People Creating Extraordinary Lives (J-B Warren Bennis Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Challenging and Rewarding - Unlike any other book I have come

acrossBy Gregory CookLife Entrepreneurship is really unlike any book I have ever read. The content of the book closely resembles a course I took on "Visionary Leadership", in which the prospect of mapping out your values, purpose, and vision for your life will add great meaning, depth, and "success" in your life. However, the book goes further - challenging the reader to gaze inward to really understand exactly what your values and purpose are. This level of introspection is not for the light-hearted! I cannot recommend the average person read this book. However, if you are one of the few (and lucky) self-actualized individuals out there - this book is very powerful and very thought provoking. My whole concept of success, purpose, and meaning were peeled back like an onion - to the point at which I am literally trying to redefine what is important to me and how I want to live my life. Life Entrepreneurs is more of a compass than a map - it shows you the direction but it is up to you to have the courage to follow through. Most of us take on jobs and responsibilities that we thought we needed in order to live a life that we ended up not wanting in the first place. This book allows the possibility of breaking those chains and living the life you were meant to live. Deeply inspiring, deeply moving - I finished the book only to turn back to page 1 and start again. I think many of us end of living lives not of our own choosing, but rather the one based upon what circumstances life has given us. If you are walking down the road of life and wondering how you can get back to the dreams and happiness of your youth by reinserting meaning and purpose into life - this is the book for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this book to any one in business or starting ...By Larry OI recommend this book to any one in business or starting a business. Some of the stories are I think a little more than for 'regular' folks, I felt inspired to work harder because if you put your mind to something I think just about anyone can succeed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a new approach to personal developmentBy CustomerThe idea that improving your life is an enterprise, rather than following a self-help recipe, is new and exciting. Gergen and Vanourek have identified what's necessary for individuals to become successful in a world where conditions change quickly and nobody can predict what the next challenge will be. Certainly the authors could not have predicted when they published the book in 2007 that the very next year millions of people would be facing unemployment and disillusion with the companies that had employed them. For the authors, entrepreneurship is not about starting a company, nor is it a "can-do" attitude -- it is a way of life. The book gives readers understanding of the core issues and traps that people encounter when taking up this ethic of living. -- Bob Aubrey, author of *Managing Your Aspirations*.

"An inspirational and practical guide for anyone who wants to incorporate the dynamic skills of entrepreneurs into their own lives and work. A new generation of "life entrepreneurs" is emerging: people who apply their vision, talents, creativity, and energy not only to their work but to their entire lives, changing the world for themselves and those around them. In this book, successful entrepreneurs Christopher Gergen and Gregg Vanourek draw on numerous interviews with fifty-five leading entrepreneurs worldwide as well as the wisdom of multiple thought leaders to provide vivid examples, moving vignettes, concrete frameworks, and practical strategies for revving up our work and play through entrepreneurial leadership. This book starts by providing strategies for integrating life, work, and purpose and ends by capturing the implications of the current entrepreneurial boom for our workplaces, learning institutions, communities, and families. Christopher Gergen (Washington, D.C.) is a founding partner of New Mountain Ventures, co-founder and chairman of SMARTHINKING, Adjunct Professor and Director of the Entrepreneurial Leadership Initiative at Duke University, and a life-long entrepreneur, Gregg Vanourek (Thornton, CO) is a founding partner of New Mountain Ventures, former CEO of Vanourek Consulting Solutions, and former Senior Vice President of School Development for K12 Inc."

From Publishers WeeklyThis well thought-out, inspirational book is designed to help people creatively construct their best lives "through opportunity, recognition, innovation and action." Experienced entrepreneurs with backgrounds in education, Gergen and Vanourek interviewed 55 individuals who have applied successful business lessons to their personal lives and extracted a number of hands-on lessons for their readers: if you discover your "core identity," learn to recognize opportunities, develop a "life vision" and set clear, purposeful, achievable-but challenging-goals, you too can have an extraordinary life, they claim. While the book's content is standard inspirational fare, the authors have given it a spin that effectively taps into modern day work trends and language and taken their thinking beyond the surface level of many books of this kind. They balance specific advice, such as stumbling blocks to avoid when setting goals, with big ideas concerning "untethering from traditional careers," authenticity and integration. Despite occasionally lapsing into a paternalistic tone, they sprinkle enough juicy first-person accounts throughout their chapters to keep their maxims alive. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The real question is not how to just make a living, but how to make a life. Life Entrepreneurs helps all who are struggling to integrate money and meaning in their careers to do just that."--Dr. Mark S. Albion, New York Times best-selling author, *Making a Life, Making a Living*; and True to Yourself "Like jazz musicians, good entrepreneurs improvise, finding the roads less traveled. Life Entrepreneurs does a great job of capturing this spirit and sharing valuable lessons for work and life."--Gary Erickson, owner/founder, Clif Bar Company, and author of *Raising The Bar* "In Life Entrepreneurs, Christopher Gergen and Gregg Vanourek address the central issue of every emerging

leader, "How can I design my life to be both fulfilling and significant?" Through the life stories of many entrepreneurs who are impacting the world in dramatic ways, this compelling and refreshing new book provides deep insights that make it a must-read for all of us to use on our own journeys." --Bill George, author, *True North and Authentic Leadership*, former chairman and CEO, Medtronic "At last, a powerful guide to integrating life, work, purpose, and work-life balance, one of the greatest needs of leaders in all three sectors of the emerging work force. Christopher and Gregg bring a new definition, a new clarity to life entrepreneurship that will make a difference in the lives of leaders at every level. A great gift." --Frances Hesselbein, chairman, *Leader to Leader* "Business leaders and entrepreneurs alike will greatly benefit from *Life Entrepreneurs*. It captures the essential qualities of leadership including finding a worthy path, being willing to fail, and taking courageous action. I highly recommend it." --Howard Schultz, Chairman, Starbucks Coffee Company "This is provocative reading for all those committed to creating a life of significance and meaning. Filled with helpful strategies and hopeful stories, *Life Entrepreneurs* is an intriguing, challenging guide for the next generation of leaders." --Wendy Kopp, president and founder of Teach for America

From the Inside Flap

Life Entrepreneurs Ordinary people creating extraordinary lives. Leaders excelling through the power of entrepreneurship. Rising generations taking command of their lives and work by integrating them. But how? *Life Entrepreneurs* is an uplifting and practical guide for enriching our quality of life and revving up our work through the dynamic force of entrepreneurial leadership. A new type of leader is emerging: people who apply their vision, talents, creativity, and energy not only to their work but to their entire lives, changing the world for themselves and those around them. These people are not just living their lives--they're leading them. Welcome to the territory of life entrepreneurs. In this book, successful entrepreneurs Christopher Gergen and Gregg Vanourek draw on interviews with fifty-five leading entrepreneurs worldwide as well as on the wisdom of multiple thought leaders to provide practical strategies, concrete frameworks, vivid examples, and moving vignettes for leading a life of adventure, service, and purpose. Today, people are looking for opportunity, challenge, and the chance to develop their talents, achieve success, and make an impact. But they are also looking for a rich home life, rewarding friendships, an active lifestyle, and deeper fulfillment. Life entrepreneurs are able to thrive in all these realms by proactively taking the following steps: Discovering core identity Awakened to opportunity Envisioning the future Developing goals and strategies Building healthy support systems Taking action and making a difference Embracing renewal and reinvention

Life Entrepreneurs is filled with inspiring stories and practical strategies for integrating life, work, and purpose, and captures the implications of today's entrepreneurial boom for our workplaces, learning institutions, communities, and families. Whether you're an emerging or established leader--or a person experiencing significant changes and seeking direction--this is a vital read.