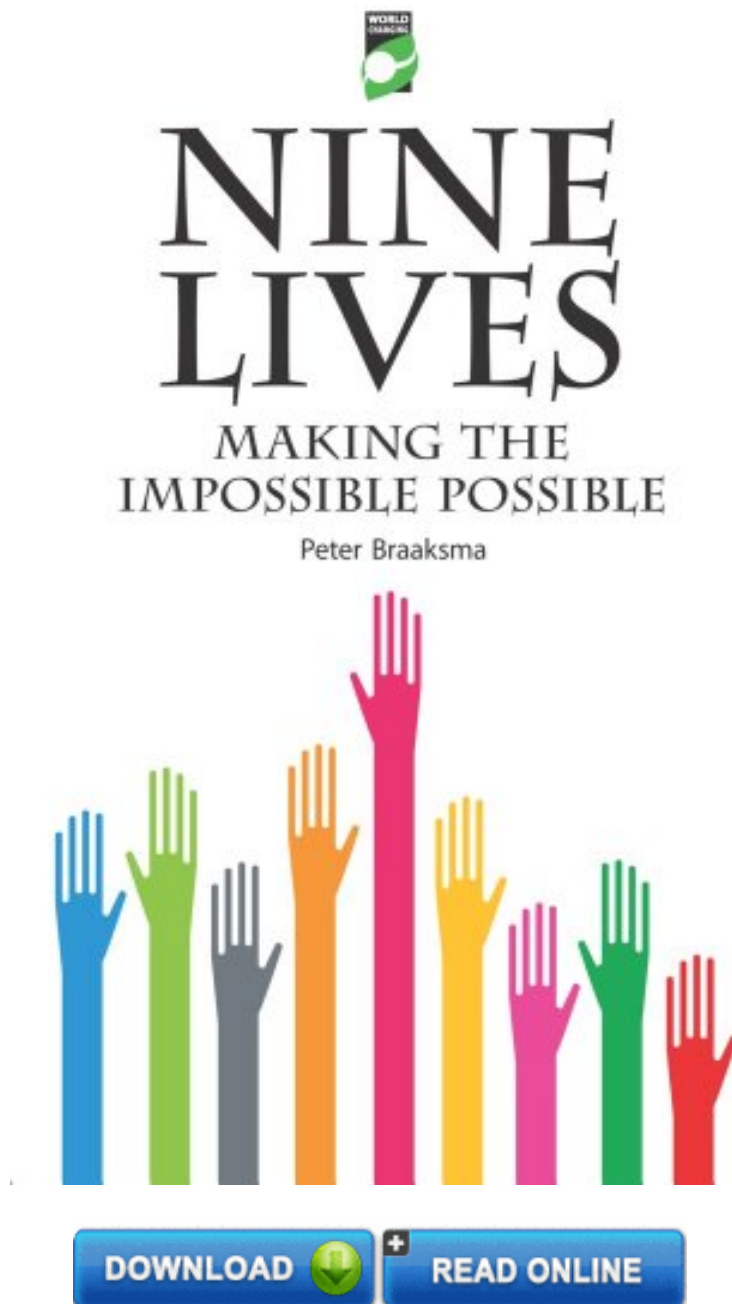


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Nine Lives: Making the Impossible Possible

From World Changing
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From World Changing : Nine Lives: Making the Impossible Possible before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nine Lives: Making the Impossible Possible:

"You can cut the flower, but you cannot stop the coming of spring." Malalai Joya, the young member of the Afghan

parliament, refuses to let injustice go unchallenged. Her words reflect the irrepressible attitudes and actions of all the women and men who tell their stories here. As with all the titles in New Internationalist's World Changing imprint, *Nine Lives* sees opportunity in the midst of adversity and presents the life stories of people who have been confronted with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, opposition, and oppression. Whether it is human rights activist Harry Wu, who spent nineteen years in Chinese labor camps, or Nobel Laureate and President of Costa Rica Oscar Arias Saacut;nchez, each of the nine voices in this collection has confronted an urgent and inescapable need to dig deep, either to rescue themselves or to forge a fresh way forward for others. To understand the key stories behind the headlines, Peter Braaksma believes that it is essential to feel the personal, intimate experience of people working on the frontline of human rights and humanitarian issues; that the stories, uninterrupted and unpolished, must speak for themselves. Reading like nine mini-novels, the nine remarkable stories belong to Bassam Aramin (Palestinian National Authority), Monireh Baradaran (Iran), Youk Chhang (Cambodia), Sompop Jantraka (Thailand), Malalai Joya (Afghanistan), Chaeli Mycroft (South Africa), Oscar Arias Saacut;nchez (Costa Rica), and Harry Wu (China). Peter Braaksma has worked as an editor, communications advisor, and journalist in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

From Publishers Weekly With sterling intentions and decent material, editor and global journalist Braaksma presents an occasionally inspiring account of individuals who have met extreme challenges head-on, and used those challenges as motivation to make the world better. The opening pieces concern Israeli Rami Elhanan, whose 14-year-old daughter was killed by a suicide bomber in 1979, and Bassam Aramin, a Palestinian whose daughter was shot by border police. The two have overcome sorrow and deep culture biases to become close friends, a cogent lesson but the most clear-cut and least agenda-driven of the lot. Many of the other stories are heavy-handed and occasionally confusing. Unfortunately, the invigorating, focused stories-like that of a South African girl affected by cerebral palsy-are the exception to the rule. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author A.P. (Arne Peter) Braaksma (born in 1960) worked as an editor, communication adviser and corporate journalist in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. From Asian countries he contributed to various public and corporate magazines. This caused him to focus on human rights, the environment and (corporate) social responsibility, and to create *Nine Lives*.