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Preface

Everyone who has ever lived has left their mark on the world. Some marks may seem barely decipherable, and others have clearly changed the course of humankind. No matter one's level of drive or ambition, however, most of us want to feel that our lives matter, that our being here means something, and that there is a purpose for our existence.

In my previous books, *Even Eagles Need a Push* and *The Eagle's Secret*, I began with a story of one of my children. Now I have grandchildren. Much has happened over the intervening years.

Like most human beings, the highs of my life have been exhilarating and the lows exhausting, but I have learned not to label circumstances as good or bad. Both joy and pain are an integral part of this somewhat unpredictable journey, and I now know that accepting rather than resisting this reality is a key ingredient of a well-lived life.

Despite the wonders that surround us, there are those fond of saying there is nothing new in the universe. That staggers me. Aspiring writers are often discouraged by people suggesting that a certain subject or theme has been covered before so why bother? Your life and my life have never been lived before. That's what's new. What we create is truly original, and no one else can lay claim to that creation.

The most important question we can ask ourselves is therefore: what do I want to create? The desire and need to create is in our DNA. The decisions we make, the attitudes we hold, the behaviors we exhibit, create the depth of our experiences, the quality of our relationships, and the success we achieve. Who and what we are today is our own creation.



As a boy growing up in Australia, to envision the life I have now lived would clearly have been a fantasy. An entrepreneur, author of several books, documentary film producer, professional speaker—all of these were unimaginable. So was going broke, being separated from my family, losing my wife to cancer, and personally experiencing cancer.

I am deeply grateful to those who have left their own indelible mark on my life; they opened my mind and inspired me to push on and not give up. I in turn write this book to open you to the possibilities for your life and to encourage you to push on no matter your current circumstances or the problems with which you struggle.

There is an urgent need for those who are willing to take on that challenge, who are unwilling to settle for mere existence, and who understand that human progress is propelled by those who, by their actions and example, create a better world for all.

Throughout the pages ahead you will be introduced to people who generously share stories of how their lives today continue to be positively influenced by a special person, one who left a unique mark. These marks have an undeniable ripple effect, and we are all the beneficiaries.

Leaving your mark, however, is not a goal to be set; it is a result. It is the outcome of realizing the enormous potential that exists within you, the belief that there is a special purpose for your existence, the awareness that you share responsibility for what happens in our world, and the commitment to fully utilize your gifts and talents to create a rich and rewarding life.

Prepare for the unexpected. We are embarking on an adventure that might take you into uncharted territory. You will be exploring questions that relate to how you desire to shape your personal and professional life. The responsibility for discovering what is important and meaningful to you is yours alone. Your heart, mind, and soul know how you want your life to look and feel.

Consider this book as a guide, one that allows you the freedom to take detours whenever an aspect of your life needs special attention. There is no need to conform to the order in which the book is laid out. If you prefer to digest its content before completing the exercises, I encourage you to absorb the ideas, stories, and insights in a way that provides the most positive experience for you.

For those who want to go deeper into the subjects discussed, a bibliography of resources is provided for your review.

Our ultimate goal is to bring focus to what you want for your life and provide the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to bring it to fruition. Together we will ensure your mark matters. I am honored to be walking this path with you.

The Eagle was growing older. He felt it, accepted it, and even embraced it. But his vision was clear and his wings still powerful and strong. As he soared above the peaks, the valleys, and rivers below, the Eagle felt very much alive. Yet deep down something was different. A new passion was stirring in his soul.

The Eagle thought back to when he was first pushed out of the nest—so young, so much energy, so much fear, yet so much potential. Now the passages of his life had taught many lessons, and he felt called to pass on that wisdom.



He would teach the young to be bold and confident. He would help them to soar above their limitations. He would push them into a new world of possibility. And when they were ready he would give them the key to unlocking their dreams: “It is your spirit not your speed that leads you to be strong and free.”

That would be his mark on the world.