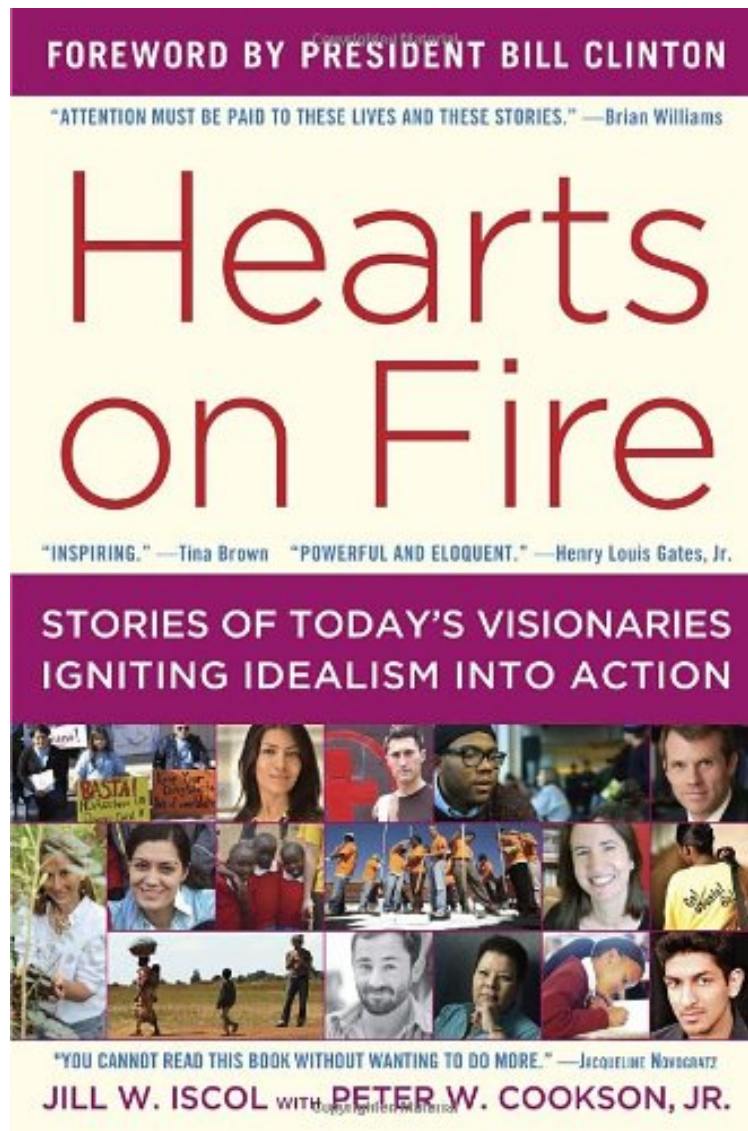


Hearts on Fire: Stories of Today's Visionaries Igniting Idealism into Action

Jill Iscol, Peter W. Cookson
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Jill Iscol, Peter W. Cookson : Hearts on Fire: Stories of Today's Visionaries Igniting Idealism into Action
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hearts on Fire: Stories of Today's Visionaries Igniting Idealism into Action:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This Book Could Change Your Life By Lucy Stone How lucky I feel to have found Hearts on Fire! I read an article in the New York Times about a young Libyan woman activist living in

Cincinnati who heard about the uprising in her homeland and immediately sold her home to move back to Libya to help. Not many of us can relate to this kind of courage. Ms. Iscol and her book with a link [...] were mentioned and I was intrigued. I went to the site, watched the moving video and jumped on to buy this book. In the midst of the doom and gloom all around us, *Hearts On Fire* shines a light on the possibilities in individual actions that can change the world one step at a time. As a baby boomer it reminded me of the consequential intensity of the Peace Corps years and Kennedy's "ask not what the country can do for you" sentiment. The message of this little book is compelling and powerful- one doesn't have to go through life in lockstep with other people's expectations nor does one need to be a hero. Each of us can use our own gifts and talents to soar and carry others along. The visionaries the author features are doing this and truly changing the world. Their personal experiences are diverse, inspirational and yes some even heroic. At a time when the world seems so troubled, *Hearts on Fire* gives real hope. I want this book to be mandatory reading for all young people in this country. Its mission is to encourage us all to get involved to make the world a better place. This aim is noble and I'm betting doable- Your first step can be to read this book and pass it around- Mine was writing this review- Now I'm thinking about where my next step will take me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Noble Ethic of Service By Victory In "Hearts on Fire," Jill Iscol, and her collaborator Peter Cookson, provide succinct, empathetic introductions to twelve remarkable stories told, in their own words, by young people who are living the noble ethic of service. We learn of efforts, for example, to end abuse of women, provide medical care in Africa, advocate for clean water in California, nurture entrepreneurship in poverty-ridden communities and found orphanages in Afghanistan. The authors have done a fine job of finding and interviewing extraordinary heroes of good works. In an era when news stories so often report about failure and conflict on an epic scale, these are stories of hope---of how a single person or a small group can choose to make the world a better place and succeed. They are, quite simply, inspirational. Students everywhere--people everywhere-- should read this book. Iscol believes that the twelve narratives she has so effectively and sympathetically presented to us are a harbinger of a new era of idealism among young people across the globe. Would that it be so. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sandra Beautiful book!

INSPIRING STORIES OF FOURTEEN VISIONARIES WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD AND A BOLD CALL TO ACTION TO MOTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS
Theres Amy Lehman, a gutsy single mother who is building a floating health clinic on Lake Tanganyika; Jimmie Briggs, a journalist campaigning to stop violence against girls and women; and Jacob Lief, a young American who founded a school for street children in South Africa. You will discover how Josh Nesbit, Isaac Holeman, and Nadim Mahmud are connecting rural patients to hospitals using cellphone technology, how Susana De Anda is bringing fresh water to the migrant workers in Californias San Joaquin Valley, and how Andeisha Farid is establishing, in the face of war, orphanages for Afghanistans child victims of war and poverty. These are just some of the stories that will inspire you. Visionaries dont wait for others to take action. They step out. They are brave. They walk the walk. And they connect with others in deep and real ways. Jill Iscols message is that everyone has the talent and compassion to make the world a better place. *Hearts on Fire* is a call to action for all of us. Praise for *Hearts on Fire* Attention must be paid to these lives and these stories. In Jill Iscols capable hands, their stories offer us hope just when we need it. Brian Williams, NBC News What inspiring stories of people who have made meaningful lives through service and sacrifice one person at a time. These are our world leaders! Richard Gere *Hearts on Fire* is one of the most inspiring books Ive read. Tina Brown, editor-in-chief, *The Daily Beast* and *Newsweek* Clear and compelling . . . I know you will be inspired by the visionaries in *Hearts on Fire*. President Bill Clinton A powerful call to action for each of us to marry passion with purpose and act boldly in the quest for a more just and sustainable world. Cheryl Dorsey, president of Echoing Green Powerful and eloquent, *Hearts on Fire* is a passionate and infectious invitation to get involved and help make the world a better place. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University A beautifully appointed treasure box filled with inspiration and possibility. You cannot read this book without wanting to do more. Jacqueline Novogratz, founder and CEO of Acumen Fund A desperately needed antidote for those discouraged by the dysfunctional politics that have left so many on our planet vulnerable and voiceless. Billy Shore, founder and executive director of Share Our Strength *Hearts on Fire* reminds us that we need to dream again, inspire again, and act again. Wes Moore, New York Times bestselling author of *The Other Wes Moore* Vivid, down-to-earth, and well-told, *Hearts on Fire* will comfort and inspire anybody trying to do a little bit to make this world a more connected and compassionate place. Ethan Nichtern, founder of The InterDependence Project, and author of *One City: A Declaration of Interdependence*

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Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction I am writing this book to share with you the joy and excitement I have experienced meeting and becoming friends with some of the twenty-first century's most innovative and compassionate visionaries. These extraordinary and life-affirming activists have enriched my life; whenever I am in their presence, I feel optimistic about the future of our planet and its people. Where others tear at the social fabric, they mend; where others see the world in shades of gray conformity, they see the world as a kaleidoscope of possibilities; where others avert their eyes from the suffering of others, they fearlessly look at the world the way it is and how it might be. What are the personal experiences that shape the lives of today's activists? What are their hopes for the world? What are their dreams of the future? What are their fears? How are they changing the world one step at a time? What drives them to put aside comfort and safety to join hands with those most in need? A new consciousness is sweeping the globe. Columnist and -bestselling author David Brooks describes it as the New Humanism; Bill Shore, founder of Share Our Strength, describes the natural human desire to be part of something bigger and more lasting than ourselves. I think of today's visionaries as thoughtfully and actively guiding the world in the direction of greater justice and a deeper humanity, where the birth lottery does not determine life chances. Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, at a recent graduation speech at Rutgers University, beautifully expressed the personal importance of pursuing something bigger and more lasting than ourselves: Personal success devoid of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice, that's more than a barren life; it is a trivial one. Its looking good instead of doing good. Whatever words we use to describe this new consciousness, the reality is simple: It is fundamental to our nature to join with others to enhance the condition of the human family. In Jacqueline Novogratz's inspiring words, The time has come to extend to every person on the planet the fundamental principle we hold so dear: that all human beings are created equal. Our collective futures rest upon embracing a vision of a single world in which we are all connected. This book is a call to action. I am both motivated and humbled by the many people in our lives who serve without the expectation of reward. I have been fortunate to be close to people from all walks of life who feel it is a privilege to roll up their sleeves and extend a helping hand to others. Together we can make a real difference, today and tomorrow. If this book can, even in a small way, help you define and refine your dreams and plans for a better world, then it will have accomplished its mission. In 2010 and 2011, my colleague Peter Cookson and I filmed each of the visionaries featured in this book. Their stories are told in their own words directly, honestly, and passionately. The chapters that follow emerge from the lightly edited transcripts of our interviews. The stories you are about to read capture what we believe is often overlooked: Behind every story of service is a very human and heartfelt journey signified by yearning, struggle, happiness, and fulfillment. These vignettes allow us to see how purposeful imagination and solidarity with others can transform the world and in the process transform the lives of those who serve. Peter and I have known each other for many years; both of us are sociologists and educators. Not long ago, we discovered we were working in parallel and decided to collaborate on a book that would bring to public attention new and courageous leaders who are reshaping the world. This has been a truly happy collaboration. The title Hearts on Fire is drawn from an expression used by Andeisha Farid to describe to us her life's journey from childhood in a refugee camp in Iran to her present work, founding orphanages in Afghanistan. She movingly explained to us how the ashes of her heart were turned into a heart on fire when she started her first small orphanage in 2003. The origins of this work have deep roots in my family. My husband, Ken, and I believe that from those to whom much has been given, much is expected. Our children, Zachary and Kiva, share our determination to help make a world where justice is the norm, not the exception. We founded the Iscol Family Program for Leadership Development in Public Service at Cornell University as a way of promoting and supporting visionary leadership. I am indebted to all my colleagues at the Clinton Global Initiative and to President Clinton himself for showing the way forward to a world where our shared humanity is celebrated and giving back is expected. The symbol for this project is the hummingbird. Fifteen years ago, a family friend gave me a

painting of a hummingbird as a gift, because he thought it captured my sense of urgency about those things I care deeply about. Recently, I learned that the hummingbird is considered sacred by many Native Americans, who believe it to have life-giving magical powers a very fitting symbol for the work of the worlds visionaries. Because our mission is to awaken and support your sense of commitment, we have included sources of information about employment, internships, grants, and sponsorships as well as educational and professional development opportunities in the growing service movement and some suggested further reading. So, welcome! I sincerely hope that when you meet and get to know these women and men of vision, you will feel refreshed, optimistic, and ready to find your own path of connection, compassion, and constructive problem-solving. Please be in touch with us at www.heartsonfirebook.com and join the conversation together we can make a real difference! Chapter 1 Jimmie Briggs has been called a gentle giant. Its not so much his impressive stature, which fills the doorway; it is his dignity, his quiet sense of purpose, and the almost innocent quality that suffuses the entire room. When I first met Jimmie, he needed some guidance with fundraising. I was motivated to help because I believed that whoever would meet him would be as taken as I was with his chosen mission: stopping violence against girls and women. Jimmie has gone through a lot in the year since we first interviewed him: He suffered a major heart attack, which led to complete kidney failure. Since then he has been in hemodialysis three days a week, four hours per session. Yet he remains steadfast and totally committed to ending violence against girls and women. Jimmie loves life deeply. When I asked him about how he had gotten through his ordeal, he spoke of his family and friends and the community of caring he continues to be part of every day. His positive outlook is inspiring. I have learned so much from Jimmie; in his words, social change requires working every day, every week, every hour never turning off. Jimmie has many fans and was the winner of GQ magazines Better Men Better World Search. As he stirs hearts with his urgent quest to protect women and girls in this country and around the world, I hope he will stir yours too. Imagine if we drew a map of the world where our unit of measurement was violence against women. It would be a geography of pain. We would see continents of buried suffering, mountain ranges of violence, and arid deserts of neglect. We would see a world where rape is used as a weapon of war (nearly 500,000 women were raped in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide alone), a world where one out of three girls reports being sexually abused and where one girl in four has experienced violence in a relationship. Worldwide, the leading cause of death and disability for women between fifteen and forty-four is violence. Violence against women is a complex set of destructive, primarily male behaviors that include psychological and emotional abuse, forced marriage, son preference, honor killings, sexual harassment, trafficking, and violence against women in armed conflict. Jimmie is the founder of the Man Up Campaign, a global initiative to stop violence against girls and women. He didnt start life expecting he would dedicate himself to mobilizing the worlds youth in the cause of basic justice for girls and women. But thats what he did. And this is his story. An Unlikely Journey I have to say my journeys been a very unlikely one. It is not the path I thought I would take with my life. I grew up in a rural Bible Belt community just outside of Saint Louis. My mother was a teacher and high school guidance counselor. My father was an electrician. I have a younger brother; we were very much a middle-class family. I grew up in a community that was predominately white, very conservative. In elementary school and high school I was one of the few African American students. I endured a lot of taunting a lot of racial epithets playing sports, in assemblies, and in the hallways of my schools. It wasnt an easy time to be growing up. But I found strength in my family and community. The seventies and eighties were not times of innovation and change. My parents were very devout Baptists. A lot of my upbringing was tied to the church fish fries, the Sunday socials, the clothing drives, the Christmas sales in the wintertime. I was influenced by the elders of the church. It was not a wealthy church. Most church members were working-class people from the Deep South who had achieved a certain degree of security. They were very proud people. It was an environment of affirmation. When I would do well in school or win certain contests or get on the deans list, I vividly remember members of the church many of them have passed away discreetly handing me a crump...