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Forty Chances: Finding Hope In A Hungry World

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Finding Hope in a Hungry World



Howard G. Buffett
with Howard W. Buffett

FOREWORD BY WARREN E. BUFFETT

read by David Drummond • unabridged



Synopsis

If you had the resources to accomplish something great in the world, what would you do?

Legendary investor Warren Buffett posed this challenge to his son in 2006, when he announced he was leaving the bulk of his fortune to philanthropy. So, Howard G. Buffett set out to help the most vulnerable people on Earth - nearly a billion individuals who lack basic food security. And Howard has given himself a deadline: 40 years to put more than \$3 billion to work on this challenge. Each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our goals in life. Howard learned this lesson through his passion for farming: All farmers can expect to have about 40 growing seasons, giving them just 40 chances to improve on every harvest. This lesson applies to all of us, however, because we all have about 40 productive years to do the best job we can, whatever our passions may be. *Forty Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* is a book that captures Howard's journey. We join him around the world as he seeks out new approaches to ease the suffering of so many. It is told in a unique format: 40 stories that will provide listeners a compelling look at Howard's lessons learned, ranging from his own backyard to some of the most difficult and dangerous places on Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

FORTY CHANCES by Howard G. Buffett with H. W. Buffett Simon & Schuster, 2013, 433

pages ISBN 978-1-4516-8786-6 I was very skeptical about learning anything from this book. Howard G. Buffett's father is a Billionaire, what could he tell me, I grew up in the real world. I was wrong, I learned a great deal from this book. The title is the key, *Forty Chances*. Howard is a

farmer and the premise of the book is "a farmer can expect 40 chances or growing seasons to get it right." The object of farming is to feed people not to just get a crop to market. Howard begins with farming and quickly links feeding people to places where people are starving. Starvation is linked solidly to farming failure in those locations often due to conflict. You can't farm when a war is going on. There are other obstacles to successful farming around the world. In 40 stories (actually 41 stories) Howard details why some places in the world people cannot feed themselves. The complete title to this book is FORTY CHANCES - Finding Hope in a Hungry World. Finding hope is not preached but discovered as the 40 stories unfold. There are many dimensions to the problem of farming in the world from land ownership, seed available to social norms. I must compliment Howard for using these 40 stories to present the problems. They add credibility to the conditions he describes and to the possible solutions he presents. This is not a Billionaire telling how he thinks others should do things; this is a farmer sharing his concern, failures and successes. Thank you Howard I learned a great deal. Michael Andrew Marsden
The North Idaho Ghost Writer

This book is one of the best books I have read. I have a passion for global food security and this book addresses issues that people do not normally discuss. The hardcover was a great option for me as I have already read it twice and plan to lend it out to many people. The idea of 40 chances is explained on a local level, how many times a farmer typically harvests his field, and how many years left the Howard Buffett Foundation has left to complete its goal. The website for this book has many resources worth checking out. They did a variety of interviews around that book release that could be helpful to check out if you are unsure of the content. This book would be of interest to anyone, not just people interested in agriculture or international development.

Howard G. Buffett is an excellent storyteller! ...despite the seriousness of the topic(s): sustainable food production and hunger/malnutrition. His book are his own, first-hand experiences - both as a farmer/philanthropist...learning about local farming practices around the world! In "Forty Chances", a few chapters are success stories! Buffett writes with compassion, sometimes sharing warm or humorous accounts of individuals or groups....but always with throughout purpose, Buffett raises serious concerns/even alarms... about the destructive agriculture practices around the world. He focuses on our world's history(s) of food production, about issues - including differences in soils & weather between the northern/southern hemispheres. His writing is terse, without polemics!...Buffett is deeply concerned about food in-security(s) and how geography (weather/soil conditions) makes a

huge difference in what will/will not secure the supply of affordable food. He makes the case for HOW & WHY we must improve worldwide food security/sustainability.... Buffett makes his articulate case(s) for facing our immediate and longterm worldwide food needs - and how to re-think production practices & distribution. Buffett is knowledgeable, articulate, with personal, firsthand farming knowledge. He admits he loves big farming machines - but NOT ever 'at the expense' of both large & small farming operations and the all-important issues of climate and soils... nor the need for sustainable (long-term) production successes. He describes work of well-meaning governments, and some nonprofit agency's and their failures to understand the impact of local weather, crop failures, economic conditions, market access/transportation, local political and /or military conflicts. Buffett advocates that international agencies, individual national govts, and nonprofits must all understand the real, local conditions (weather/water/soil/financial/politics/transportation) ...that always affect food production and distribution. And... that local farmers (big & small) need encouragement/education on how to use sustainable farming practices, for their own hoped-for long-term economic sustainability.

Nice to read a book about humanity and farming the future. It is clear that dad Warren is proud of his son Howard and it seems that family altruism is alive in the Buffett family. Very inspiring book and amazing the chances Howard has taken to visit some areas of the world others wouldn't. I admire the way Howard found his passion over time and his dad let him develop that passion to the point where it might have an impact on the world. It just shows if you let your children's values develop then one day those values might help someone else. The book is worth a read if you care about humanity, climate change and farming. I enjoyed reading it. I also admire the decent sense of kindness that Howard displays. Instead of being a rich brat he is doing some good where it impacts by helping feed people and develop sustainability.

World food security is something we all need to understand as it touches every life on the planet, both human and animal. From topsoil, contract farming (who knew!), elephants in Africa and war/unrest all over the globe - food plays the key role. How food secure is your city? Your schools? Your elderly community? Your neighbor? I learned a lot from the book and also asked myself "What am I doing with MY 40 Chances"? I chose this for my Book Club read and anticipate a great conversation about world hunger, hunger at home and insight into each person's 40 chances to make their life matter.

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