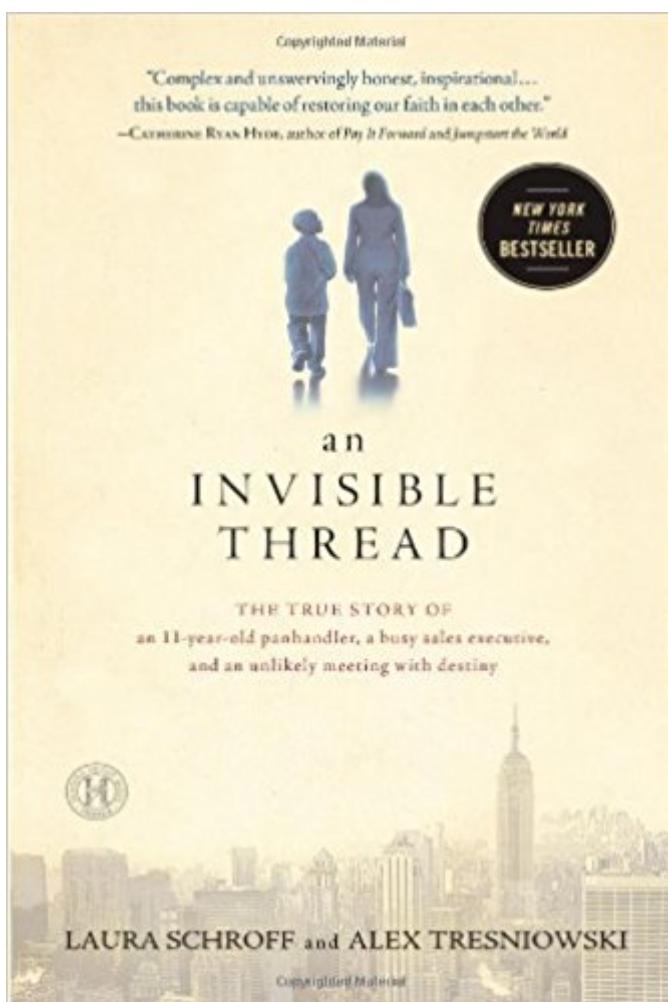


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# An Invisible Thread: The True Story Of An 11-Year-Old Panhandler, A Busy Sales Executive, And An Unlikely Meeting With Destiny



## Synopsis

This inspirational New York Times bestseller chronicles the lifelong friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness. "A straightforward tale of kindness and paying it forward in 1980s New York—an uplifting reminder that small gestures matter" • (Kirkus Reviews). Stopping was never part of the plan... She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades. Whatever made me notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Howard Books; Reprint edition (August 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1451648979

ISBN-13: 978-1451648973

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 2,626 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,921 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Self-Help > Relationships > Friendship #17 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Urban #22 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Inspirational

## Customer Reviews

"I thought I knew what An Invisible Thread was going to be. I thought it would be a simple and hopeful story about a woman who saved a boy. I was wrong. It's a complex and unswervingly honest story about a woman and a boy who saved each other. By its raw honesty and lack of excess sentimentality, it is even more inspirational. This is a book capable of restoring our faith in each other and in the very idea that maybe everything is going to be okay after all." (Catherine Ryan Hyde, author of Pay It Forward and Jumpstart the World)"An Invisible Thread" a remarkable story,

told so beautifully and honestlyâ "shows us what's possible when we are not afraid to connect with another human being and tap into our compassion. It is a story about the power each of us has to elevate someone else's life and how our own life is enriched in the process. This special book reminds us that damaging cycles can be broken and not to neglect the humanity of the strangers we brush up against every day." (Chris Gardner, bestselling author of *The Pursuit of Happyness* and *Start Where You Are*)"A straightforward tale of kindness and paying it forward in 1980s New York . . . For readers seeking an uplifting reminder that small gestures matter." (Kirkus Reviews)"According to an old Chinese proverb, there's an invisible thread that connects two people who are destined to meet and influence each other's lives. . . . As Schroff relates Maurice's story, she tells of her own father's alcoholism and abuse, and readers see how desperately these two need each other in this feel-good story about the far-reaching benefits of kindness." (Publishers Weekly)"An Invisible Thread is like *The Blind Side*, but instead of football, itâ™s food. These are two people who were brought together by one simple meal, and it literally changed the course of both of their lives. This is a must-read . . . you can read it in a day because itâ™s impossible to put down. If you read it and find it as moving as I did, pay it forward: buy a copy and give it to a friend.â • (Rachael Ray, host of *The Rachael Ray Show*)âœThis book is a game-changer . . . each chapter touches your heart. An Invisible Thread is a gift to us all. America needs this book now more than ever.â • (Coach Ron Tunick, national radio show host, *The Business of Life*)âœAn incredible story . . . I would encourage everyone to pick up this book.â • (Clayton Morris, host, *Fox and Friends*)"If you have a beating heartâ "or if you fear youâ™re suffering a hardening of the emotional arteriesâ "you really ought to commit to this book at the earliest possible opportunity . . . read this book. And pass it on. And encourage the next reader to do the same.â • (Jesse Kornbluth *Huffington Post*)"This is one of the most touching and refreshing and inspiring stories I have read in a long time. If you had made this story up, I wouldnâ™t have believed it, but itâ™s true. We all need something to inspire us, and I promise you, this book will make you want to stand up and do something nice for people. What a wonderful and needed story for all of us. An Invisible Thread is fantastic." (Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas, Host of *Fox News*; *Huckabee Show*)"A single moment of obedience by an ordinary person started a wonderful relationship and a better life for a poor street child. Maurice started to dream, because Laura showed him compassion and kindness. This is exactly what Jesus is asking his followers to do today in a broken world. An Invisible Thread is an example for each and every one of us, not only in South Africa but in every other country. This book can and will change the world." (Dr. Johan Smith, Pastor of Moreleta Church in Pretoria, South Africa)

Laura Schroff is a former advertising executive who helped launch three of the most successful start-ups in Time Inc. history—*InStyle*, *Teen People*, and *People StyleWatch*. Schroff has also worked as the New York Division Manager at *People* magazine and as Associate Publisher at *Brides* magazine. She lives in Westchester, New York. Alex Tresniowski is a former human-interest writer at *People* and the bestselling author of several books, most notably *The Vendetta*, which was purchased by Universal Studios and used as a basis for the movie *Public Enemies*. His other titles include *An Invisible Thread*, *Waking Up In Heaven*, and *The Light Between Us*.

I must disclose that I don't usually like Best Sellers, and my pattern is holding true. There are parts to like about this book - I think the descriptions of the welfare hotel and the lives led in such places is actually important reading. For that alone, this book does an important job. I felt at times we were wallowing in people's "goodness" - and their reward is a best selling novel and the money and fame that goes with it. However, I don't really think that was the writers intent. I would probably suggest (like another reviewer did) that if you want to read the book - borrow it from the library. It is a quick and easy read. Take the money you would have spent on it, and do something nice for someone - like buy an elderly neighbor a cup of coffee and have a chat, or give the money to a local food bank.

This book really walks you through the other person's life. Unless you've been exposed to this kind of a lifestyle you have no idea what these kids might go through or what their everyday life looks like. You can really get a good Glimpse and appreciate the everyday life style of people who have just basic needs met, food, clothing, lodging and parents that do this for them. It's hard to Fathom a world out there of kids that don't have people that take care of these basic needs, but there is a lot. If you work in the education system or in the social system you will understand this and you will understand this book but even then you still can't even imagine what these kids go through everyday. Thanks for the memoir.

A straightforward tale of kindness and paying it forward in 1980s New York. When advertising executive Schroff answered a child's request for spare change by inviting him for lunch, she did not expect the encounter to grow into a friendship that would endure into his adulthood. The author recounts how she and Maurice, a promising boy from a drug-addicted family, learned to trust each other. Schroff acknowledges risks—“including the possibility of her actions being misconstrued and the tension of crossing socio-economic divides”—but does not dwell on the

complexities of homelessness or the philosophical problems of altruism. She does not question whether public recognition is beneficial, or whether it is sufficient for the recipient to realize the extent of what has been done. With the assistance of People human-interest writer Tresniowski (Tiger Virtues, 2005, etc.), Schroff adheres to a personal narrative that traces her troubled relationship with her father, her meetings with Maurice and his background, all while avoiding direct parallels, noting that their childhoods differed in severity even if they shared similar emotional voids. With feel-good dramatizations, the story seldom transcends the message that reaching out makes a difference. It is framed in simple terms, from attributing the first meeting to “two people with complicated pasts and fragile dreams” that were “somehow meant to be friends” to the conclusion that love is a driving force. Admirably, Schroff notes that she did not seek a role as a “substitute parent,” and she does not judge Maurice’s mother for her lifestyle. That both main figures experience a few setbacks yet eventually survive is never in question; the story fittingly concludes with an epilogue by Maurice. For readers seeking an uplifting reminder that small gestures matter this is highly recommended.

Beautifully written and brings alive the sweet and moving story of an incredible relationship. Both people gave each other so much in learning about love and new ways to see life that is crucial to happiness. I was gripped by this story from the first sentence and couldn’t put it down until finished. I also cried through most of it, I was so moved by the interactions not only between Laura and Maurice but of the things that Laura recounts both in her own growing up and in Maurice’s life. I highly recommend. My only complaint was something that most people might not notice, the misuse of the verbs lie and lay. An edit should catch these things! However, this little glitch did not hurt my enjoyment of the story one bit.

It's been a while since I read this one on my kindle.....but I enjoyed it so much I ordered the book for daughter. Snazzy business gal meets young panhandler.....and she simply was moved by some outward nudge to...first give him a couple bucks, then to befriend him. And she pretty much falls in love with the little fellow and pursues him in order to understand, help, and to chat. She is an amazing force in his life and throughout the pages the two of them cement an unlikely bond. The epilogue will make you smile!

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