

life is so good george dawson

****Life Is So Good George Dawson: An Inspiring Journey of Hope and Resilience****

life is so good george dawson is not just a phrase—it's a testament to a remarkable story that resonates deeply with readers around the world. George Dawson's memoir, **Life Is So Good**, co-written with his granddaughter, Richard Glaubman, chronicles a life filled with hardship, perseverance, and ultimately, triumph. This inspiring narrative offers valuable lessons about the power of determination, the importance of education, and the beauty of embracing life's opportunities, no matter one's age or background.

The Remarkable Story Behind "Life Is So Good George Dawson"

George Dawson's story is unique and heartwarming. Born in 1898, he lived through some of the most challenging periods in American history, including segregation and extreme poverty. Despite never attending school as a child, he learned to read and write at the age of 98, proving that it's never too late to pursue one's dreams.

His memoir, **Life Is So Good**, captures the essence of his journey—from a childhood filled with hard labor to becoming an inspiring figure who embraced education late in life. This book is a beacon of hope for those who might feel it's too late to change their path or learn something new.

Who Was George Dawson?

George Dawson was a man of the American South who worked as a sharecropper and laborer for most of his life. Despite the racial and economic barriers he faced, he maintained a positive outlook on life. His story gained widespread attention after he enrolled in a literacy class at a local community college near the end of his life. His enthusiasm and dedication inspired not only his classmates but also readers worldwide.

The Importance of Literacy and Lifelong Learning

One of the central themes in **Life Is So Good George Dawson** is the transformative power of education. George's determination to learn to read and write at 98 demonstrates that education is not confined by age. This message encourages readers to embrace lifelong learning, reinforcing that acquiring knowledge can happen at any stage of life.

Lessons From George Dawson's Life

George Dawson's story offers profound insights that extend beyond his personal achievements. Here

are some key lessons we can learn from his journey:

1. It's Never Too Late to Learn

George's late literacy education shows that age should never be a barrier to personal growth. Whether it's picking up a new skill, changing careers, or pursuing a passion, the human capacity for learning is limitless.

2. Resilience Is Key to Overcoming Adversity

Living through segregation and poverty, George faced challenges that would have discouraged many. Yet, his resilience helped him overcome obstacles and find joy in life. His story serves as a reminder that perseverance can lead to unexpected and rewarding outcomes.

3. Embrace Optimism

The phrase "life is so good" itself reflects George's optimistic outlook. Despite a life of hardship, he chose to focus on the positive aspects and celebrate the small victories. This mindset can improve mental well-being and encourage a more fulfilling life.

Why "Life Is So Good George Dawson" Resonates With Readers Today

In today's fast-paced world, stories like George Dawson's provide grounding and inspiration. Readers are drawn to his authenticity and the simplicity of his message. Here's why his story continues to captivate audiences:

Connection to Universal Themes

George's experiences touch on universal themes such as struggle, hope, and redemption. Everyone can relate to facing challenges and striving for a better future, making his story accessible and emotionally powerful.

Encouragement for Lifelong Growth

In an era where education and career paths are often rigid, George's example reminds us that change is always possible. His journey motivates people to never stop evolving, regardless of circumstances.

How to Apply the Message of "Life Is So Good George Dawson" in Your Own Life

The inspirational message behind George Dawson's story can be a catalyst for positive change. Here are practical ways to incorporate his lessons into everyday living:

Practice Gratitude

Focus on what's good in your life, much like George did. Keeping a gratitude journal can help highlight positives even during difficult times.

Commit to Learning New Things

Whether it's reading a book, taking a class, or exploring a new hobby, dedicate time regularly to personal growth. Remember, it's not about speed but persistence.

Build Resilience Through Mindfulness

When faced with adversity, practicing mindfulness or meditation can strengthen emotional resilience. Embracing challenges as opportunities to grow rather than setbacks aligns well with George's philosophy.

Engage with Your Community

George's literacy class was not just about learning to read; it was a social experience that connected him with others. Joining clubs, volunteering, or participating in group activities can foster a sense of belonging and support.

The Impact of "Life Is So Good George Dawson" on Literature and Culture

Beyond its inspirational message, *Life Is So Good* has left a significant mark on readers and educators alike. It has been used as a teaching tool to emphasize the importance of literacy and the human spirit.

Inspiring Educators and Students

Teachers often introduce George Dawson's story to motivate students who may struggle with learning or feel discouraged. His example shows that with determination, learning is achievable for everyone.

Cultural Reflection on Race and History

George's life reflects the broader historical context of racial injustice and economic hardship in the American South. The memoir provides a personal glimpse into these realities, fostering empathy and understanding.

Encouraging Memoirs and Biographies

The success of George Dawson's book has inspired other autobiographical works that highlight perseverance and late-life achievements, contributing to a growing genre focused on real-life resilience.

Exploring Further: Books and Resources Related to George Dawson's Story

For those moved by **Life Is So Good George Dawson**, there are several related reads and resources that delve into similar themes:

- **"The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch** - A poignant memoir about overcoming obstacles and living life fully.
- **"Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom** - A touching exploration of life lessons and human connection.
- **Adult Literacy Programs** - Many communities offer literacy classes inspired by stories like George's, offering opportunities for adults to learn to read and write.

Engaging with these materials can deepen your appreciation of the themes found in George Dawson's memoir and encourage your own journey of growth.

The story of George Dawson is a stirring reminder that no matter the circumstances or the years behind us, life holds endless possibilities. His life exemplifies that joy, learning, and hope are always within reach. When we say **life is so good George Dawson**, we celebrate not just a man's

extraordinary journey but also the enduring human spirit that inspires us all.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is George Dawson, the author of 'Life is So Good'?

George Dawson was an American man who learned to read at the age of 98 and co-authored the book 'Life is So Good,' which tells his inspiring life story.

What is the main theme of 'Life is So Good' by George Dawson?

The main theme of 'Life is So Good' is the power of perseverance, lifelong learning, and the joy of life despite hardships and late opportunities.

How did George Dawson's life experience influence the book 'Life is So Good'?

George Dawson's life experience of overcoming illiteracy late in life and his positive outlook despite many challenges deeply influenced the book, making it a testament to resilience and optimism.

Why is 'Life is So Good' by George Dawson considered inspiring?

'Life is So Good' is considered inspiring because it shows that it is never too late to learn and appreciate life, as demonstrated by George Dawson learning to read at 98.

What lessons can readers learn from George Dawson's 'Life is So Good'?

Readers can learn about the importance of hope, determination, lifelong education, and appreciating the simple joys of life from George Dawson's story in 'Life is So Good.'

Additional Resources

Life Is So Good George Dawson: A Testament to Resilience and the Power of Lifelong Learning

life is so good george dawson—a phrase that encapsulates the remarkable journey of a man who defied odds and societal expectations. George Dawson, the author of the memoir *Life Is So Good*, offers more than a personal narrative; his story is a profound exploration of perseverance, the value of education at any age, and the human spirit's capacity for renewal. This article delves deeply into the significance of George Dawson's life story, its cultural impact, and the lessons embedded within his extraordinary late-in-life achievements.

Understanding the Essence of **Life Is So Good** by George Dawson

At its core, **Life Is So Good** is an autobiographical account co-written by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman. The memoir chronicles Dawson's life from his birth in 1898 in Texas, through the hardships of segregation and illiteracy, to his eventual mastery of reading and writing at the age of 98. This narrative challenges preconceived notions about age, education, and the limitations imposed by society.

The title itself, "Life Is So Good," carries a dual meaning. On the surface, it reflects Dawson's optimistic outlook despite the adversities he faced. Beneath that optimism lies an inspiring message about the transformative power of education and the idea that personal growth is not confined to youth but is accessible throughout one's lifetime.

Historical and Social Context

To fully appreciate the memoir's impact, it is essential to place George Dawson's experiences within the broader context of early 20th-century America. Born into a segregated society in the Jim Crow South, Dawson's early life was marked by systemic racial discrimination, economic hardship, and limited educational opportunities. Illiteracy was a common barrier for African Americans during this era, especially in rural areas.

Dawson's story reflects the struggles of many African Americans who were denied formal education due to entrenched racial inequalities. His eventual accomplishment of learning to read and write at nearly 100 years old serves as a powerful counter-narrative to the historical marginalization of African Americans and challenges stereotypes about the elderly and educational attainment.

The Transformative Power of Education in Dawson's Journey

One of the most compelling aspects of **Life Is So Good** is its focus on education as a catalyst for personal transformation. George Dawson's decision to learn to read in the final years of his life is both inspiring and instructive. It underscores a critical message: the pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement is a lifelong endeavor.

Learning to Read at 98: Breaking Barriers

Dawson's literacy journey began in a community literacy class led by a local teacher. Despite decades of illiteracy, he demonstrated remarkable determination and cognitive vitality, proving that age is not an insurmountable barrier to learning. This aspect of his story resonates deeply in discussions about adult education, brain plasticity, and lifelong learning.

Studies in cognitive science support the idea that while some learning abilities may decline with age,

adults retain the capacity to acquire new skills and knowledge. Dawson's experience aligns with this, offering anecdotal evidence that motivation and social support are crucial factors in successful learning later in life.

The Psychological and Social Benefits of Late-Life Learning

Dawson's newfound literacy brought more than the ability to read signs or write notes; it provided a sense of empowerment, self-worth, and connection to the world. Engaging with literature and communicating effectively enhanced his social interactions and mental well-being.

Psychological research indicates that lifelong learning can contribute to cognitive resilience, delay the onset of dementia, and improve overall quality of life in older adults. Dawson's memoir highlights these benefits through a personal lens, making the case for broader support of educational programs targeting the elderly population.

Life Lessons and Inspirational Themes in *Life Is So Good*

Beyond the educational narrative, **Life Is So Good** is rich with themes that resonate universally. The memoir touches on resilience, optimism, and the importance of community. George Dawson's outlook on life—despite the hardships he endured—offers a blueprint for finding joy and meaning regardless of one's circumstances.

Resilience Amid Adversity

Dawson's life was not free of pain or difficulty. From racial discrimination to economic struggle and personal loss, he faced numerous challenges. Yet, his persistent optimism and refusal to surrender to despair illustrate a profound resilience.

The memoir encourages readers to recognize resilience as a dynamic process rather than an innate trait, highlighting the role of mindset, support networks, and purposeful action in overcoming adversity.

The Role of Community and Relationships

Throughout his life, George Dawson was embedded in a network of family, friends, and educators who influenced his journey. The community literacy class that sparked his learning was a crucial turning point, showing how social environments can foster growth and change.

This emphasis on community aligns with sociological studies emphasizing the importance of social capital in health, well-being, and educational success, especially among marginalized populations.

Comparative Perspectives: **Life Is So Good** and Other Memoirs of Late Bloomers

George Dawson's memoir is part of a broader genre of life stories that celebrate achievements realized late in life. When compared to other notable examples, such as Frank McCourt's **Teacher Man** or Laura Ingalls Wilder's later literary fame, Dawson's story stands out for its intersection with issues of race, literacy, and aging.

- **Age and Achievement:** Unlike many late-blooming authors who had access to formal education, Dawson's achievements emerged from overcoming systemic educational exclusion.
- **Racial and Societal Barriers:** His story uniquely highlights the compounded effects of racial discrimination and poverty on literacy and self-actualization.
- **Impact on Adult Education:** The memoir has been used in educational programs to motivate adult learners, demonstrating its practical influence beyond literary circles.

Dawson's narrative encourages a reevaluation of how society perceives aging and the potential for personal development throughout the lifespan.

Critical Reception and Cultural Impact

Since its publication, **Life Is So Good** has garnered significant critical acclaim for its authenticity and inspirational qualities. Reviewers have praised the memoir for its straightforward storytelling and the profound lessons it imparts without didacticism.

The book has also been incorporated into discussions on civil rights history, adult education, and gerontology, reflecting its multifaceted relevance. Educational institutions often use it to illustrate the importance of literacy and the possibilities inherent in second-chance learning.

SEO Considerations and the Enduring Relevance of George Dawson's Story

In the digital age, the phrase **life is so good george dawson** continues to attract interest from readers seeking uplifting stories and educational inspiration. Optimizing content around this phrase involves integrating related keywords such as "adult literacy," "lifelong learning," "late-life education," "African American memoir," and "resilience stories."

By embedding these LSI keywords naturally within discussions of Dawson's life, the memoir's themes, and its societal implications, content creators can effectively reach audiences interested in education, personal development, and historical narratives.

The ongoing relevance of Dawson's story also reflects broader societal shifts towards valuing inclusivity in education and recognizing the potential of older adults as active learners and contributors.

George Dawson's *Life Is So Good* is more than a memoir; it is a beacon illustrating the power of hope, education, and human tenacity. His journey challenges cultural assumptions about age and literacy, offering a narrative that inspires both reflection and action. In a world where lifelong learning is increasingly valued, Dawson's story remains a poignant reminder that it is never too late to embrace new knowledge and declare, with conviction, that life is indeed so good.

[Life Is So Good George Dawson](#)

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life is so good george dawson: *Life Is So Good* George Dawson, Richard Glaubman, 2013-05-07 One man's extraordinary journey through the twentieth century and how he learned to read at age 98 "Things will be all right. People need to hear that. Life is good, just as it is. There isn't anything I would change about my life."—George Dawson In this remarkable book, George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98 and lived to the age of 103, reflects on his life and shares valuable lessons in living, as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the entire sweep of the twentieth century. Richard Glaubman captures Dawson's irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into humanity, history, hardships, and happiness. From segregation and civil rights, to the wars and the presidents, to defining moments in history, George Dawson's description and assessment of the last century inspires readers with the message that has sustained him through it all: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better." WINNER OF THE CHRISTOPHER AWARD "A remarkable autobiography . . . the feel-good story of the year."—The Christian Science Monitor "A testament to the power of perseverance."—USA Today "Life Is So Good is about character, soul and spirit. . . . The pride in standing his ground is matched—maybe even exceeded—by the accomplishment of [George Dawson's] hard-won education."—The Washington Post "Eloquent . . . engrossing . . . an astonishing and unforgettable memoir."—Publishers Weekly Look for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more.

life is so good george dawson: Summary of George Dawson & Richard Glaubman's Life Is So Good Everest Media,, 2022-09-09T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 I loved going to town with my father, who was a farmer. We would buy riband syrup, which we would sell to local farmers. I dreamed of being like my father and having a successful farm. #2 I went to town with my father, who was a farmer. I dreamed of being like him and having a successful farm. When I was in the general store, I saw the white man frowning, my father grinning at me, and those barrels of candy to choose from. #3 I went to town with my father, who was a farmer. I dreamed of being like him and having a successful farm. When I was in the general store, I saw the white man frowning, my father grinning at me, and those barrels of candy to choose from. #4 Pete was a farmer who had dreams of being like his father and having a successful farm. He went to town with his father, and when he was in the general store, he saw the

white man frowning, his father grinning at him, and those barrels of candy to choose from.

life is so good george dawson: Centenarians' Autobiographies Mita Banerjee, 2023-12-18 Situated at the intersection between medical humanities, aging studies, autobiographical studies, disability studies and ethic studies, this book explores the fascination of centenarians' autobiographies for humanites research. It can be argued that the growing presence of centenarians' autobiographies on book markets across the globe may be rooted in the public's desire for positive images of aging, in contrast to the image of inevitable decay.

life is so good george dawson: The King's English Betsy Burton, 2005 A unique and fascinating memoir traces the history of a famed Salt Lake City bookstore as it survives attempts at censorship, the onslaught of chain superstores, and more, including dozens of Top 25 reading lists on a wide variety of topics.

life is so good george dawson: Extraordinary Forms of Aging Julia Velten, 2022-10-07 While aging and the life-course appear to be normalized processes, the complex construction of age at the intersection of biology, society, and culture remains opaque. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of age(ing) by exploring its construction through the analysis of extraordinary cases. Focusing on life narratives of centenarians and children with progeria, Julia Velten analyzes the way in which these people experience age(ing) and shows how these experiences can contribute to our understanding of age. Situated at the intersection of aging studies and medical humanities, the study explores what extraordinary age(ing) can tell us about aging processes in general.

life is so good george dawson: Unretirement Chris Farrell, 2014-09-02 The budget battles of recent years have amplified the warnings of demographic doomsayers who predicted that a wave of baby boomers would bleed America dry, bankrupting Social Security and Medicare as they faded into an impoverished old age. On the contrary, argues award-winning journalist Chris Farrell, we are instead on the verge of a broad, positive transformation of our economy and society. The old idea of retirement--a word that means withdrawal, describing a time when people gave up productive employment and shrank their activities--was a short-lived historical anomaly. Humans have always found meaning and motivation in work and community, Farrell notes, and the boomer generation, poised to live longer in better health than any before, is already discovering unretirement--extending their working lives with new careers, entrepreneurial ventures, and volunteer service. Their experience, wisdom--and importantly, their continued earnings--will enrich the American workplace, treasury, and our whole society in the decades to come. Unretirement not only explains this seismic change, now in its early stages, it provides key insights and practical advice for boomers about to navigate this exciting, but unsettled, new frontier, drawing on Chris Farrell's decades of covering personal finance and economics for Bloomberg Businessweek and Marketplace Money. This will be an indispensable guide to the landscape of unretirement from one of America's most trusted experts.

life is so good george dawson: Knowing, Doing, Winning Kwai Yu, 2011-01-15 Throughout this book, I will ask you to take coffee breaks. These breaks are designed to break up your learning and reflections in bite-size chunks. In many cases, the breaks direct you to a video or an article on the internet. The coffee breaks are designed to give you time and space to reflect; not only to reflect on what I have said but also to reflect on what you are saying to yourself. The secret to using this book is in understanding that the book isn't about me. It's about YOU. The only thing that matters is what you find yourself saying. This book isn't about copying 'my success formula' because I don't have one. I would be lying if I said I had. If there was a one-size-fits-all success formula, I think someone would have invented it and patented it by now. So, if someone tells you they have the formula to success, they are lying. The best way to capture and explore your own thinking is to catch yourself saying, 'I disagree with this!' and replace that thought with 'Why does that person think differently to me?' This book is about finding your own courage and tenacity to become a pioneering leader, a trailblazer who knows and wants to build something worth-while in your lifetime.

life is so good george dawson: Older and Stronger Dora Weithers, Older and Stronger: Nutriment for the Spirit Inside the Aging Body is designed for Christians in or near their senior years; this volume "aims to convince us that God has a purpose for having us live as long as we

have.” It offers illustrations of how, with God’s help, aging Christians can continue to grow spiritually while remaining faithful, joyful, and thankful through a life of service. Each of fifty-two devotional presentations (one for each week of the year) is followed by a daily prayer guide. A wealth of inspiring quotations from a wide range of speakers, writers, and lyrics from beloved hymns for singing or meditation are included. Seniors “who are ready to grow stronger in spirit while the body ages” are encouraged to continue to lead by example, make a difference in the lives of others, and be thankful for the hope of eternal life in the presence of Jesus. Biblical and present-day examples show how older Christians can be a “living sermon” as others see the kindness and compassion of Jesus in them as they grow in faith, hope, and love daily.

life is so good george dawson: Life is so good. Je suis né au Texas il y a 102 ans... George Dawson, Richard Glaubman, 2000-09-30 George Dawson a 102 ans. Lorsque tout petit déjà il cardait le coton, grand-mère Charity lui disait : George, je sais que tu n'en peux plus. Mais le président Lincoln ne nous a pas affranchis pour qu'on devienne paresseux. Il l'a fait pour qu'on travaille dur... Trimer dans les ranches du Texas ou les ports du Mississippi, sillonner le Vieux Sud avec les vagabonds et monter une fois jusqu'au Canada, histoire de voir la neige, élever une famille nombreuse en pleine ségrégation raciale, cela n'a pas empêché George de devenir centenaire et de conserver un optimisme à toute épreuve. Aujourd'hui il vit seul à Dallas, marche sans canne, ne porte pas de lunettes et regrette seulement d'avoir oublié de faire renouveler son permis de conduire. C'est bien la seule chose qu'il ait oublié de toute une vie qui a fini par se confondre avec l'histoire de l'Amérique et du XXe siècle. Cela méritait bien un livre, mais George a dû travailler trop jeune pour pouvoir apprendre à lire et à écrire, même s'il a toujours tâché que personne ne s'en aperçoive, pas même ses enfants. A 98 ans enfin il a pris le chemin de l'école, et là encore il lui a fallu bosser dur. Aujourd'hui il dévore les journaux, et avec l'aide de son ami Richard il a pu raconter ses mémoires qui valent tous les élixirs de jouvence.

life is so good george dawson: The Book in Society Solveig Robinson, 2013-11-15 The Book in Society: An Introduction to Print Culture examines the origins and development of one of the most important inventions in human history. Books can inform, entertain, inspire, irritate, liberate, or challenge readers, and their forms can be tangible and traditional, like a printed, casebound volume, or virtual and transitory, like a screen-page of a cell-phone novel. Written in clear, non-specialist prose, The Book in Society first provides an overview of the rise of the book and of the modern publishing and bookselling industries. It explores the evolution of written texts from early forms to contemporary formats, the interrelationship between literacy and technology, and the prospects for the book in the twenty-first century. The second half of the book is based on historian Robert Darnton’s concept of a book publishing “communication circuit.” It examines how books migrate from the minds of authors to the minds of readers, exploring such topics as the rise of the modern notion of the author, the role of states and others in promoting or restricting the circulation of books, various modes of reproducing and circulating texts, and how readers’ responses help shape the form and content of the books available to them. Feature boxes highlighting key texts, individuals, and developments in the history of the book, carefully selected illustrations, and a glossary all help bring the history of the book to life.

life is so good george dawson: George Eliot's Life J.W Cross, 2020-08-01 Reproduction of the original: George Eliot's Life by J.W Cross

life is so good george dawson: Life of George Eliot George Eliot, 1884

life is so good george dawson: The Crisis , 2001-09 The Crisis, founded by W.E.B. Du Bois as the official publication of the NAACP, is a journal of civil rights, history, politics, and culture and seeks to educate and challenge its readers about issues that continue to plague African Americans and other communities of color. For nearly 100 years, The Crisis has been the magazine of opinion and thought leaders, decision makers, peacemakers and justice seekers. It has chronicled, informed, educated, entertained and, in many instances, set the economic, political and social agenda for our nation and its multi-ethnic citizens.

life is so good george dawson: George Eliot's life George Eliot, 1898

life is so good george dawson: Human Behavior in the Social Environment José B.

Ashford, Craig W. LeCroy, Kathy L. Lortie, 2006 Ashford, LeCroy, and Lortie's ground-breaking book offers students a balanced, integrated introduction to human behavior in the social environment. Lively and comprehensive, this book succeeds by helping students connect foundation knowledge with practice concerns. Clarified through the introduction of study tables and concept maps (at the end of each discussion behavior in the development chapters), the authors look at biopsychosocial development across the life span using an integrative multidimensional approach, discussing integrative practice, theory, treatment, and services throughout. This multidimensional framework provides a concrete tool for the reader to assess human behavior from a perspective that truly reflects the values and knowledge base of the social work profession. Together, the book's solid coverage of foundation knowledge, integration of the biopsychosocial dimensions for assessing social functioning, its multidimensional framework, and its use of case studies to illuminate the applied aspects of HBSE content--along with the authors' consistent attention to diversity--successfully combine to give readers a meaningful, exciting experience.

life is so good george dawson: Rediscovering the Spirit Lowell Greathouse, 2020-10-16

How do we come together when things around us are falling apart? What is the best way forward when we are faced with political turmoil, a global pandemic, civil unrest, and spiritual wandering? Rediscovering the Spirit is an exploration of the critical spiritual principles we need to understand and embrace in our current social reality. The book focuses on the nature of the inward-out movement and how to deal with current social barriers that cause deep division and alienation. We can come together in whole and harmonious ways when we rediscover and activate our spiritual lives through centering, framing, practicing, and learning how to live with others.

life is so good george dawson: George Eliot's Life, as Related in Her Letters and Journals George Eliot, 1899

life is so good george dawson: *Works of George Eliot: George Eliot's life as related in her letters and journals, arranged and edited by her husband, J. W. Cross* George Eliot, 1898

life is so good george dawson: Complete Works of George Eliot: Life and letters George Eliot, 1899

life is so good george dawson: *George Eliot's Life as Related in her Letters and Journals (Complete)* George Eliot, 2020-09-28 With the materials in my hands I have endeavored to form an autobiography (if the term may be permitted) of George Eliot. The life has been allowed to write itself in extracts from her letters and journals. Free from the obtrusion of any mind but her own, this method serves, I think, better than any other open to me, to show the development of her intellect and character. In dealing with the correspondence I have been influenced by the desire to make known the woman, as well as the author, through the presentation of her daily life. On the intellectual side there remains little to be learned by those who already know George Eliot's books. In the twenty volumes which she wrote and published in her lifetime will be found her best and ripest thoughts. The letters now published throw light on another side of her nature—no less important, but hitherto unknown to the public—the side of the affections. The intimate life was the core of the root from which sprung the fairest flowers of her inspiration. Fame came to her late in life, and, when it presented itself, was so weighted with the sense of responsibility that it was in truth a rose with many thorns, for George Eliot had the temperament that shrinks from the position of a public character. The belief in the wide, and I may add in the beneficent, effect of her writing was no doubt the highest happiness, the reward of the artist which she greatly cherished: but the joys of the hearthside, the delight in the love of her friends, were the supreme pleasures in her life. By arranging all the letters and journals so as to form one connected whole, keeping the order of their dates, and with the least possible interruption of comment, I have endeavored to combine a narrative of day-to-day life, with the play of light and shade which only letters, written in various moods, can give, and without which no portrait can be a good likeness. I do not know that the particular method in which I have treated the letters has ever been adopted before. Each letter has been pruned of everything that seemed to me irrelevant to my purpose—of everything that I thought

my wife would have wished to be omitted. Every sentence that remains adds, in my judgment, something (however small it may be) to the means of forming a conclusion about her character. I ought perhaps to say a word of apology for what may appear to be undue detail of travelling experiences; but I hope that to many readers these will be interesting, as reflected through George Eliot's mind. The remarks on works of art are only meant to be records of impressions. She would have deprecated for herself the attitude of an art critic.

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