

Synopsis

After losing someone she loved, artist Candy Chang painted the side of an abandoned house in her neighborhood in New Orleans with chalkboard paint and stenciled the sentence, "Before I die I want to ____." Within a day of the wall's completion, it was covered in colorful chalk dreams as neighbors stopped and reflected on their lives. Since then, more than four hundred Before I Die walls have been created by people all over the world. This beautiful hardcover book is an inspiring celebration of these public walls and the stories behind them. Filled with hope, fear, humor, and heartbreak, Before I Die presents an intimate portrait of the dreams within our communities and a chance to ponder life's ultimate question.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this hope-filled treatise on finding joy in the everyday, designer Chang illustrates the importance of living life to its fullest. After the unexpected death of someone close to her, the author made it her mission to celebrate her friend's memory. In her hometown of New Orleans, Chang painted the wall of an abandoned house with chalkboard paint along with the words Before I die..., hoping to open people's eyes to the power of intention. She succeeded beyond her wildest dreams. The movement has spread to more than 30 countries, from China, Australia, the U.S. to the United Arab Emirates and Israel. In 10 languages, people shared their dreams, from the prosaic Have a good day to the heartbreaking See my mother cancer-free. Much of the book is given over to photos of these inspiring walls and their call-out quotes of writings, with the author explaining why each of the 48 featured locales was chosen. As a finale, Chang offers instructions on how interested readers can

start a wall in their own city. Each wall is a tribute to living an examined life, she observesâ ”a powerful and valuable reminder that life is for the living, and that it’s never too late, or too early, to join the party. (Nov.)

â œThrough a series of large-scale projects that combine installation art with social activism, Chang has encouraged people to engage with public spaces to let their voices be heard.â • â •O, The Oprah Magazineâ œThey’re the stuff of everyday life from people of all walks of life . . .Young or old, rich or poor, the [Before I Die] wall does make you think as you walk by.â • â •NBC’s Rock Center with Brian Williamsâ œBefore I Die is merely one of the most creative community projects ever.â • â •The Atlanticâ œA hope-filled treatise on finding joy in the everyday and illustrating the importance of living life to its fullest...A powerful reminder that life is for the living, and it’s never too late, or too early, to join the party.â • â •Publishers Weekly

Product as described and book lovely. Would definitely recommend buying if you enjoy other books like Humans of New York. This has a similar vibe and is a very cool read.

I enjoyed looking thru this book. It makes you think

I bought this for work because we put a Before I Die wall... I don’t know where the book is now.

Do NOT get this book in kindle form. The font is impossible to read, and you have to click on every single paragraph to make it larger. It is a pain to read. This book needs to be purchased in hard copy only.

So inspiring. I love it. I keep it in my therapy office.

Not exactly what I was expecting: basically a summary of the Before I Die project in an embellishing way most fitting for Candy Chang’s list of accomplishments. It summarizes how the project began, the original house with the original Before I Die board, a list of Before I die boards at the time of the book’s publishing, brief info about the cities the boards were displayed in, statistics about what people care about (travel, love, etc) based on what they said they wanted to do before they die, and how to make your own board, as well as a blank template for you to fill in your own list of what you want to do before you die.I was disappointed, then intrigued, then somewhat pleased. Originally I

was dissuaded with the format of the book (big green blocks of color with choice quotes inside, taken from the pictures given above/below/around) but after awhile it didn't seem that ugly, and more practical than anything. I recommend this for people who are undecided about what they want to do with their life and people interested in psychology or social experiments. Personally, if I decide to become a psychologist, I will find this helpful for many patients.

we really enjoyed looking through this, it was a very inspiring book. came to us in perfect condition. Thank you.

It's just amazing how many people participated in this project. Their aspirations run the gamut from everyday ordinary to the reach for the moon stuff!

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