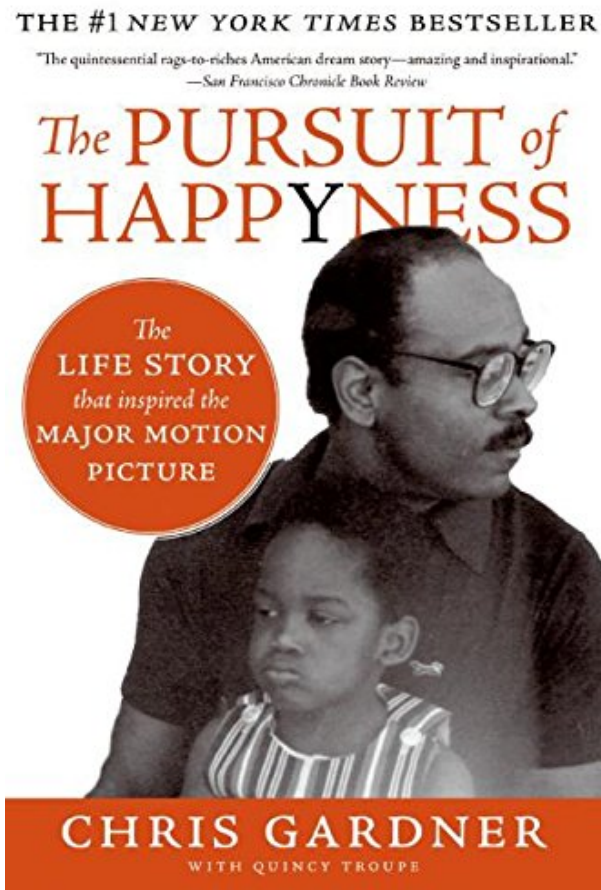


THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS BY CHRIS GARDNER



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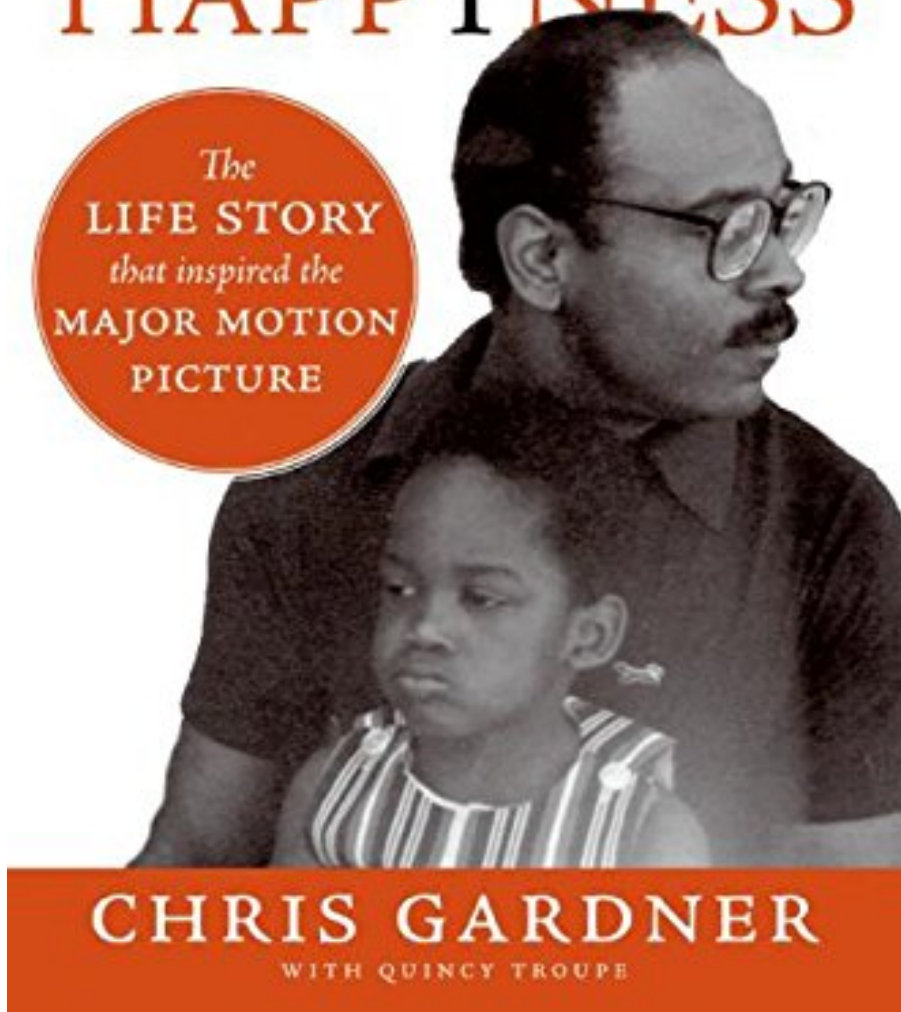
THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"The quintessential rags-to-riches American dream story—amazing and inspirational."

—*San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

The
LIFE STORY
that inspired the
MAJOR MOTION
PICTURE



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From Publishers Weekly

Gardner's inspiring rags-to-riches memoir of his transformation from homeless single father to philanthropic owner of a multimillion-dollar brokerage house somehow has less of an impact in audio than on paper. Blake has an excellent, manly voice, perfect intonation and excellent streetwise cursing abilities (a crucial part of Gardner's account of his relationship with his stepfather). Yet as good as the narrator is, by the third CD listeners may not be able to shake the feeling that he's an actor reading someone else's words. Since Gardner's love of jazz is a running theme, the evocative jazz trumpet music at the beginning and end of each CD is appropriate; even more between-tracks music might have been effective where the narrator's pauses are not long or dramatic enough (say, between one sentence where he is with his biological father in Louisiana and the next, at work in his brokerage office). This is a moving story whose audio version might have been better served with more dramatic devices.

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About the Author

Chris Gardner is the chief executive officer of Gardner Rich & Company, a multimillion-dollar brokerage with offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. An avid philanthropist and motivational speaker, Gardner is a recipient of the Father of the Year Award from the National Fatherhood Initiative. He has two children and resides in Chicago and New York.

From AudioFile

Andre Blake tells the true story of Chris Gardner, a Milwaukee African-American who escaped from his ex-convict mother and violent stepfather by joining the Navy and then becoming a San Francisco stockbroker, only to wind up as a homeless single father of a 19-month-old son. Read by the street-smart Blake, the story's colorful language and no-holds-barred humor make it captivating. It's a happy-ending morality tale that shows how ironclad determination can break negative cultural cycles and lead to financial and personal rewards. Beleaguered men from all dysfunctional circumstances will be inspired by the well-told story of this authentic American life. Few will forget it once they hear it. T.W. © AudioFile 2006, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

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The astounding yet true rags-to-riches saga of a homeless father who raised and cared for his son on the mean streets of San Francisco and went on to become a crown prince of Wall Street

At the age of twenty, Milwaukee native Chris Gardner, just out of the Navy, arrived in San Francisco to pursue a promising career in medicine. Considered a prodigy in scientific research, he surprised everyone and himself by setting his sights on the competitive world of high finance. Yet no sooner had he landed an entry-level position at a prestigious firm than Gardner found himself caught in a web of incredibly challenging circumstances that left him as part of the city's working homeless and with a toddler son. Motivated by the promise he made to himself as a fatherless child to never abandon his own children, the two spent almost a year moving among shelters, "HO-tels," soup lines, and even sleeping in the public restroom of a subway station.

Never giving in to despair, Gardner made an astonishing transformation from being part of the city's invisible poor to being a powerful player in its financial district.

More than a memoir of Gardner's financial success, this is the story of a man who breaks his own family's cycle of men abandoning their children. Mythic, triumphant, and unstintingly honest, *The Pursuit of Happyness* conjures heroes like Horatio Alger and Antwone Fisher, and appeals to the very essence of the American Dream.

- Sales Rank: #68714 in Books
- Brand: Amistad
- Published on: 2006-10-24
- Released on: 2006-10-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .72" w x 5.31" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

Features

- Great product!

From Publishers Weekly

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Good read

By Diana

The book came in great condition. It was a requirement for one of my reading classes and came in a timely fashion. Personally, i would never have read this book, but actually ended up liking it after the class was over. As usual, there are more details in the book than in the movie. I would recommend reading the book first!!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Hard work in the midst of adversity does pay off

By Kim Brewer

When a movie based on a book comes out, I usually like to read the book beforehand. Which is why I haven't seen the movie yet, anyway, I finally get around to reading this book and am not disappointed. What amazes me about Mr. Gardner is his willingness to learn things and how quickly he learns them. That, paired with a tenacious desire to succeed is what propels him out of poverty. Granted, he made some poor decisions that contributed to his situation, but, we've ALL made poor decisions. He doesn't play the victim or make excuses, he takes responsibility, works hard despite adverse circumstances and with help from the kindness of others, he succeeds.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great book to read about what the American dream is ...

By Amazon Customer

Great book to read about what the American dream is and how it can be achieved through adversity. I watched the movie first and loved it but after reading the book, I hate the movie. They should have been more truthful on Chris's personality, they missed a lot of key aspects. I love that Chris didn't leave any of his

mistakes he has made out. He doesn't portray himself as a great person, even though overall he is a great person and a good father.

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