

The Midnight Library

by Matt Haig

Sample PDF for Testing

Chapter 1

The Library

Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices...

Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?

Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

The library was infinite.

The shelves stretched on forever, in every direction. Books of every color and size lined the endless rows. Each spine bore a title that represented a life - a different version of Nora's existence.

"Where am I?" Nora whispered, her voice echoing in the vast space.

A figure emerged from between the shelves. It was Mrs. Elm, her old school librarian, looking exactly as Nora remembered her from years ago.

"You are in the Midnight Library, Nora," Mrs. Elm said gently. "This is the place between life and death. Every book here is a different life you could have lived."

Nora looked around in wonder. "How many are there?"

"As many as there are possibilities," Mrs. Elm replied. "Every decision you've ever made has created a branch, a new timeline. Here, you can explore them all."

The Book of Regrets

Mrs. Elm led Nora to a large, heavy book sitting on a pedestal. Unlike the others, this one was open, its pages filled with handwritten text.

"This," Mrs. Elm explained, "is your Book of Regrets. Every regret you've ever had is recorded here."

Nora approached hesitantly and began to read:

- Not pursuing music professionally
- Letting Dan go
- Never traveling to Australia
- Giving up swimming
- Not spending more time with her father
- Abandoning her philosophy degree

The list went on and on. Each entry was a painful reminder of a path not taken, a choice she wished she could undo.

"Can I change them?" Nora asked, tears welling in her eyes.

"You can experience what would have happened if you had made different choices," Mrs. Elm said. "Each book on these shelves represents a life where you made a different decision. You can live them, Nora. You can see what might have been."

To be continued...

This is a sample PDF created for testing the in-app reader.

The actual book contains many more pages and chapters.