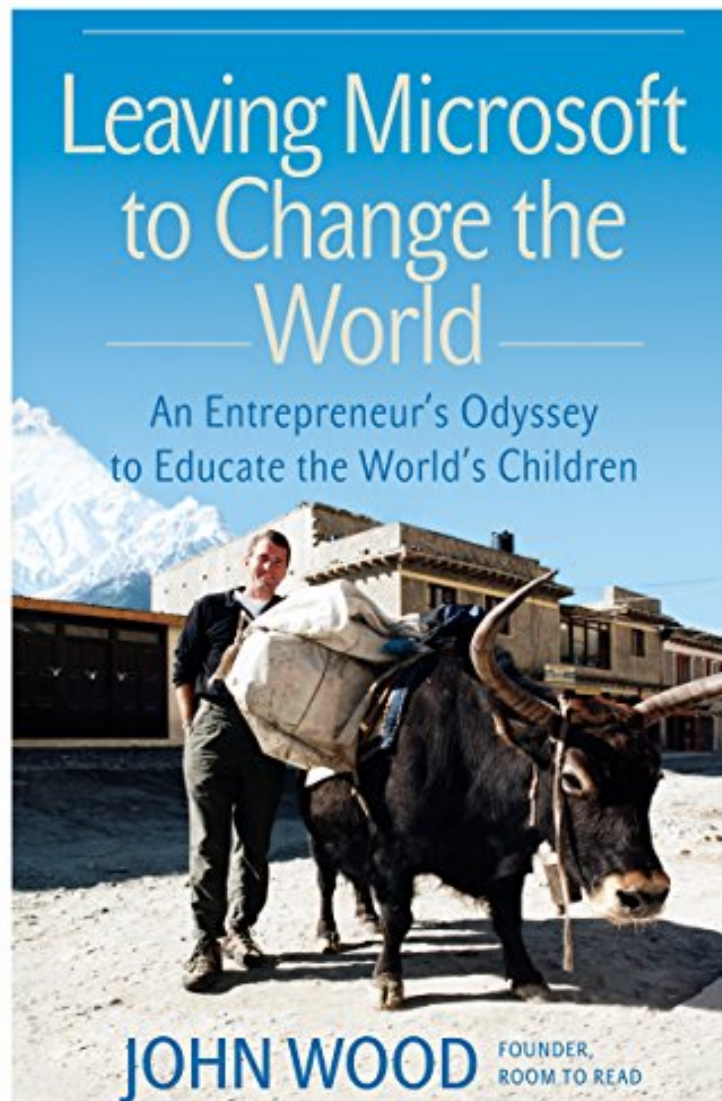


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Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children

John Wood

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John Wood : Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow, what a story! By Real Happy I ran across this book by

accident, and I never heard of John Wood or his organization "Rooms to Read." But wow, it's a story worth reading. It touched my soul. I wish I had his courage. This guy knew his current life style wasn't working, so he did something about it without any real security to fall back on. Not only did he leave a well-paying position at Microsoft, but he also left the love of his life. She wanted to follow her heart in the corporate world, and he wanted to do service work in Nepal, which would give him the opportunity to help some of the poorest people in the world with an education. They still loved each other, but their desires and choices put them in different parts of the world. He just knew he had to be true to himself. Many of his friends and family thought he was crazy and would regret making this decision, but he knew it was the right thing to do. John always wanted to purchase one of those beautiful homes in San Francisco overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. But after seven years, with all of his success at "Rooms to Read," he shared that he still didn't have a life's partner, nor could he afford one of those beautiful homes overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. Nevertheless, he knew, he was right where he belonged. I wish he had shared more about the staffing and training of those who taught and worked in these schools and libraries, but I'll still give this book a five star rating. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Very Brave Man By Serena The true account of a man who gave up a dream job and the business fast track, security, a personal life, and his dream of owning a house to build libraries and schools in the poorest countries and stock them with books. A caring and brilliant businessman. An inspiring and brave story. I love the way he thinks and writes. I had one question throughout the book. Mr. Wood thought he had enough money saved to support himself for about five years. More than five years went by, but he didn't mention how he continued to have the money to feed, house, and clothe himself. He never mentioned collecting a pay check or receiving personal donations. Very inspiring. If you liked this book you will love Three Cups of Tea which is a similar story, but written by a man who started with nothing at all and hadn't the faintest idea how to proceed with building schools. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you love reading, this is your book! By S. Furlong The author does an excellent job of describing his moment of discovery of the fact that where you are born can, and probably will, determine your opportunities in life. Especially true in the poorest countries economically, though they may be rich in human capital. His realization that he can make an appreciable difference in the lives and futures of the children without a huge investment of time or money, just by asking others to join in, is both a revelation and a springboard to do more. The positive momentum that is created with the enthusiasm of all involved, and the explosive growth of what started as books for one school, begs the question of why not every child? Reading the stories of people that he encountered, you get a sense of someone perhaps in the next town, rather than halfway around the world. And that is the story that John Wood is telling, that each of these children deserves a chance to learn, to get an education, to participate in making our world a better place for everyone. He has created the organization to make it happen, we just need to get on board and work together to ensure it does! If you can't imagine not being able to read, if you remember not wanting to put down that good book, if you were one who read by flashlight under the covers as a child, you will want to read this book and share it with others.

John Wood discovered his passion, his greatest success, and his life's work not at business school or helping lead Microsoft's charge into Asia in the 1990s but on a soul-searching trip to the Himalayas. He made the difficult decision to walk away from his lucrative career to create Room to Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes education across the developing world. By the end of 2007, the organization will have established over 5,000 libraries and 400 schools, and awarded long-term scholarships to more than 3,000 girls, giving more than one million children the lifelong gift of education. If you have ever pondered abandoning your desk job for an adventure and an opportunity to give back, Wood's story will inspire you. He offers a vivid, emotional, and absorbing tale of how to take the lessons learned at a hard-charging company like Microsoft and apply them to the world's most pressing social problems.