

the promise of a pencil

The Promise of a Pencil: More Than Just a Writing Tool

the promise of a pencil is a fascinating concept when you pause to think about it. At first glance, a pencil might seem like a simple, everyday object—just a slender stick of wood with a graphite core. Yet, this humble tool carries with it an incredible potential: the power to create, to communicate, to imagine, and to transform ideas into reality. The pencil is more than just an instrument for writing or drawing; it symbolizes possibility and the beginning of something new.

The Promise of a Pencil: A Tool of Endless Creativity

When you hold a pencil, you hold a key to endless creativity. Whether you're jotting down a quick note, sketching a rough idea, or crafting a detailed masterpiece, the pencil promises the freedom to express yourself without limits. Unlike digital tools that often feel rigid or constrained by their software, the pencil invites you to explore your imagination with spontaneity and tactility.

Why the Pencil Still Matters in a Digital Age

In a world dominated by smartphones, tablets, and computers, the promise of a pencil remains surprisingly relevant. Here's why:

- **Tactile feedback:** Writing or drawing with a pencil engages your hand in a way typing cannot replicate. This physical connection enhances focus and memory retention.
- **Imperfect and forgiving:** Mistakes can be easily erased, encouraging experimentation and learning without fear.
- **Portable and reliable:** A pencil doesn't rely on batteries or signal strength. It's always ready when inspiration strikes.
- **Encourages mindfulness:** The slower pace of writing or sketching by hand fosters a deeper connection with your thoughts and ideas.

These qualities make the pencil a timeless companion for students, artists, writers, and professionals alike.

The Symbolism Behind the Promise of a Pencil

The promise of a pencil extends beyond functionality; it is rich with symbolism that resonates in various

cultures and contexts.

A Symbol of Beginnings and Potential

Think about how many stories start with a pencil and a blank page. The pencil represents a fresh start, a clean slate where anything is possible. This symbolism is why pencils are often associated with education and learning. When a child picks up their first pencil, they embark on a journey of discovery and growth.

The Pencil as a Metaphor for Life's Flexibility

Because pencil marks can be erased and redrawn, the pencil serves as a metaphor for life's adaptability. It reminds us that mistakes are not permanent and changes are part of progress. This flexibility can be comforting in a world that often feels rigid and unforgiving.

How the Promise of a Pencil Inspires Innovation and Problem-Solving

Innovation frequently begins with simple sketches and notes. Engineers, designers, and entrepreneurs often use pencils to brainstorm, iterate, and refine ideas before moving to digital platforms. The promise of a pencil lies in its ability to capture fleeting thoughts and transform them into tangible concepts.

Tips for Harnessing the Pencil's Potential in Your Creative Process

If you want to tap into the promise of a pencil to boost your creativity or productivity, consider these strategies:

1. ****Carry a sketchbook or notebook:**** Having a dedicated place to jot down ideas ensures you don't lose inspiration.
2. ****Use different pencil grades:**** Experiment with soft and hard leads to add texture and depth to your drawings or notes.
3. ****Practice freehand sketching:**** Allow yourself to draw loosely and without judgment to unleash your creativity.
4. ****Combine writing and drawing:**** Use diagrams, mind maps, or doodles alongside written notes to enhance understanding.
5. ****Embrace imperfection:**** Don't worry about neatness; the pencil's erasability means you can always refine your work.

Environmental and Practical Benefits: The Promise of a Pencil in Sustainability

Beyond creativity and symbolism, the promise of a pencil also encompasses its environmental impact. Compared to many disposable plastic pens and electronic devices, wooden pencils tend to be more biodegradable and less harmful to the planet.

Sustainable Choices in Pencil Production

Many pencil manufacturers now focus on sustainability by sourcing wood from responsibly managed forests and using recycled materials. Choosing eco-friendly pencils aligns with a broader commitment to reduce waste and preserve natural resources.

The Pencil in Education: Unlocking the Promise in Learning

In classrooms around the world, the promise of a pencil is realized daily. Students use pencils to learn handwriting, solve math problems, and express their thoughts. The pencil's forgiving nature encourages trial and error, which is essential to the learning process.

Encouraging Cognitive and Motor Skill Development

Using a pencil helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. It also engages the brain differently than typing, promoting better comprehension and memory. Teachers often emphasize the importance of handwriting practice because it strengthens neural pathways related to reading and writing.

Cultural and Historical Perspectives on the Promise of a Pencil

Historically, the pencil has played a crucial role in human progress. From Leonardo da Vinci's sketches to the drafting tables of architects and inventors, the pencil has been a trusted tool through centuries of innovation.

The Evolution of the Pencil

The modern pencil evolved from earlier writing tools like charcoal sticks and lead styluses. Its invention revolutionized how people recorded information and shared ideas. Today, the pencil continues to connect us to that rich legacy of creativity and communication.

Embracing the Promise of a Pencil in Daily Life

Incorporating pencils into your daily routine can bring unexpected benefits, whether you're a student, artist, or professional.

- **Journaling:** Writing your thoughts by hand can increase self-awareness and reduce stress.
- **Planning:** Sketching out plans or to-do lists with a pencil helps prioritize and visualize tasks.
- **Creative hobbies:** Drawing, calligraphy, or bullet journaling with pencils enhances mindfulness and provides a satisfying tactile experience.

The promise of a pencil is not just about what you create but also about how it makes you feel—grounded, focused, and inspired.

When you next pick up a pencil, consider the incredible potential it holds. It's a small object with a big promise: the chance to bring your ideas to life, to learn and grow, and to connect across time and culture through the universal language of creativity. The pencil quietly waits in your hand, ready to turn your thoughts into something tangible, one mark at a time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Promise of a Pencil' about?

'The Promise of a Pencil' is a memoir by Adam Braun that chronicles his journey from a successful career in finance to founding Pencils of Promise, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building schools and increasing educational opportunities in developing countries.

Who is the author of 'The Promise of a Pencil'?

The author of 'The Promise of a Pencil' is Adam Braun, an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

What inspired Adam Braun to write 'The Promise of a Pencil'?

Adam Braun was inspired to write 'The Promise of a Pencil' to share his personal story of how a simple promise to a child changed his life and led him to start Pencils of Promise, aiming to improve global education.

What is the main message of 'The Promise of a Pencil'?

The main message of 'The Promise of a Pencil' is that small actions and commitments can lead to significant positive change, emphasizing the power of individual initiative in making a difference in the world.

How does 'The Promise of a Pencil' contribute to education awareness?

The book raises awareness about educational inequality worldwide and inspires readers to contribute to or start initiatives that support education for children in underserved communities.

What lessons can entrepreneurs learn from 'The Promise of a Pencil'?

Entrepreneurs can learn about social entrepreneurship, the importance of purpose-driven business, perseverance, and how to leverage resources for social impact from Adam Braun's experiences shared in the book.

Is 'The Promise of a Pencil' suitable for young readers?

Yes, 'The Promise of a Pencil' is suitable for young adult readers and anyone interested in inspiring stories about social change and education.

Has 'The Promise of a Pencil' received any notable recognition?

Yes, 'The Promise of a Pencil' has been praised for its inspiring narrative and has helped increase support for Pencils of Promise, making it a well-regarded book in the nonprofit and social entrepreneurship communities.

How can readers support the message of 'The Promise of a Pencil'?

Readers can support the message by donating to educational nonprofits like Pencils of Promise, volunteering, advocating for education access, or starting their own initiatives to help underserved communities.

Additional Resources

The Promise of a Pencil: Exploring Its Enduring Significance in an Evolving World

the promise of a pencil extends far beyond its humble appearance as a simple writing instrument. It embodies creativity, learning, and the raw potential of human thought translated onto paper. In an era dominated by digital devices and virtual communication, the pencil remains a steadfast symbol of imagination and the foundational tools of education. This article delves into the multifaceted promise of a pencil, examining its historical importance, educational value, and its subtle yet persistent role in contemporary society.

The Enduring Legacy of the Pencil

The pencil is one of the oldest writing tools, with origins dating back to the 16th century after the discovery of a large graphite deposit in England. Despite centuries of technological advancements, the pencil has maintained a unique place in both professional and personal contexts. Unlike pens or digital styluses, pencils offer versatility and impermanence—qualities that encourage experimentation and iterative thinking.

From Leonardo da Vinci's sketches to modern-day architects' blueprints, the pencil's promise lies in its ability to capture fleeting ideas and refine them. Its erasability is not merely a functional feature but a metaphor for learning and growth, allowing users to make mistakes, correct them, and improve without permanent consequence. This aspect remains critical in educational settings where students grapple with new concepts and require a non-intimidating medium for practice.

The Pencil in Education: A Tool for Cognitive Development

The promise of a pencil in education is deeply intertwined with cognitive and motor skill development. Studies have shown that handwriting with pencils can enhance memory retention and understanding compared to typing on keyboards. The tactile feedback and fine motor control involved in pencil use engage multiple brain regions, facilitating better learning outcomes.

Moreover, pencils enable personalized note-taking, sketching, and problem-solving, which digital devices often restrict due to interface limitations. Teachers often emphasize the use of pencils in early education because they accommodate the trial-and-error process inherent in learning. The ability to erase and redraw helps reduce frustration and encourages creativity, making the pencil an indispensable classroom tool even in the digital age.

Technological Advances and the Pencil's Relevance

While digital tools such as tablets and stylus pens have gained popularity, the promise of a pencil remains relevant due to its simplicity, affordability, and accessibility. Unlike electronic devices, pencils do not

require batteries, software updates, or connectivity, making them reliable in diverse environments.

However, the pencil market has evolved to meet modern demands. Innovations such as mechanical pencils offer precision and convenience, while eco-friendly pencils made from recycled materials respond to sustainability concerns. These advancements represent a fusion of tradition and innovation, ensuring that the pencil continues to meet the needs of contemporary users.

Comparing the Pencil to Other Writing Instruments

Understanding the pencil's promise requires a comparison with other common writing instruments like pens, markers, and digital styluses. Each has distinct advantages and limitations, but the pencil's unique combination of erasability, tactile feedback, and versatility sets it apart.

- **Pens:** While pens provide permanence and smooth ink flow, they lack the forgiving nature of pencils. Mistakes made with pens are harder to correct, often requiring correction fluid or complete rewriting.
- **Markers:** Markers are excellent for bold, visible writing but typically lack precision and are not erasable, limiting their use in detailed work or drafting.
- **Digital Styluses:** These devices offer advanced features like pressure sensitivity and color options but rely heavily on technology, which can be expensive and prone to technical issues.

In contrast, the pencil's low cost, ease of use, and adaptability make it an enduring choice for artists, students, and professionals alike. Its promise is not just about writing—it is about enabling expression without barriers.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability Considerations

In today's environmentally conscious world, the promise of a pencil is also evaluated through the lens of sustainability. Traditional wooden pencils raise concerns due to deforestation, but many manufacturers now prioritize responsible sourcing and certification (e.g., FSC-certified wood).

Additionally, alternatives like mechanical pencils reduce waste by allowing users to replace graphite leads without discarding the entire tool. Biodegradable and recycled material pencils further minimize ecological footprints. These efforts align the pencil's promise with contemporary values of environmental stewardship.

The Cultural and Symbolic Significance of the Pencil

Beyond practical use, the promise of a pencil resonates culturally and symbolically. It represents the power of ideas and the human capacity for creativity. The pencil is often used as a metaphor in literature and art to signify beginnings, potential, and the journey of creation.

Its presence in iconic imagery—such as the pencil poised over a blank page—captures the anticipation of invention and discovery. This cultural weight reinforces why, despite digital alternatives, the pencil maintains an emotional connection with users worldwide.

The promise of a pencil is not confined to its physical form but extends into what it enables: the birth of ideas, the freedom to explore, and the encouragement to persist through trial and error. In an age of rapid technological change, this humble instrument continues to hold a vital place in education, creativity, and communication.

The Promise Of A Pencil

the promise of a pencil: The Promise of a Pencil Adam Braun, Carlye Adler, 2014-03-18 Braun was on the way to a successful Wall Street career; while traveling he met a young boy begging on the streets of India, who after being asked what he wanted most in the world, simply answered, A pencil. He explains how he turned \$25 into more than 200 schools around the world-- and shows the steps anyone can take to lead a successful and significant life. Each chapter explains one clear step that every person can take to turn your biggest ambitions into reality, even if you start with as little as \$25.

the promise of a pencil: Summary of The Promise of a Pencil by Adam Braun QuickRead, Alyssa Burnette, Founded on just \$25, international charity Pencils of Promise has built more than 200 schools in developing countries around the world. This book tells the story of the charity's growth and the mission of its founder, Adam Braun. The Promise of a Pencil illustrates the simple key theories that characterize Adam Braun's inspiring mission. In addition to telling the story of Braun's charity, the principles outlined in this book will guide readers to find their passion, maximize their potential, and live a life full of joy and meaning through serving others. Do you want more free books like this? Download our app for free at <https://www.QuickRead.com/App> and get access to hundreds of free book and audiobook summaries. DISCLAIMER: This book summary is meant as a preview and not a replacement for the original work. If you like this summary please consider purchasing the original book to get the full experience as the original author intended it to be. If you are the original author of any book on QuickRead and want us to remove it, please contact us at hello@quickread.com.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of a Pencil* Adam Braun, Carlye Adler, 2015-02-03 This the story of how a young man turned \$25 into more than 200 schools around the world and the guiding steps anyone can take to lead a successful and significant life. The author began working summers at hedge funds when he was just sixteen years old, sprinting down the path to a successful Wall Street career. But while traveling he met a young boy begging on the streets of India, who after being asked what he wanted most in the world, simply answered, A pencil. This small request led to a staggering series of events that took the author backpacking through dozens of countries before

eventually leaving one of the world's most prestigious jobs at Bain & Company to found Pencils of Promise, the organization he started with just \$25 that has since built more than 200 schools around the world. This book chronicles the author's journey to find his calling, as each chapter explains one clear step that every person can take to turn your biggest ambitions into reality, even if you start with as little as \$25. His story takes readers behind the scenes with business moguls and village chiefs, world-famous celebrities and hometown heroes. It is filled with compelling stories and shareable insights. All proceeds from this book support Pencils of Promise.

the promise of a pencil: The Promise of Youth Barbara Stoddard Burks, Dortha Williams Jensen, Lewis Madison Terman, 1930 A Stanford University Press classic.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Lumby* Gail Fraser, 2009-07-07 Hidden in the foothills of a bucolic landscape lies the charming village of Lumby and its quirky inhabitants. The town mascot, Hank, a pink flamingo who thinks he's a bald eagle, came to Lumby long ago because of its mountains, while others still come for the promise of a brand new start. But what happens when the town's warm welcome turns cool? At Montis Inn, the success of Pam Walker's on-location restaurant is leaving her overworked and frazzled, while her husband Mark's fascination with Internet auctions leads to some outlandish purchases, one of which requires military clearance. Meanwhile, Lumby's only veterinarian, Dr. Ellen Campbell, has decided to sell her business, and the townsfolk are in full panic mode. Who will tell blind Jeremiah that his old horse Isabella is eating rabbit feed, and who will help little Timmy convince his parents that a puppy is the perfect pet? When animal doctor Tom Candor arrives in Lumby, he seems the answer to everyone's prayers. But some residents are not so trusting of the shy, pensive vet, especially newspaper owner Dennis Beezer, who is determined to expose Tom's secrets. The repercussions lead to an unpredictable, over-the-top adventure, and a heartfelt lesson the people of Lumby won't soon forget...

the promise of a pencil: The Promise of Dawn (Under Northern Skies Book #1) Lauraine Snelling, 2017-08-01 Beloved Author Lauraine Snelling Launches New Immigrant Series When Signe, her husband, Rune, and their three boys arrive in Minnesota from Norway to help a relative clear his land of lumber, they dream of owning their own farm and building a life in the New World. But Uncle Einar and Aunt Gird are hard, demanding people, and Signe and her family soon find themselves worked nearly to the bone in order to repay the cost of their voyage. At this rate, they will never have land or a life of their own. Signe tries to trust God but struggles with anger and bitterness. She has left behind the only life she knew, and while it wasn't an easy life, it wasn't as hard as what she now faces. When a new addition to the family arrives, Signe begins to see how God has been watching over them throughout their ordeal. But after all that has happened, can she still believe in the promise of a bright future?

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Robert W. Jenson's Theology* Stephen John Wright, Chris E. W. Green, 2017-09-01 North America has rarely produced a theologian as creative and productive as Robert W. Jenson. A truly ecumenical thinker, Jenson consistently demonstrates the way that the church's confession of the triune God of scripture restructures Christian thinking. Jenson's work on the nature of theology has focused on the category of "promise": a way with language that opens up new possibilities. At the heart of Jenson's theology of the gospel is the conviction that, in Christ, God discloses a word of pure promise to us, enabling new patterns of life. Just as the gospel opens up new ways of living, good theology unfolds into new interpretations and articulations. Engaging Jenson's work across vital areas, this volume lays out the contours and key contributions of Jenson's thought for modern Christology, theological interpretation of Scripture, the doctrine of the Trinity in light of the recent Trinitarian revival, and ecumenical theological relations. This volume gathers together essays by some of contemporary theology's most capable thinkers, such as Oliver Crisp, Stephen Holmes, Joseph Mangina, Peter Leithart, Telford Work, Eugene Rogers, R. Kendall Soulen, and Peter Ochs, to examine the ways in which Jenson's own theology functions as "promise," enabling further theological visions and articulations.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Response to Intervention* Todd A. Glover, Sharon Vaughn, 2010-02-25 As response to intervention (RTI) is adopted by increasing numbers of schools

and districts, knowledge about what works continues to grow. This much-needed book analyzes the key components of RTI service delivery and identifies the characteristics of successful implementation. Critically reviewing the available research, leading authorities describe best practices in multi-tier intervention, assessment, and data-based decision making. Clear-cut recommendations are provided for implementing evidence-based interventions to support students' needs in reading, writing, math, and behavior. A state-of-the-art resource for K-12 practitioners and administrators, the book also will fill a unique niche in graduate-level courses.

the promise of a pencil: The Promise of Paradise Allie Boniface, 2021-01-10 Do you believe in soul mates? Ashton Kirk, youngest daughter of a prestigious senator, fiancée of a hotshot attorney, and fresh Harvard graduate, is headed for a promising law career when scandal breaks apart her family. To escape, she rents an apartment in the sleepy town of Paradise, New Hampshire, where no one knows who she is. Ash hopes for solitude, but all bets are off when Eddie West, the town's most eligible bachelor, moves in downstairs. Eddie likes his women and his cars shiny, sleek, and fast, and when he meets his new housemate, he wastes no time getting friendly. While he's looking for a no-strings romance, though, he gets more than he bargained for in Ash, who sees through his macho exterior to the pain he carries each day, the heartbreaking loss of his kid brother. Can two people from different worlds find common ground, a place to fall in love and build a future? Is it possible to find your soul mate in the place you least expect? If you love small-town romance, and friends-to-lovers stories, this book will have you turning the pages. Don't miss this Amazon best-seller by a USA Today best-selling author!

the promise of a pencil: The Storyteller's Secret Carmine Gallo, 2016-02-23 How did a Venice Beach T-shirt vendor become television's most successful producer? How did an entrepreneur who started in a garage create the most iconic product launches in business history? How did a timid pastor's son overcome a paralyzing fear of public speaking to captivate sold-out crowds at Yankee Stadium, twice? How did a human rights attorney earn TED's longest standing ovation, and how did a Facebook executive launch a movement to encourage millions of women to lean in? They told brilliant stories. In *The Storyteller's Secret: From TED Speakers to Business Legends, Why Some Ideas Catch on and Others Don't*, keynote speaker, bestselling author, and communication expert Carmine Gallo reveals the keys to telling powerful stories that inspire, motivate, educate, build brands, launch movements, and change lives. The New York Times has called a well-told story a strategic tool with irresistible power - the proof lies in the success stories of 50 icons, leaders, and legends featured in *The Storyteller's Secret*: entrepreneurs like Richard Branson, Sara Blakely, Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, and Sheryl Sandberg; spellbinding speakers like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Bryan Stevenson, and Malala Yousafzai; and business leaders behind famous brands such as Starbucks, Southwest Airlines, Wynn Resorts, Whole Foods, and Pixar. Whether your goal is to educate, fundraise, inspire teams, build an award-winning culture, or to deliver memorable presentations, a story is your most valuable asset and your competitive advantage. In *The Storyteller's Secret*, Gallo explains why the brain is hardwired to love stories - especially rags-to-riches stories - and how the latest science can help you craft a persuasive narrative that wins hearts and minds. The art of storytelling can be used to drive change, says billionaire entrepreneur Richard Branson. And since the next decade will see the most change our civilization has ever known, your story will radically transform your business, your life, and the lives of those you touch. Ideas that catch on are wrapped in story. Your story can change the world. Isn't it time you shared yours?

the promise of a pencil: The Promise of a Gentleman Linda Rae Sande, 2014-10-25 When it comes to matchmaking, will the third time be the charm? In 1802 London, Emma Fitzsimmons is determined to fend for herself in life as well as love. Her banker has other plans for her future, though—marriage—as does her best friend, Christiana. Given the options, should Emma consider Todd, the tall broker who desperately wants a wife? Or the rake, Gregory, who isn't quite what he seems but seems to know what he wants? What of her best friend's brother, Thomas, who has hired her as an auditor for his import business but may have a different job in mind for her? With six

characters looking for love—whether they know it or not—Emma's not the only target of matchmakers in this epic sensual tale of mismatchmaking at its finest.

the promise of a pencil: *The N.C.R.* , 1905

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of an Angel* Ruth Reid, 2011-05-30 Interrupting the ordered routine of the Mecosta County Amish settlement, an angelic visitor awakens Judith to a new faith. All Judith Fischer ever wanted is to marry within her community and raise a family. She longs for the day when her parents will allow Levi Plank to officially court her. But on the day Judith suspects Levi will ask her parent's permission, her younger brother Samuel has an accident under her charge. Rushing to Samuel's aid, Judith spies a strange man helping him; a man she later believes was an angel. When she shares her conviction with her family and close friends, she is shocked to find that no one believes her, including Levi. In the days following the accident, the angel visits Judith with information that may guide her down the path of faith, should she choose to follow. As her community slowly distances themselves, only one person is willing to stand up for her?the bishop's son, Andrew Lapp. But can he convince the settlement to listen to her? With a show of faith that flies in the face of her conservative upbringing, can Judith hold strong to the promise that there are even greater things in store for those who believe in God's miracles?

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Air* Algernon Blackwood, 2017-12-31 *The Promise of Air* by Algernon Blackwood is an enthralling anthology that invites readers into the world of visionary tales. The centerpiece story, *Joseph Wimble and the Kingdom of the Air*, follows Joseph Wimble, a dreamer raised in a scientific household, whose life changes after a secret marriage. Joseph's fascination with birds and their boundless freedom symbolizes his quest for humanity's next evolutionary step. This tale explores themes of freedom and self-discovery as Joseph meets a girl who personifies the air he longs for, highlighting the connection between nature and the human spirit. Blackwood's masterful storytelling in *The Promise of Air* captivates with its exploration of the mystical and the unknown. This collection is a must-read for those seeking stories that transcend the ordinary, offering a unique perspective on the natural world and our place within it. With its focus on fiction, this anthology provides an immersive experience filled with magic and mystery, perfect for readers who yearn to explore the depths of imagination and the promise that lies in the air around us.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Morning (At Home in Beldon Grove Book #2)*

Ann Shorey, 2010-03-01 Ellie Craig grieves the loss of three infant children, and when long-hidden secrets are brought to light, she must find a way to contact the family of her long-lost father. Meanwhile her husband, Matthew, faces controversy in his church and competition from a new arrival in Beldon Grove, who claims to be both a minister and the son of the town's founder. Will Matthew find the courage to reclaim his church? And will his unexpected travel companion help Ellie's heart mend? Book two in the AT HOME IN BELDON GROVE series, *The Promise of Morning* engages readers with themes of overcoming tragedy, finding strength to meet daunting challenges, and trusting your heart to love again.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Air* Algernon Blackwood, 1918

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essential resource for students and scholars of film and media, critical theory, and European culture and history.

the promise of a pencil: *The Two Most Important Days* Sanjiv Chopra, Gina Vild, 2017-12-26 What are the two most important days in your life? The day you are born and the day you find out why, Mark Twain famously wrote. The search for happiness is hardwired in our DNA. It transcends age, gender, geography, vocation, and personal circumstances. But how do you achieve it? Through inspirational storytelling, scientific evidence, practical advice, captivating exercises, and poetry, Dr. Sanjiv Chopra and Gina Vild present a powerful message that shows you how to achieve happiness no matter the challenges and stumbling blocks you face along the way. They also reveal the best way to be happy: Discover and live your life's purpose. It's a sure path to human flourishing. In fact, you may be surprised to learn that living with purpose can even add years to your life. Do you know your life's purpose? This book offers a path to discovering it by illuminating the value of gratitude, forgiveness, meditation, music, friendship and so much more. It will set you on the right path and spark sustained happiness, joy and bliss.

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of Christmas* Steena Holmes, To save their small town from dying...they need a miracle...and some hot cocoa and cookies wouldn't hurt, too. There comes a point of desperation when any idea becomes a good idea and Ashley Tanner is at the point where she's desperate for all the good ideas she can get. For the past two years, Ashley Tanner has been trying to keep her promise to revitalize the small mountain town of Innsbruck, but it's starting to look like she's failing as mayor, and failure is never an option for her. She has one last ditch effort - but it's going to take a lot of work and she's not sure if she can convince everyone to give it a try. Rather than become a ghost town, why not become a town focused around Christmas - one of the most magical times of the year? Who wouldn't love to visit a town where everything is holiday related - from a classic Gingerbread Tea House to a Candy Cane Lane Campground? Thankfully, those closest to her love the idea, but together, as a group, can they convince the rest of the town? Just when she thinks everything is coming together, things start to fall apart, not just in her own life, but in those closest to her too. Feeling responsible, while surviving the destruction of her marriage, Ashley tries to find miracles for everyone in her life - after all, Christmas is all about miracles, right? The promise of what Christmas can be to not only the town of Innsbruck, but to everyone close to her is the only thing keeping her going. Well - that and coffee. If you love Christmas as much as I do, you'll end up wishing you could visit this tiny town for yourself. After all - who doesn't love gingerbread houses, sugar cookies, hot cocoa and sleigh rides through a gorgeous mountain side village?

the promise of a pencil: *The Promise of the Witch* Steve Oates, 2020-01-21 The Promise of the Witch is a tragic, yet comic tale, of a grandmother and her granddaughter, fated to honour a centuries old blood oath, that ties their clan to the masts of the Royal Navy. From an ancient line of witch-mothers, these women fulfil their promise to defend the shores of Albion from invaders and defend themselves from old adversaries that would emasculate them - this clan of sea-witches, the Britanni.

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