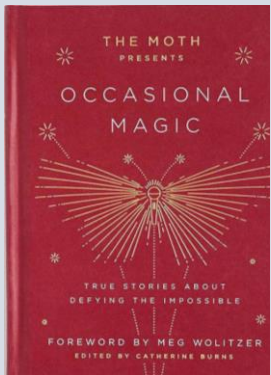




Book # 115
Event # 216 & 217

The Moth Presents: Occasional Magic

edited by Catherine Burns
Reviewed by Mark Wittig



About the Moth

A nonprofit that sends people out in the front of audiences to tell their true stories by memory. International phenomenon, puts story nights and slams and has worked with countless people from a variety of backgrounds, helping them sift through their own histories and think about what has mattered to them. At a Moth evening, which is often a lively and raucous event, you might find a country-music icon, a dentist, an Iraqi interpreter, an Arctic explorer. You never know who or what will be in the mix.

About the Book

Collection of forty-seven storytellers from all over the world. *Occasional Magic* comes from a story told by Vietnam veteran Larry Kerr, about his intense love for a young woman name Omie, whom he describes as “smart, meltingly lovely, and strong, with a fierce belief in the possibility of occasional magic.” Occasional magic refers to those moments of beauty, wonder, and clarity, often stumbled upon, where we suddenly see a piece of truth about our life. All the stories in the pages of the book were first told in front of live audiences. They showcase the great range of humanity and cover all seven continents. Chosen for their ability to convey emotion, humor, and vulnerability in print. For more than two decades, tens of thousands of people have shared stories on Moth stages around the world, and millions more have shown up with open hearts to listen.

The Book's ONE THING

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Aristotle

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Need to grow top line revenue? Improve bottom-line profits? Build accountable and trusting teams? Improve cash flow? Develop leadership team members? Blue Sky Leadership Consulting works with small and mid-market organizations to leverage Strategic Thinking and Execution Planning. We encompass many of the principles in these books into our [7 Attributes of Agile Growth](#) methodology and development of your company's [Growth Roadmap](#). Contact us for a free consultation



1. Robyn Tresnak shares *Our Normal* by Mary Archbold. A new mother struggles with her prosthetic arm. <https://themoth.org/stories/our-normal>



"Wow, I've never seen one like that before."

2. Malcolm Coon shares *Gaggy's Blessing* by Krista Tippett. A woman circles back to appreciate her strict minister grandfather. <https://themoth.org/stories/gaggys-blessing>



"That whole religious world of my childhood just really ceased to make sense."



3. John Knotts shares *How to Say It* by Bess Stillman, an ER doctor whose patient has multiple gunshot wounds. <https://themoth.org/stories/how-to-say-it>



“I reach my hands into his chest, and I place them on his still heart.”

4. Nadia Noel-Anglade shares *Jump from A Plane* by Ana Del Castillo who finds her light again after a harrowing family trauma. <https://themoth.org/stories/jump-from-a-plane>



“So I went around for a while introducing like, ‘Hi, my name’s Ana. Would you like to skydive?’”



5. Pat Whitty shares Real Men Don't Rob Banks by Liel Leibovitz who learns the identity of a real-life anti-hero from his childhood. <https://themoth.org/stories/real-men-dont-rob-banks>



"My father's mission in life was to make sure that his only son, me, grew up to be a real man."



A Retrospective of our last ten books ONE THING

The Method Method	Sustainable human-centered business is the key to thriving in today's reality, daring to do things not only differently but better, existing in between tensions, mashing them up for the greater good, bringing higher purpose based on culture and design.
The School of Greatness	Greatness is not reserved for an elite few, it is something inherent in each of us. It is cultivated from within. The masters of greatness became that way because they applied specific habits and tools to embrace and overcome adversity in their lives.
The Obstacle is the Way	Although we don't control external events, we can control ourselves and our responses to those events. Every obstacle poses an opportunity to improve our condition. We have the power to turn adversity into our advantage and revolutionize our lives!
Just Listen	Be more interested than interesting.
Titan: The Life of John D Rockefeller	We study the lives of famous people who have impacted the world in order to better understand our own impact on the world. Every human being is a complex enigma containing both beauty and darkness.
Reading Magic	Reading with a family whether family by blood, profession, or interests, leads to delight and food for thought, which presents a lot of goodness and positive growth for the entire community. Read continually... experience books, learn from books, share books!
The Power of TED	Shift happens when we break out of the default mode of victim and adopt the creator mode of being.
CEO Secrets	
The Memo	Women of color and underrepresented groups are sometimes at a disadvantage in the workplace especially when it comes to securing high level positions. Become aware of your unconscious bias.
Made to Stick	Sticky messages of all kinds, whether true or false, draw their power from the same six principles: 1. Simplicity 2. Unexpectedness 3. Concreteness 4. Credibility 5. Emotions 6. Stories. "As we pored over hundreds of sticky ideas, we saw, over and over, the same six principles at work" From Made to Stick



Let's Pan for Some Gold

What thought, or idea had the biggest impact on you today?

What is your ONE THING? What one specific action you will take TODAY from what was discussed?



Our Faculty, Our Sponsors, Our Cause



Calendar of Events

San Antonio	San Antonio	Corpus	Houston	San Antonio	West Side
"1st Friday"	Wine & Cheese	2nd Tuesday	4th Thursday	"4th Friday"	3rd Wednesday
7:30AM	5:30 PM	5:30 PM	11:30AM	8:00 AM	12:00 Noon
Wittigs	Haworth Smartworld	Wittigs Haworth	Wittigs Haworth	Alpha Home	American Sunrise Good Samaritan
7-Feb	12-Feb	11-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	19-Feb
John Rugh Made to Stick	Mark Wittig Occasional Magic	Mark Wittig Occasional Magic	Malcolm Coon Surrender Experiment	Malcolm Coon Surrender Experiment	Pat Whitty The Power of TED
6-Mar	11-Mar	10-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	18-Mar
Judy Zimmerman Work is Love Made Visible	Peter Braeuler Think & Grow Rich	Peter Braeuler Think & Grow Rich	Robyn Tresnak Talent ins Never Enough	Robyn Tresnak Talent ins Never Enough	Phil Bohlender 7 Essential Traits of Coaches
3-Apr	8-Apr	14-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	15-Apr
Marisa Ortiz	Robert Schmidt A Republic. If You Can Keep It	Robert Schmidt A Republic. If You Can Keep It	Pat Whitty Man's Search for Meaning	Pat Whitty Man's Search for Meaning	Robert Schmidt The Alchemist