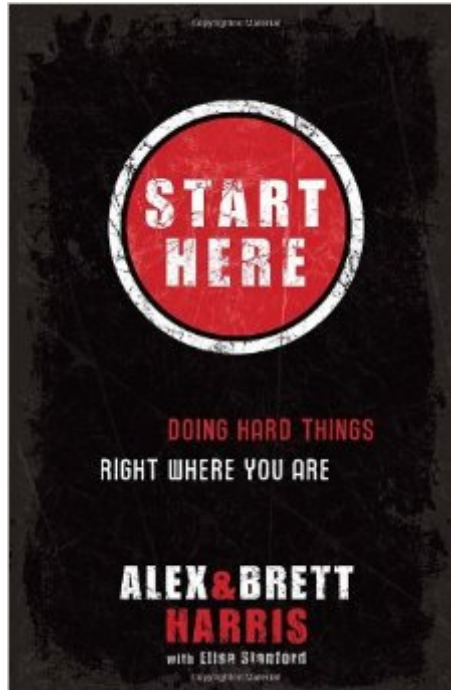


The book was found

# Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are



## Synopsis

You want to do hard things. But you don't know where to start. You are changing the world around you. But you are tired and burned out. You feel called to do the extraordinary for God. But you feel stuck in the ordinary. Do Hard Things inspired thousands of young people around the world to make the most of the teen years. Now Alex and Brett Harris are back and ready to tackle the questions that Do Hard Things inspired: How do I get started? What do I do when I get discouraged? What's the best way to inspire others? Filled with stories and insights from Alex, Brett, and other real-life rebelutionaries, Start Here is a powerful and practical guide to doing hard things, right where you are. Are you ready to take the next step and blast past mediocrity for the glory of God? START HERE.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I found the book Do Hard Things by brothers Alex & Brett Harris while browsing through our local Christian bookstore, and I immediately thought of my oldest son. Just entering adolescence, he was starting to experience the pressures of being like "everyone else" and I feared him falling in with kids who were content with fulfilling society's generally low expectations of how typical teenagers act. I bought him the book, and we read through it together. Although he was only in 5th grade when we read the book, it led to some good discussions and exposed him to boys who were not afraid to go against the crowd and not just take the "easy route" through adolescence. Building on Do Hard Things and their highly popular blog [...], the twins have just released their companion book Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are. It is meant to help young people move from

inspiration to action through concrete steps as well as stories and testimonials from real-life teens who have "done hard things" and seen their own lives blessed as they have blessed others. It intrigued me that, even though the book was written for a much (much) younger audience than myself, I found myself nodding, underlining, and rereading passages as I discovered both advice and insight that directly relates to my own life, right here and right now. For example, the first part of the book concentrates on figuring out where you should start in doing "hard things." This chapter, I feel, was packed full of wisdom. One pearl that I think is often overlooked is that doing something "big" for God doesn't have to be "big" according to society's standards. They say: "Doing hard things doesn't mean being preoccupied with something bigger, different, and more exciting all the time."

In their first book, *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations*, twin authors Alex and Brett Ross set out to prove to teens (and the world) that being exceptional doesn't have an age requirement. The book called teens to a life of high expectations NOW. Too often, they say, teens are not expected to do anything or be anything and they live down to those expectations. The book is revolutionary and timely. In this follow-up, the Ross twins - younger brothers of Joshua Harris of *Dug Down Deep: Unearthing What I Believe and Why It Matters* fame - provide real world examples of how to do those hard things, providing testimonials and giving ideas on how each teen reader - really, any reader - can find their God given purpose. It is exceptional that these two brothers have not only become best selling authors, but also speakers through their *Rebelution* tours, which serve to set out the high expectation cry for teens and their parents and ministry leaders everywhere. As I wrote that sentence I had to fight to not show my bias proving that I too have low expectations for teens and am therefore part of the problem. Why shouldn't teens be authors and speakers? Is it really more beneficial for a teen to read a book written by older people? (The same people that admit that they don't understand teens?) Is it odd that teens who have a message should share that message with other teens? Women's ministers are generally women, right? Married Couple counselors are generally married successfully.

It all began with a blog that reflected the hearts of, then 16 yr. old twin brothers, Alex & Brett Harris who issued a challenge to teenagers to rise above mediocrity and selfish living. Coining the new word "rebelutionary" which is the combination of the words rebellion and revolution, their desire was to spark a "teenage rebellion against low expectations." The movement exploded with their first book *"Do Hard Things"*. Teenagers and adults alike were challenged to move out of their comfort zones and refocus their lives on doing "hard things" that glorify God and help others. I have not had the

pleasure of reading their first book but testimonials lend proof that it has been life-changing for many. The Harris brothers are now back, at the age of 21, with a follow up manual "Start Here." They begin by explaining that being a "rebelutionary" means "committing to doing even ordinary things extraordinarily well." They state that by being faithful to the ordinary, God prepares us for the extraordinary. I couldn't agree with them more. One of the things that I loved about this book is that they begin by examining the very important question of why we should do the hard things. By answering the question of "why" before "where" or "what" the reader is given an opportunity to see things through the lens of Scripture. This results in doing "hard things" not just for the sake of doing them but in direct obedience to God. The authors' spiritual perspective sets the tone for the entire book. "When we think or talk about doing hard things, it's easy to think only about the big stuff. If we assume that being a "rebelutionary" means fighting slavery, digging wells in Africa, running a political campaign, or writing a book, then it is hard to know where to begin.

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