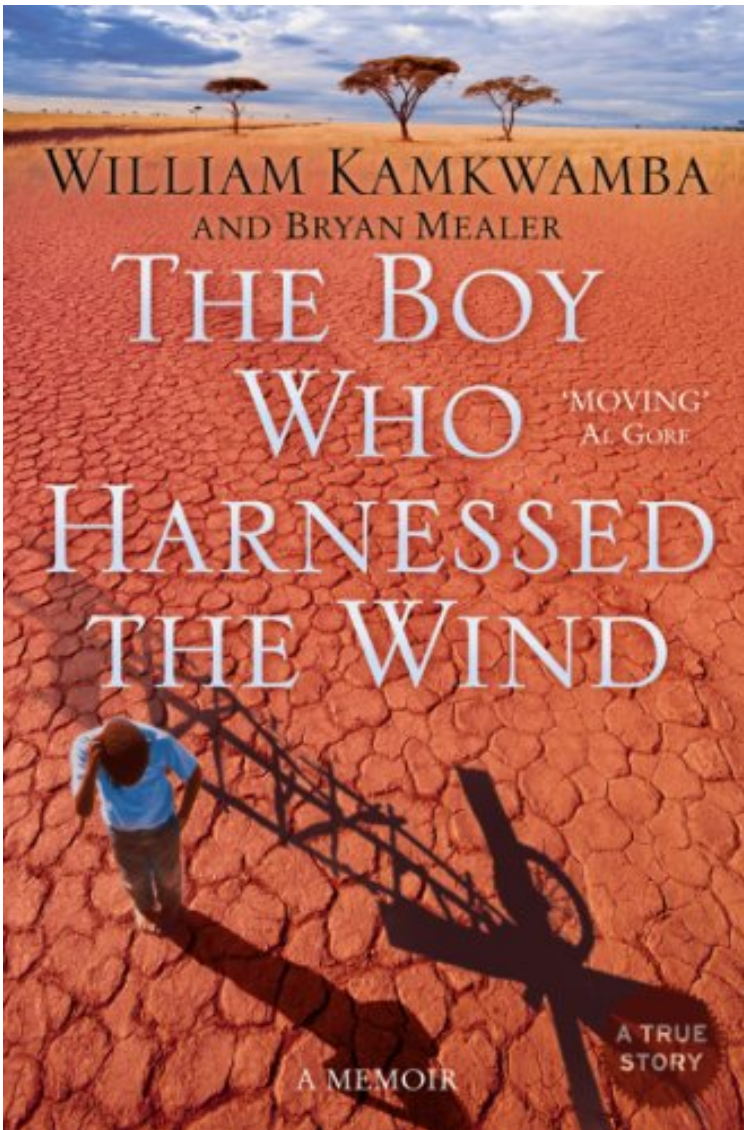


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The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind



Par William Kamkwamba
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurWhen William Kamkwamba was just 14 years old, his family told him that he must leave school and come home to work on the farm they could no longer afford his fees. This is his story of how he found a way to make a difference, how he brought light to his family and village, and hope to his nation.Malawi is a country battling AIDS, drought and famine, and in 2002, a season of floods followed by the most severe famine in fifty years brought it to its knees. William Kamkwamba's family were farmers, and relied on their maize crop to feed them for the year and bring in money by selling the surplus. But after many lean years, finally there was no more. By Christmas 2001 they were running out of food - with months before they could harvest their crop again.At 14 years old, William had been forced to leave school as there was no money to pay the fees. Borrowing library books to continue his education, William picked up a book

in English about energy, with a picture of a wind turbine on the front cover. Fascinated by science and electricity, William decided to build his own. Ridiculed by those around him, exhausted from his work in the fields every day, slowly he built it with scrap metal, old bicycle parts and wood from the blue gum tree. It changed the world in which William and his family live. Only 2% of Malawi has electricity; and the windmill now powers lightbulbs and a radio at their compound, and he has built more windmills for his school and village. When news of William's invention spread, people from across the globe offered to help him. Soon he was re-enrolled in school and travelling to America to visit wind farms. This is his story - his attempts to teach other Africans to help themselves, one windmill, one lightbulb, at a time. *Revue de presse* William Kamkwamba's achievements with wind energy should serve as a model of what one person, with an inspired idea, can do to tackle the crisis we face. His book tells a moving and exciting story. (Al Gore, former Vice President and Nobel Laureate) This is an amazing, inspiring and heartwarming story! Its about harnessing the power not just of the wind, but of imagination and ingenuity. Those are the most important forces we have for saving our planet. William Kamkwamba is a hero for our age. (Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein* and *Benjamin Franklin*) This book is inspirational. What William did took nothing more than initiative and a little learning, yet he changed his village and his life. There's never been a better time to Do It Yourself, and I love how much we can learn from those who often have no other choice. (Chris Anderson, editor in chief of *Wired* and author of *Free* and *The Long Tail*) This book is inspirational. What William did took nothing more than initiative and a little learning.... There's never been a better time to Do It Yourself, and I love how much we can learn from those who often have no other choice. (Chris Anderson, editor in chief of *Wired* and author of *Free* and *The Long Tail*) I first met William on stage at TED.... His story, told in just a couple of minutes, was both astonishing and exhilarating. This book proves what those few minutes hinted at: a remarkable individual capable of inspiring many to take their future into their own hands. (Chris Anderson, TED Curator) This book.... is a testament to the power of a dream and the freedom that comes from accomplishing a sustainable way of life. Read this book, act on its message and pass it on. (Carter Roberts, President CEO, WWF) This exquisite tale strips life down to its barest essentials, and once there finds reason for hopes and dreams, and is especially resonant for Americans given the economy and increasingly heated debates over health care and energy policy. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) A powerful read. This book takes you on a journey to discover pure innovation and the unfolding story of a natural genius. A true vision of struggle and tenacity to make a bold idea become a reality. This should be required reading for anyone who dares to dream. (Cameron Sinclair, *Eternal Optimist*, *Architecture for Humanity*) A moving, touching, important story. One more reminder of how small the world is and how powerful the human spirit can be. (Seth Godin, author of *Tribes*) Wonderful! I challenge you to read this story of one young man changing his corner of the world with nothing but intelligence and perseverance and not come away more hopeful about the prospects for a brighter, greener future. (Alex Steffen, editor, *Worldchanging.com*) Beyond opening the door to a nascent genre of African Innovation literature, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* makes excuses about why Africans can't change their fates untenable. This potent, powerful, and uplifting message is the heart of William Kamkwamba's courageous story. (Emeka Okafor, internationally acclaimed author of blogs *Timbuktu Chronicles* and *Africa Unchained*) In this book, the spirit, resilience and resourcefulness that are Africa's greatest strengths shine through.... *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is a remarkable story about a remarkable young man and his inquisitive and inventive mind. (Amy Smith, founder, D-Lab, MIT) I loved this enchanting story of a humble young hero from an impoverished African village who accomplished a miracle with scrap materials and unstoppable enthusiasm. What an inspiration! (Mark Frauenfelder, founder of *boingboing.net*, editor in chief of *MAKE*) I was moved first to laughter, and then to tears by Williams explanation of how he turned some PVC pipe, a broken bicycle and some long wooden poles into a machine capable of generating sufficient current to power lights and a radio in his parents house. (Ethan Zuckerman, cofounder, *Global Voices*) One of the best books I've ever read. (Mark Frauenfelder, founder of *boingboing.net*, editor in chief of *MAKE*) A rare and inspiring story of hope in rural Africa.... William represents a new generation of Africans, using ingenuity and invention to overcome life's challenges. Where so many tilt at windmills, William builds them! (Erik Hersman, *AfriGadget.com*) An inspiring tale of an African Cheetah--the new generation of young Africans who won't sit and wait for corrupt and incompetent governments or vampire states to come and do things for them. Here is one who harnessed the wind to generate electricity for his village on his own. (Professor George Ayittey, Distinguished Economist, American University) William will challenge everything you have thought about Africa, about young people, and about the power of one person to

transform a community. This beautifully written book will open your heart and mind. I was moved by William and his story and believe you all will. Essential, powerful and compelling. (Chris Abani, author of Graceland) William Kamkwamba is an alchemist who turned misfortune into opportunity, opportunity beyond his own. The book is about learning by inventing. Williams genius was to be ingenious. (Nicholas Negroponte, founder, MIT Media Lab, founder and chairman, One Laptop per Child) The book abounds with themes that resonate deeply: the idea that with hard work and persistence comes triumph; that optimism is not a mental state but a type of action, that from grief and loss can come success. (Nathaniel Whittemore, Change.org) Presentation de l'auteur When William Kamkwamba was just 14 years old, his family told him that he must leave school and come home to work on the farm they could no longer afford his fees. This is his story of how he found a way to make a difference, how he brought light to his family and village, and hope to his nation. Malawi is a country battling AIDS, drought and famine, and in 2002, a season of floods followed by the most severe famine in fifty years brought it to its knees. William Kamkwamba's family were farmers, and relied on their maize crop to feed them for the year and bring in money by selling the surplus. But after many lean years, finally there was no more. By Christmas 2001 they were running out of food - with months before they could harvest their crop again. At 14 years old, William had been forced to leave school as there was no money to pay the fees. Borrowing library books to continue his education, William picked up a book in English about energy, with a picture of a wind turbine on the front cover. Fascinated by science and electricity, William decided to build his own. Ridiculed by those around him, exhausted from his work in the fields every day, slowly he built it with scrap metal, old bicycle parts and wood from the blue gum tree. It has changed the world in which William and his family live. Only 2% of Malawi has electricity; and the windmill now powers lightbulbs and a radio at their compound, and he has built more windmills for his school and village. When news of William's invention spread, people from across the globe offered to help him. Soon he was re-enrolled in school and travelling to America to visit wind farms. This is his story - his attempts to teach other Africans to help themselves, one windmill, one lightbulb, at a time.