

BEAUTIFUL REBELLION

JOINING THE MOVEMENT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

BY BROCK MORGAN



BEAUTIFUL REBELLION

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The Youth Cartel, LLC
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DEDICATION

If you are not easily satisfied and you're longing for more,
then this book is for you.

It's for all of those dreamers looking for a better dream.

It's for the tender-hearted skeptics and doubters who haven't
lost their hope and are looking for more than the world is offering.

It's for the wide-eyed, faith-filled people who are looking for more
than what they are seeing in the church.

This book is for the storytellers in need of a better story.

It's for all of us who are desperate for the dawn to break.

THE SOUNDTRACK

I want to thank a few bands that have inspired me along the way as I've written. I love listening to music while I write. I find my mind and my typing work best when there's a beat.

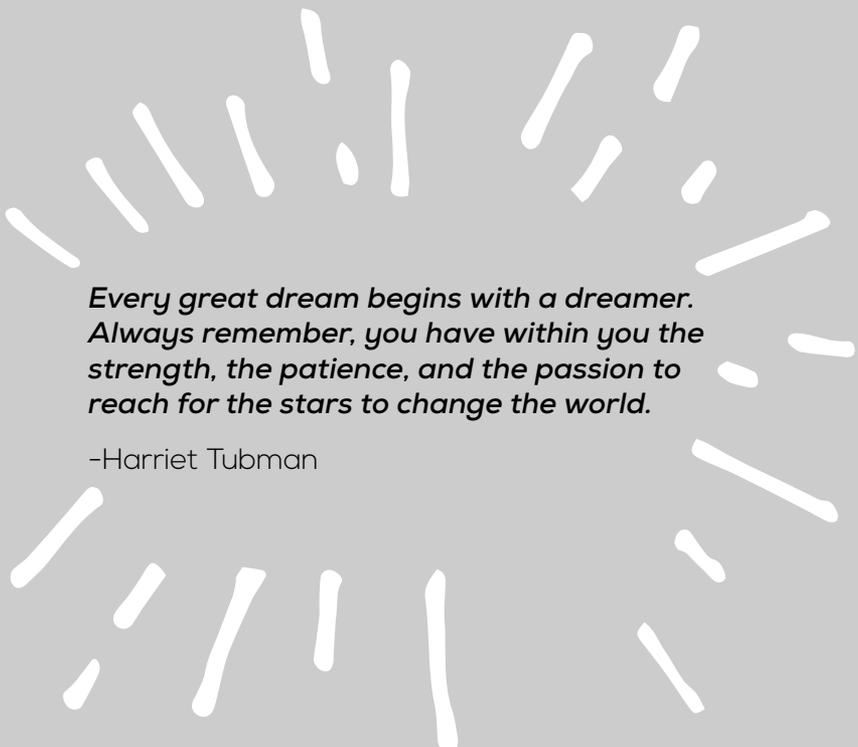
So thank you to:

The Band CAMINO
Broods - *Don't Feed the Pop Monster*
Weezer - *Teal Album*
Alessia Cara - *The Pains of Growing*
Switchfoot - *Native Tongue*
Bob Marley and the Wailers - *Legend*
For King & Country - *Burn the Ships*
George Harrison - *All Things Must Pass*
Lauren Daigle - *Look Up Child*
Pearl Jam
Martin Smith - *Iron Lung*
Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors
Hawk House
Kendrick Lamar

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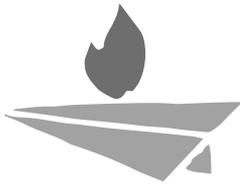




***Every great dream begins with a dreamer.
Always remember, you have within you the
strength, the patience, and the passion to
reach for the stars to change the world.***

-Harriet Tubman





1 | GENERATION Z READY

I walked out onto the arena's darkened stage as the video played. I set up behind the music stand and gathered my thoughts, preparing to speak to the crowd of thousands of teenagers. Suddenly, at the foot of the stage I noticed three teen girls. I leaned over to see what was happening. "Hey, what's up?" I asked. When I looked closer, I realized that all three were weeping. Without warning the stage lights came on, but there these girls stood, undeterred. I pushed my mic to the side, ignoring the crowd, and quietly asked again, "What's going on?" The middle girl got her composure. "We're desperate to know Jesus like you've been talking about all weekend," she said. I pointed to the corner of the stage. "I'll meet you over there as soon as I finish speaking tonight," I told them.

I've noticed something in teenagers today. They are dying for a life worth living. Like these three girls, they are longing for more. They want to be a part of something larger than themselves.

You wouldn't hear this from most adults who look at your generation

from a distance. They call you Generation Z. Generation Z refers to people born from the late 1990s through the mid-2000s. A flurry of other potential labels have appeared, including Gen-Tech, post-Millennials, iGeneration, and Gen Wi-Fi. Adults look at your generation, see you on your phones, and think, “Is there really anything going on inside of them?!” And as with most things in life, these adults are judging you from afar. It’s really easy to judge from the outside, isn’t it? But if they just took some time to really see and really listen, they’d see and hear a very different story. A story of teenagers ready and waiting, 24/7. Longing for a movement.

Recently a teenager asked me to meet him for coffee. He comes every week to our youth group and we’ve been talking about being beautifully angry. To be beautifully angry is look out at the world and see what’s wrong in it. There are certain things that make most of us pretty upset. We see the injustices, we see the broken and disregarded, and we think, “How in the world are we allowing this to happen?!” Living a life with beautiful anger means you’re actually angry enough to want to do something about it. You are tired of sitting passively and you have to engage. I told this young man that I wanted to be beautifully angry for the rest of my life, crushing what is wrong in the world one issue at a time. I asked him to join me.

Now to be honest, I didn’t really know him very well. He comes to youth group every week but he’s quiet, or at least he’s kind of quiet and withdrawn at our gatherings. But at this coffee shop, he couldn’t stop talking.

“Brock, I’ve been plagued by what you were talking about, and I know what I want to give my life to. I go to a school where it seems like everyone is miserable. Everyone is stressed out, full of anxiety. No one feels safe to be themselves. It’s like everyone is hiding, pretending, and they’re consumed with getting out of here. They dream constantly of college, but they’re unable to find joy right now.”

I listened, encouraging him to continue. “Dude, I love what I’m hearing. This is beautiful!”

He went on. “Here’s the thing. I feel powerless to change *anything*. I don’t know what to do. Can you help me, because I can’t sit back and just go with the flow of this whole thing. I’ve got to do something!”

I was stunned, excited, and well...overwhelmed. I wasn’t sure I knew how to respond. We sat there in the silence for probably, um, way too long. I mean, heck, I’m a youth pastor. He was saying to me exactly what I’ve been praying to hear from a teenager for years. And still, I wasn’t sure what to say. But then it came to me. “What if you and I start meeting every week?” I asked. “We could pray and dream and then start to invite your friends from school to join us in dreaming and praying and scheming? What if we started with just you? Every movement starts with the one. You could be the one.”

I saw him come alive right in front of my eyes. “Yes. You bet. I’m in!”

I think this is actually the “I’m in” generation. When those in your generation see something worthy of giving your lives to, you’re all in. You’re ready, waiting, 24/7. But until then, well, it might seem like not much is happening.

For a number of years now I have had the privilege of traveling around the country speaking to teenagers at schools, camps, retreats, and conferences. It’s one of my favorite things I get to do, besides being a youth pastor. At these events I get to talk about how Jesus has become a very real person in my life and how he has called me to give my life to this generation. Something interesting has happened, though, over the past five years. When I speak, I see a longing on teenagers’ faces. I’m sensing something new and profound in them. It’s like those three girls who said to me at the front of the stage, “Brock, we want to know Jesus like you’ve been talking about.”

Now, you need to know something. I honestly believe that you are not reading this book by mistake. God has placed a dream within you. You are reading right now because there is a call on your life. God is waking you up to an incredible dream. He wants you to live with beautiful anger, for the rest of your life. Making a difference everywhere you go. The world is broken. It is lost. You know this. You

know things are not working. The world is in need. Your friends are in need.

(And all together we yell a resounding “No duh!”)

There’s this great passage of Scripture in Romans that talks about how there is suffering in the world. It says that the whole of creation is basically trapped and waiting to get unstuck. What unsticks it? Well, this passage says that when the people of God rise up and take their place, a massive movement will happen. That there will be a generation who will get it, and when they are revealed, God himself will usher in something wonderful. Something we’re all longing for. But until then, the plague will continue.

Here’s the passage:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Romans 8:18-19

Years ago, a teenage guy named Ben Shive began to have a dream. He knew he was made for something bigger than the life he was living, and he knew God had gifted him in music. But how could he use his art to call a generation up and out and into something bigger than themselves?

One day he got together with his friend Andrew Peterson and they wrote a song called “Is He Worthy?” The song speaks about how this generation and all of creation are longing for something more, waiting for God to break through—and how God is actually going to do just that. Together they wrote this incredible song that Chris Tomlin ended up recording. Amazing!

I believe God is ready to break through, in and through us. Are you ready? I sure am. And I know those three girls from the foot of the stage are ready. I know that guy in my youth group is. I know all of his friends are. We are ready. Let’s do this.



***You could come with us, you know.
We need warriors and leaders like you.***

-Enfys Nest, Solo: A Star Wars Story

