

*The Invisible Thread*

By Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

Howard Books

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Memoir

One night, I heard my mom call my name so I went to see what she needed. She showed me the memoir, *The Invisible Thread* and said, “This is an amazing book that I’d like you to read.” At first, I was hesitant; it wasn’t a book about sports. I was then jaded around ten o’clock that night and I succumbed to her wishes. I opened the memoir by Laura Schroff and read the introduction. It was such an amazing start that I read the book uninterrupted from 10:30 – 4:30 in the morning.

*The Invisible Thread* follows Laura Schroff who was an advertising executive for USA Today. She often passed beggars on the streets of Manhattan by the dozens. This was until she met an eleven year old boy named Maurice. On September 1, 1986 she developed a friendship that was doubted by numerous acquaintances and coworkers of hers. Yet, she demonstrated that opposites can attract, even those living in the most dissimilar circumstances. This would display the passion of Laura as it put her in a world that few would take the chance of becoming part of.

Consider this: An eleven year old panhandler named Maurice Mazyck asked Laura Schroff, a 35 year old advertising executive, for money to buy a meal. At first Laura ignored Maurice and crossed the street, but then she stopped and thought about it. She walked back to the boy and offered him lunch. They went to McDonalds where they both got a Big Mac, fries and thick chocolate shake. This event on a mellow Monday afternoon led to a friendship that still exists today.

Maurice was a boy growing up in New York City whose parents were drug dealers and addicts which led him to live in an unsafe environment. When he was six his father left him, so he often lived in various welfare homes or on the streets. His mom however, was in and out of jail for years as she was caught dealing drugs.

As their friendship grew stronger, they played a bigger part in each other’s lives. Laura offered to help Maurice at school by giving him money or giving him school lunches. Instead he said “If you make me lunch, will you put it in a brown paper bag?... Because when I see kids come to school with their lunch in a paper bag, that means that someone cares about them. Miss Laura, can I please have my lunch in a paper bag?” This revealed that Maurice thought of Laura as a mother-like symbol in his life and acts like this forged the bond between the two of them.

*The Invisible Thread* is a story of two people whose lives are so different yet become interconnected. As much as Maurice learns from Laura, Laura actually learns even more about

life and love from Maurice. She learned that one simple gesture such as giving lunch in a brown paper bag or providing a meal to a starving boy changed Maurice forever.

Although *The Invisible Thread* is her first book to date, Laura Schroff is able to paint a vivid picture when describing her gatherings with Maurice. The author helped to make *USA Today* a successful national newspaper. Furthermore, she facilitated the takeoffs of *InStyle*, *Teen People*, and *People StyleWatch* which were the three most successful startups in history.

This is a quick read that, although it can be sensitive and ultimately sad, it teaches a positive and heartwarming lesson that one person really can make a difference.