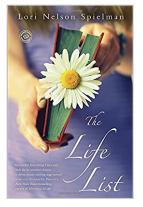
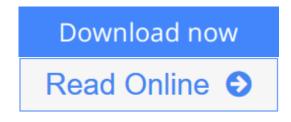
The Life List: A Novel



By Lori Nelson Spielman



The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

In this utterly charming debut—perfect for fans of Cecelia Ahern's *P.S., I Love You* and Allison Winn Scotch's *Time of My Life*—one woman sets out to complete her old list of childhood goals, and finds that her lifelong dreams lead her down a path she never expects.

Go to Paris
Have a baby, maybe two
Fall in love

Brett Bohlinger seems to have it all: a plum job, a spacious loft, an irresistibly handsome boyfriend. All in all, a charmed life. That is, until her beloved mother passes away, leaving behind a will with one big stipulation: In order to receive her inheritance, Brett must first complete the life list of goals she'd written when she was a naïve girl of fourteen. Grief-stricken, Brett can barely make sense of her mother's decision—her childhood dreams don't resemble her ambitions at age thirty-four in the slightest. Some seem impossible. How can she possibly have a relationship with a father who died seven years ago? Other goals (Be an awesome teacher!) would require her to reinvent her entire future. As Brett reluctantly embarks on a perplexing journey in search of her adolescent dreams, one thing becomes clear. Sometimes life's sweetest gifts can be found in the most unexpected places.

Praise for The Life List

"A wonderful, touching story that reminds us to live life to its fullest."—Cecelia Ahern, *New York Times* bestselling author of *P.S., I Love You*

"Spielman's debut charms."-Kirkus Reviews

"You won't want to miss Lori Nelson Spielman's remarkable debut, an intensely emotional novel of transformation and trust. It's about how we let go, and how we never let go. *The Life List* has great heart, and even greater soul."**?Sarah Addison Allen**, *New York Times* **bestselling author of** *The Peach Keeper* "Irresistible! Everything I love and look for in women's fiction. A clever, funny, moving page-turner."?Susan Elizabeth Phillips, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Great Escape*

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

<u>bownload</u> The Life List: A Novel ...pdf

Read Online The Life List: A Novel ...pdf

The Life List: A Novel

By Lori Nelson Spielman

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

In this utterly charming debut—perfect for fans of Cecelia Ahern's *P.S., I Love You* and Allison Winn Scotch's *Time of My Life*—one woman sets out to complete her old list of childhood goals, and finds that her lifelong dreams lead her down a path she never expects.

Go to Paris
Have a baby, maybe two
Fall in love

Brett Bohlinger seems to have it all: a plum job, a spacious loft, an irresistibly handsome boyfriend. All in all, a charmed life. That is, until her beloved mother passes away, leaving behind a will with one big stipulation: In order to receive her inheritance, Brett must first complete the life list of goals she'd written when she was a naïve girl of fourteen. Grief-stricken, Brett can barely make sense of her mother's decision—her childhood dreams don't resemble her ambitions at age thirty-four in the slightest. Some seem impossible. How can she possibly have a relationship with a father who died seven years ago? Other goals (Be an awesome teacher!) would require her to reinvent her entire future. As Brett reluctantly embarks on a perplexing journey in search of her adolescent dreams, one thing becomes clear. Sometimes life's sweetest gifts can be found in the most unexpected places.

Praise for The Life List

"A wonderful, touching story that reminds us to live life to its fullest."—Cecelia Ahern, *New York Times* bestselling author of *P.S., I Love You*

"Spielman's debut charms."—Kirkus Reviews

"You won't want to miss Lori Nelson Spielman's remarkable debut, an intensely emotional novel of transformation and trust. It's about how we let go, and how we never let go. *The Life List* has great heart, and even greater soul."**?Sarah Addison Allen**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Peach Keeper*

"Irresistible! Everything I love and look for in women's fiction. A clever, funny, moving page-turner."?Susan Elizabeth Phillips, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Great Escape*

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #262457 in Books

• Published on: 2013-07-02

- Released on: 2013-07-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .70" w x 5.20" l, .57 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

<u>Download</u> The Life List: A Novel ...pdf

Read Online The Life List: A Novel ...pdf

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Inspiration for The Life List, by Lori Nelson Spielman

Like any author, I'm often asked how I came up with the idea for my novel. My answer comes easily. The seed for *The Life List* was found in an old cedar box.

It had been years since I'd last opened my miniature hope chest, a high school graduation gift. The scent of cedar greeted me, along with my first bankbook, my grandmother's rosary, a couple of silver dollars, and a single sheet of notebook paper, folded into a neat little square.

Curious, I unfolded the yellowed paper. In flowery cursive, *Lori's List* was penciled across the top. My abandoned life list.

I was wise enough to include the day and month, March 13th, but foolishly I'd omitted the year. Maybe I hadn't planned to keep it. Maybe I didn't realize how quickly memories fade, how years later, I'd barely remember the day that young girl sat on her blue flowered bedspread, contemplating her future. But judging from the goals, what had and hadn't been accomplished, I was somewhere between 12 and 14 years old.

The crumpled piece of paper revealed a list of 29 things my adolescent mind imagined would make for a good life. I'd also added a sidebar called *Ways to Be*, which included such pearls as, *Don't talk about ANYONE. Laugh. Say "hi" to everyone.*

I'd love to say that all my goals were altruistic and contemplative. In truth, many were embarrassingly selfindulgent and trivial. *Have lots of clothes* was actually on my life list. Seriously! *Be a cheerleader* was another lofty goal. (Did I actually think shaking pompoms would be a life changer?) Ah, but I did have *Help people* on my list. And *Give my body to science* was thoughtful, right? Never mind that I qualified it with a "*maybe*".

Relationships were important to me. A scrawny girl with teeth too big and breasts too small, I was pretty much ignored by the opposite sex. So naturally, *Be popular and Have boyfriends* were at the top of my list, followed by longer-term goals of *Have a good marriage, Have babies, Have a close family*.

Even as a young girl, I loved to write and tell stories, yet being an author was not on my life list. In my middleclass neighborhood, in my middleclass town, I'd never met a single author. Authors lived in New York City, or in glass-walled houses overlooking the Pacific. Instead, I hoped to be a teacher, a profession that seemed accessible. And if not glamorous, then at least comfortable.

As I stood reading the list some thirty years later, it pleased me that I did, indeed, accomplish many of my goals. I had made the cheerleading squad (phew, right?). I had my share of boyfriends, though they arrived much later than that young girl once hoped, thank God. I'd graduated from college and learned to ski and traveled to Europe. I was a teacher, a profession I loved. I had a good marriage. I even had a cat. But I didn't live on a lake. I hadn't designed my own home. I didn't have two kids, or a horse, or a dog.

As I read the list, I thought about how different my life would be if I'd fulfilled every goal my youthful heart

longed for. In no time, my mind was racing. A story was taking shape. What if someone were forced to finish their life list—a list they thought they'd outgrown?

In the course of several days, my story evolved. First, I came up with riddles from a dying mother, offering her daughter cryptic clues to find her true self. But that was silly. Why the riddles? Why wouldn't her mother just tell her daughter what she wanted her to accomplish? And it was crucial that the mother didn't appear heavy-handed or controlling. The story could only work if it was clear that the mother's intentions came from a loving heart. I also knew the story risked being predictable. I imagined readers rolling their eyes, sure that in the end, Brett would be married to the love of her life and have a baby and a dog and a horse. Her dreams couldn't be accomplished easily, or in conventional ways the reader might expect. I wanted some goals to lead to others, in circuitous, serendipitous ways. Soon, pages for *Another Sky* were piling up, becoming the manuscript that would later be re-titled, *The Life List*.

So there you have it: the kernel for *The Life List* was my old life list—Lori's List. Though I fell short of some goals, I believe my list served me well. It's true, I won't be waving my children off to college. But I will get to watch my novel set off for parts of the world I may never visit. My book will be introduced to new people, and hopefully entertain, and possibly provoke discussion. And maybe, just maybe, my story will inspire some other little girl, in some other small town, to set her own goals, to aspire to something that's hers alone. And whether her ambitions are humble or grandiose, silly or pensive, it doesn't matter. The important thing is, she dreams.

Review

"A wonderful, touching story that reminds us to live life to its fullest."—Cecelia Ahern, *New York Times* bestselling author of *P.S.*, *I Love You*

"Spielman's debut charms."-Kirkus Reviews

"You won't want to miss Lori Nelson Spielman's remarkable debut, an intensely emotional novel of transformation and trust. It's about how we let go, and how we never let go. *The Life List* has great heart, and even greater soul."**?Sarah Addison Allen**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Peach Keeper*

"Irresistible! Everything I love and look for in women's fiction. A clever, funny, moving page-turner."?Susan Elizabeth Phillips, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Great Escape*

About the Author

Lori Nelson Spielman, a former speech pathologist and guidance counselor, currently works as a homebound teacher for inner-city students. She enjoys sailing, running, and reading, though writing is her passion. She lives in Michigan with her husband and a very spoiled cat.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Brill:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a publication you will get new information mainly because book is one of various ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make a person more imaginative. When you studying a book especially fictional book the author will bring you to definitely

imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this The Life List: A Novel, you are able to tells your family, friends and soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a reserve.

Jill Spann:

The Life List: A Novel can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Life List: A Novel however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Jimmy Miller:

Is it an individual who having spare time in that case spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Life List: A Novel can be the respond to, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

Martin Herrin:

A lot of e-book has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by internet on social media. You can choose the very best book for you, science, comic, novel, or whatever simply by searching from it. It is known as of book The Life List: A Novel. Contain your knowledge by it. Without departing the printed book, it can add your knowledge and make you actually happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about publication. It can bring you from one destination for a other place.

Download and Read Online The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman #JLK674QGT23

Read The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman for online ebook

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman books to read online.

Online The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman ebook PDF download

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman Doc

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman Mobipocket

The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman EPub

JLK674QGT23: The Life List: A Novel By Lori Nelson Spielman