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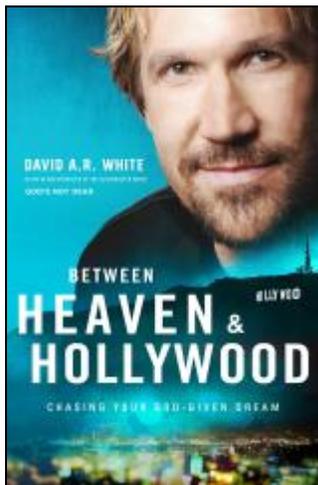
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## ***BETWEEN HEAVEN & HOLLYWOOD***

Award-Winning Actor & Producer on Pursuing Your God-Given Calling,  
Accepting Challenges and the Rewards of Faith



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Paperback

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., August 8, 2016 – DAVID A.R. WHITE** is one of the most recognizable actors and producers of faith-based films with a resume that spans over two decades, starring in more than 25 films and producing over 40 films including *God's Not Dead*, *God's Not Dead 2*, *Revelation Road* and *The Moment After*. He is also a founding partner of **Pure Flix**, the largest indie-faith film studio in the world.

Along his journey to Hollywood, David encountered unexpected challenges, self-doubt and discouragement that taught him valuable lessons regarding perseverance and God's plan for his life.

David grew up as a preacher's son in a Mennonite community just outside of Dodge City Kansas where his early jobs included rock picking (such a job exists!) and wheat harvesting. But even as a young man, David always felt a yearning to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.

After graduating high school, David "got out of Dodge," and upon his father's urging enrolled in the respected Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. It was there David was expected to graduate with a pastoral degree and find a wife. A year after entering college, David made a major life change by dropping out. Then, at nineteen years old, he moved to Hollywood without a job, home or knowing many friends.

In his new book, ***BETWEEN HEAVEN & HOLLYWOOD***, David shares encouragement, quick wit and biblical counsel for those pursuing, maintaining, and advancing their God-given dreams.

Early in his career, David had the opportunity to work with stars like Burt Reynolds, Billy Bob Thornton, Leah Remini and Hilary Swank, but he never imagined the vital role prayer, perseverance and faith would play in staying committed to his life-calling as an actor and producer.

~more~

Readers will experience the frustration, determination and often hilarious unpredictability of David's career including getting hired (and fired) from Burt Reynolds's hit show *Evening Shade*, becoming an acting success then overnight failure, finding temporal fulfillment in the Hollywood party scene and finally embracing God's surprise blessings.

In *Between Heaven & Hollywood*, David share personal stories and insight that include:

- **Fear is Your Ally:** Remember to turn away from your fear and obstacles and concentrate on God. When you surrender your life to God then you get to live your life His way (2 Cor. 4:18).
- **Making the Most of Failure:** God uses failure to remind us to depend on Him. Failing doesn't mean you are a failure. Challenges offer the opportunity to respond with courage and faithful dependence on the Lord. (1 Pet. 4:12-13).
- **Your Dream Redirected:** Sometimes our dreams can become an idol or hurt us or others. We must be willing to let go of *our* dreams to make room for God's new dreams (Mark 8:36).
- **Embrace the Wait:** Your dreams are important to God. Waiting can transform us. When we take our dreams to God, we demonstrate our acceptance of His will and become a testimony to others (Isa. 40:31).

David also offers his perspective on other life lessons that include complacency, compromise, patience, and humility. Readers will be inspired as they understand that with faith, prayer and commitment, no dream is too big for God.

"There is no one too common, too broken, or too sinful to be used by God to achieve his or her goals. We are here for a reason—and that reason, that unique destiny, is found in our God-given dream," says David. "God's dream for us is more about what He wants for us and what He wants to accomplish through us."

**About the Author:** David A.R. White is an actor, writer, director and producer in Hollywood. Though he has many credits to his name, White's career hit new heights with the release of the blockbuster film *God's Not Dead*, in which he also starred and produced. When he's not producing, acting or writing, White is sharing his message of encouragement, inspiration and humor at conferences and churches around the country. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Andrea, and their three children. His official web site is **www.DavidARWhite.com** and Twitter: **@DavidARWhite**.

**Website:** <http://www.zondervan.com/between-heaven-hollywood>

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## Chapter Highlights:

1. A Dream Is Born
2. Turn Right at Second Thoughts and Go Straight to the Other Side of Fear
3. I Have a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore
4. God Wants You to Succeed—Sometimes
5. The Hard Part
6. Time to Stop Talking and Listen
7. When Plan “A” Doesn’t Work, Remember God Has Twenty-Five More Letters
8. Don’t Hate the Wait
9. If It Means Something to You, Give It Away
10. Now Get to Work

## ABOUT DAVID A.R. WHITE:



**DAVID A.R. WHITE** is a storyteller by nature. While he tells many stories through his acting, producing and filmmaking, a greater story encompasses them all: the calling of God on each of our lives.

David has been building his career in the film industry for more than 20 years, and in doing so he has learned a few things about following a God-given dream.

Though he has many credits to his name, David’s career hit new heights in 2014 with the release of his film *God’s Not Dead*, in which he also starred and produced. It became one of the most successful independent faith-based film of all time.

David was raised in a small Mennonite farming town outside of Dodge City, Kansas. At the age of 19, he moved to Los Angeles to begin what would quickly become a successful career as an actor, writer, director, and producer. He has produced over 40 films and starred in over 25 feature films, including *God’s Not Dead*, *God’s Not Dead 2*, *Mercy Streets*, *Six...The Mark Unleashed*, *Revelation Road 1, 2, & 3*.

Never one to slow his pace, he’s also now actively in production on several projects, including a sitcom currently in production called *Hitting the Breaks*, which stars special guests like Rob Schneider, Tim Tebow and Morgan Fairchild. He also regularly produces video shorts for several web series, titled *Life in the White House* and *On the White Track*.

David’s first book, *Between Heaven and Hollywood: Chasing Your God-Given Dreams* (Zondervan, Oct. 2016) will give audiences a more complete, wide-reaching picture of how God has worked through his life in his pursuit of filmmaking and acting. For David, the dreams God gives a person are the highest callings one can receive, and in the book he explores how following the Lord and your dreams simultaneously is not only possible but can also be a powerful agent for furthering the Kingdom.

## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DAVID A.R. WHITE:

1. David, you grew up in a Mennonite community that doesn't have an affinity for the entertainment industry. At what point did you understand your God-given calling to pursue the entertainment industry? Did you struggle with accepting this dream?
2. What is your hope for those who read your book? What can they expect to learn about you and discovering their God-given dream?
3. You share the many times you didn't know where your next job or paycheck was coming from. Looking back, what did you learn from these uncertain times?
4. What motivated you to keep your entertainment dream alive even with so many obstacles and disappointments? Were you concerned with your parent's reaction? Did they ever support your dream?
5. You share a time when you wandered from your Christian walk. Why did this happen? How did you find your way back to the Lord?
6. Is there ever a time to let go of a dream? How can one understand if their goals are realistic?
7. You write that God can use mistakes and failures. Can you share a personal perspective of a time of personal failure? What is your advice to someone afraid to chase their dreams?
8. In your book, you talk about "The Someday Myth." What is that about? Why do you think so many never pursue their God-given dreams?
9. What are ways for someone to understand their dream is honoring to God? Can God give someone more than one dream or change their dream later in life?
10. Your father passed away not too long ago. Did he give you his blessing for your career choice? What did he teach you most about faith and family?
11. Tell us about your connection to actor Burt Reynolds and how your friendship came full circle?
12. God fulfilled another dream of yours –to meet a beautiful and God-fearing wife. Hollywood has a high marriage failure rate. What do you attribute to a happy marriage?
13. You starred in and produced *God's Not Dead*, which became a blockbuster hit movie. What did you learn about God's provision with this surprise success?
14. Can you tell us about some of your upcoming projects?
15. How can we stay up to date with your work (social media, Twitter)?

## NOTABLE QUOTES FROM *BETWEEN HEAVEN & HOLLYWOOD*:

At fourteen years of age, I started David's Lawn-Mowing Service. I drove that riding mower all over town mowing people's yards wherever and whenever I could. I made decent money that summer of my freshman year in high school, even after subsidizing my parents' nonexistent vegetable garden. At the end of each month I wrote my parents a check from the money I made, and thereby eliminated the need for a garden and freed myself from the bondage of having to weed it (18).

You may ask how I managed not to do so many of the things I was supposed to during my year at Moody. The answer is both simple and complicated, but in the most straightforward terms I offer this: I was not meant to. I was not meant to live out anyone else's dream for my life. While I was distracted from pursuing my dream by pursuing my parents' dream for me, God was busy at work in the background, using circumstances and events to further his plan for me (39).

While it's encouraging to know God is the author of our dreams and that he wants us to succeed, we nevertheless must accept that many times and in many ways, we get in the way of our own success. It seems counterintuitive because if asked, everyone will say they want to accomplish their dreams and goals and yet we allow obstacles and roadblocks to prohibit our dreams from coming to pass. The most villainous and destructive of these obstacles is fear. If you allow it, fear will—without mercy or hesitation—stop you from doing what God has called you to do (43).

My feet remained firmly planted on the ground and in my faith during those three years. I joined a church in Los Angeles and continued to attend faithfully. I didn't forget who I was or where I came from. I had not forfeited my morals or compromised my beliefs. Nor did I neglect to thank God for all the blessings he had given me, because I knew he was the source of my good fortune and he was the strength I was drawing from. Which is why it was all the more painful when God allowed it all to be taken away (76).

There are going to be times in your life, most probably during your quest for dream fulfillment, when you are going to experience a failure. Your knee-jerk reaction might be to blame God or feel that somehow he has shorted you, but the truth is he is not the cause of our failures, although he does allow them from time to time and for a variety of reasons (79).

For some of us, failure can be a way in which God gets our attention. It's a tap on the shoulder in an effort to get us to come back to him if we have wandered away and gone astray. Sometimes that tap can be a painful experience that he uses to express his fatherly love. For others, failure can serve as a reminder that we cannot live a truly Christian life on our own, independent of God. At times the Lord will put us in a scenario that will convince us we are inadequate, so that we don't try to go it alone. He uses failure to remind us that we need to depend more on him (83).

Failure, in varying degrees, is inevitable along the path to dream fulfillment. So when you fail, don't despair or think that God has abandoned you. Take comfort in knowing failure doesn't mean you're finished. You're only finished if you quit. Ask for God's strength to continue and allow him to build within you the endurance you're going to need in order to live the dream he has planted in your heart. Every hardship you endure, every failure you withstand, could very well be a stepping-stone to success and the realization of your dreams (85).

While pursuing your God-given dream is one of the most rewarding and exciting things you'll ever do, it can also be very nerve-racking, frustrating, and challenging. When faced with a roadblock or detour, many people simply choose to give up. We quit on our dreams for a variety of reasons (96).

When God tests us, he is looking for us to prove that our faith is of substance. Of course, since God knows all things, he doesn't need proof for himself. He is proving to us and to those around us that our faith is strong and that our faith in him can withstand the storms of adversity and trial (106).

I was emotionally depleted not because of my inability to become a big Hollywood star, but because I had been living a spiritually starved life. I no longer wanted to exist without purpose, direction, or reason. The rewards and accolades I was searching for were empty without God in my heart, guiding my steps. I missed my best friend, my Savior, and my heavenly Father (118).

The source of life and spiritual fruit cannot be found or harvested within ourselves; it exists outside of us, solely within Christ Jesus. The strength, nourishment, and creativity needed to fulfill our dreams must come from Jesus. I had spent most of my professional life trying to go at it alone and with my own strength (120).

That night, after my father's funeral, I went to the premiere of *Hidden Secrets* and watched the scene where my father patted me on the back. I remembered his last words to me, "I'm proud of you." In a curious turn of events, I was now living my father's dream for me—it just looked a bit different than what he or I had imagined. I was in ministry, was married to a woman who loves the Lord, and was serving Christ in whatever I did. I had to give up my small dream in order to adopt God's grand dream for me (135).

Perhaps God wants you to let go of your dream so that he can replace it with a new dream. Or perhaps it's not your dream that needs to change but your methods. Maybe the ways in which you are going about achieving it are in need of an overhaul. Maybe it's time to redirect your thinking and to visualize your dream differently. Stay flexible and less rigid in the pursuit of your dreams and by doing so you might discover a superior dream—one that is easier for you to accomplish, and infinitely more gratifying both in this world and in the next (141).

The fact remains that if your dream is self-focused and self-centered, it will not come to pass. God requires that if you want something, you must first give it away. God demands that dreamers be generous with their talents, time, and love in order for the dream to come true. We must be humble and put the needs of others above our own selves (167).

If your calling is to serve others by spreading the gospel, then remember one of the most generous things we can do is risk being mocked, hated, and reviled for spreading the Word of Christ. You always run the risk of having your God-given dream thrown back into your face but don't let this stop you from sharing it. The gift I'm speaking, that of grace and eternal life, is worth your taking it on the chin from time to time (167-168).