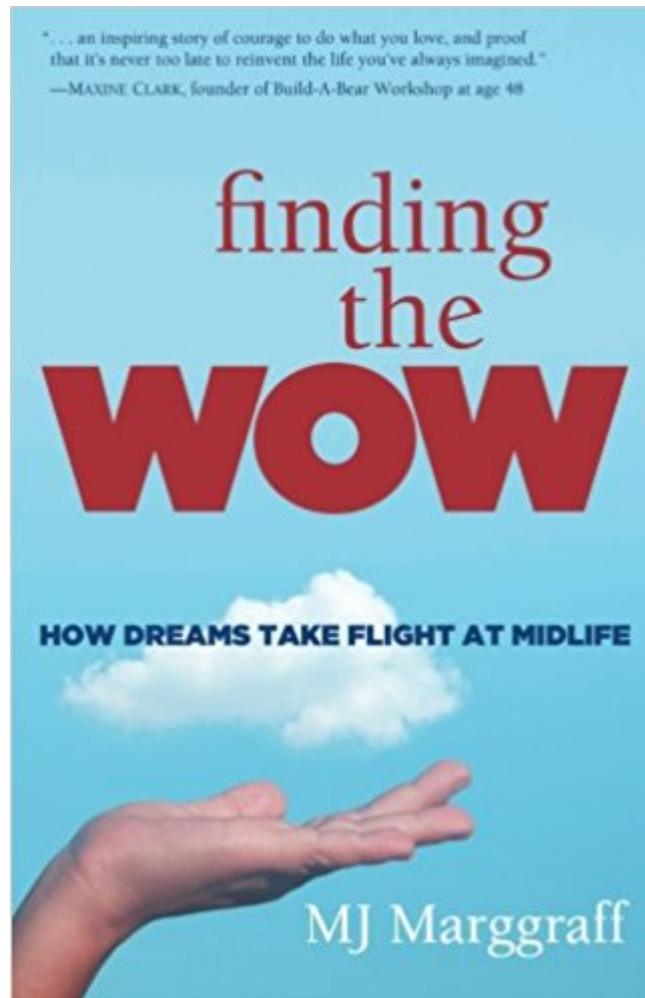




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# Finding The Wow: How Dreams Take Flight At Midlife



## Synopsis

Are you going through your life on autopilot? Are you doing the day-to-day things that need to be done, but not doing what your heart is telling you to do? Finding the Wow is the uplifting story of a mom who realizes that she's not happy, just busy. When MJ and her friends—the Chicks in Charge—fight to redefine their second acts, they discover their strengths as they face their individual challenges—a failing marriage, long-forgotten dreams, and illness. MJ shares her own moments, harrowing and wonderful, great and small, on her journey to becoming a pilot. On these pages, you will find tales of humor, tragedy, excitement, disappointment, vulnerability, and the friendship of the invincible Chicks who battle obstacles, find courage, and triumph! Like the Chicks, you may find purpose in unexpected ways. But whatever your airplane is, fly it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This is the perfect book if you're willing to ask yourself, ‘Shall I take a chance and follow my dream?’ And you want the answer to be ‘Yes!’ Finding the Wow is an inspiring story of courage to do what you love, and proof that it's never too late to reinvent the life you've always imagined. • Maxine Clark, founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop at age 48

“If you've ever stuffed your dreams in a closet, read Finding the Wow: How Dreams Take Flight at Midlife. You will be inspired by this amazing story of how a determined mom

soars to new heights and makes her dreams come true. • Randy Peyser, author of *The Power of Miracle Thinking* “Do you find yourself stuck in the routine of life? At midlife, MJ shares the craziness, hard work, setbacks, and glories of finding her wow. MJ’s journey to live her wow will inspire you to find your own! • Laura Smith, airline pilot

At 45, MJ Marggraff, mother of two at home, pursued her life-long dream to become a pilot. She became a flight instructor then founded Space Games, a leading student inventions conducted aboard the International Space Station. She is the recipient of Reader’s Choice from Aviation Aerogram for best in humor, has been on NBC/Bay Area and FOX in the Morning on 2 at 9, and featured in O Magazine on women in *Second Acts*. MJ is in a graduate program to develop new applications to help long-duration space flight. She lives with her husband in Lafayette, California.

Funny and heartfelt, delightful and captivating. When she loses her daily planner and has to buy a new one, MJ Marggraff realizes she can fill it up with all the same committee meetings and other school and household commitments or she can use these blank pages as the opportunity to pursue a life long dream. In this true story, MJ Marggraff successfully brings us into her experience of both what it takes to become a pilot and the transcendent joy of flying. And even more than the story of flying, this is the story of MJ Marggraff’s personal journey with its ups and downs, risks, challenges, and triumphs. It is the story of three friends, the Chicks in Charge, supporting each other as they navigate middle age and come to know each other in new and more meaningful ways. It is the story of a wife and mother finding her balance as she adds another job title, pilot. Most of all it is an invitation for each of us to follow our dreams. Since reading this book, I have been revisiting my own childhood dreams. I am inspired to claim the life I want; to engage my own persistence and determination to make that dream come true. And I can’t wait for MJ Marggraff’s next book to hear where her flying and her dreams take her next.

Although I am only in to the first few chapters of MJ’s new book, I can say, I have already had so many personal epiphanies. For so many years, I was the Mom with the day planner that was so crammed full of “things that must be done” I had to color coordinate the items to insure the most important ones were completed by end of the day. I could so relate to losing that planner and feeling lost. Then there is the poem about the dragon and I have read and re-read it so many times. Many

words of wisdom in that short passage. This book is for anyone who tucked that dream in the back of their mind, thinking it is too late to start the journey - MJ's story shows us it is never too late and I know many people are going to be impacted by her journey. KUDOS!!

Not enough books in this world are written by women about their success, their dreams achieved and continued. We as women tend to leave the bravado and self-marketing to men. But it was so inspiring, and refreshing, and funny and sad at times, to read Finding the Wow. I have a confession to make... I do not have a huge unachieved goal in my life. I am still working a part-time job. Although my daughters are young adults, I know I am still a big part of their lives. I plan more and more traveling adventures with my husband, as our lives are getting more and more free of day to day requirements... But this book did not make me feel like a failure because I do not work toward an outside of the box goal. This book made me feel happy to read about a spirited woman who conquered a lot and learned a lot. It did make me think that whatever our goals in life are, whether small or big, as long as you work toward them, as long as you enjoy what you do and keep doing it, as long as you continue to be an active part of society, the Wow will still trickle and make you feel like you want to get up in the morning... Because it is a big wide world out there, and it is worth marveling at it every day.

As a mother of two teens, I related to MJ's story of being a stay at home mom and volunteering many hours at school. Having teens still in school as well as aging parents I have found myself looking deeper into the subject of chasing your dreams and having no regrets in life. I enjoyed MJ's accounts of her learning to fly and her ongoing commitment to her friends and family. Her story is inspiring and shows that life and dreams are what you make of them. Because of her stepping out of her comfort zone and learning to fly she has opened many doors to rewarding adventures. I very much enjoyed this book and didn't want her stories to end.

I only wish that I had read this book when I was in my 40's! It is an interesting, fast read that is truly motivating. MJ describes her life that was lacking in excitement because she was living for everyone else and not herself. Then, she turned things around and began living one of her dreams -- being a pilot! She describes her feelings of discomfort and her fears but rises above both! This is a must read for any person who has that nagging feeling that there is something else out there in life!

I recommend this book for anyone, young or old, who has ever thought about doing something But

can't quite put it into action. MJ Marggraff writes a very heart filled story of taking that giant Leap to pursue a dream of flying. The book is particularly meaningful and relatable as she shares personal stories of typical family and girlfriend life with all its glories, losses, frustrations and joys. The journey of being up in the air with her as she navigated the airplane was exciting and scary.. Just the way stepping out of the box always is. I look forward to any future books MJ writes as she explores even bigger horizons for herself and for all of us.

I bought this book and it sat in my car for a year...I am the type of person who can't start a good book without finishing it sooner than later. I finally was able to clear my "day planner" and read this book. I wish I had read it right when I got it. It is an easy read, entertaining and enlightening. I can relate to MJ about her goal of doing the thing that was "meant to do", and reaching a personal goal. I think everyone who reads this will look inside themselves and ask "was I meant to be more?". Some of the things she had to do to become a pilot was astonishing. She is a very smart cookie, wonderful mom and wife. Her devotion to her friends made me wish I were one of them. Congrats on a great book! I am waiting for the sequel....

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