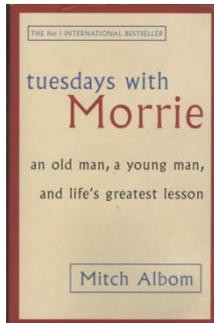


## the one page book review



**Title:** Tuesdays with Morrie  
**Author:** Mitch Albom  
**Publisher:** Sphere  
**Price:** £6.99

This is a book based on true-life events and is about a student who, many years after graduating is reunited with his teacher and mentor, Morrie, at the time this person has been diagnosed with a wasting and terminal illness. The book centres around conversations the two have in the last weeks of Morrie's life, in which they attempt to capture the essence of how he has lived his life and to answer some of the questions that face humanity; death and aging, regret and forgiveness, love, marriage and family. Underlying all of the conversations is the gradual renewal of a relationship between two friends. It is a very moving, powerful read and can be read at two levels; simply as the journey taken between two friends during the last moments of one of them, and as a comment on Western society and how we have lost touch with what is really important.

Two quotes from the final chapter summarise what you will get from this book:

*'I look back sometimes at the person I was before I rediscovered my old professor. I want to talk to that person. I want to tell him what to look out for, what mistakes to avoid. I want to tell him to be more open, to ignore the lure of advertised values, to pay attention when your loved ones are speaking, as if it were the last time you might hear them..... None of us can undo what we've done, or relive a life already recorded. But if Professor Morris Schwartz taught me anything at all, it was this: there is no such thing as 'too late' in life.'*

*'Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but precious thing, a jewel that, with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine? If you are lucky enough to find your way to such teachers, you will always find your way back.'*

If you liked this book and want to explore some of the themes in more detail you might also like:

**'Man's Search for Meaning'** by Viktor Frankl. A true-life account of one man's experiences of the Holocaust and the psychology of hope.

**'To Have or to Be'** by Erich Fromm. A fascinating examination of Western society's need to possess, rather than to experience. It draws on a diverse range of thinkers including Marx, Adorno, Freud and Meister Eckhart. Heavy going in places but thought-provoking stuff.

**'Radical Honesty'** by Brad Blanton. A tough read, and many would consider a tough approach, but his central premise is that telling the truth is always the best policy. Doing it is much harder!