#### HOW TO SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU ARE BROKE

# MASTERING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE: HOW TO SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU ARE BROKE

HOW TO SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU ARE BROKE IS A COMMON AND OFTEN URGENT CONCERN FOR MANY INDIVIDUALS FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. IT'S A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES A STRATEGIC AND DISCIPLINED APPROACH, FOCUSING ON IMMEDIATE NEEDS WHILE BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE STABILITY. THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE WILL EQUIP YOU WITH ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES FOR CUTTING EXPENSES, MAXIMIZING INCOME, AND MAKING THE MOST OF LIMITED RESOURCES. WE'LL DELVE INTO ESSENTIAL BUDGETING TECHNIQUES, CREATIVE WAYS TO REDUCE SPENDING ON DAILY NECESSITIES, METHODS FOR GENERATING EXTRA CASH, AND CRUCIAL MINDSET SHIFTS THAT FOSTER FINANCIAL RESILIENCE. UNDERSTANDING THESE PRINCIPLES IS KEY TO NAVIGATING TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES AND EMERGING STRONGER.

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## UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

THE FIRST AND MOST CRUCIAL STEP WHEN YOU ARE BROKE AND NEED TO SAVE MONEY IS TO GAIN ABSOLUTE CLARITY ON YOUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION. THIS INVOLVES A DEEP DIVE INTO EXACTLY WHERE YOUR MONEY IS GOING. WITHOUT THIS UNDERSTANDING, ANY ATTEMPTS TO SAVE WILL BE LIKE SHOOTING IN THE DARK, WITH LITTLE CHANCE OF HITTING THE TARGET. YOU NEED TO METICULOUSLY TRACK EVERY DOLLAR, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

#### TRACKING EVERY EXPENSE

To effectively save money when you are broke, detailed expense tracking is non-negotiable. This means recording every single purchase, from your morning coffee to your rent payment. Utilize budgeting apps, spreadsheets, or even a simple notebook to document these outflows. The goal is to identify patterns and pinpoint areas where spending can be curtailed. Look for recurring charges, impulse buys, and subscriptions that may no longer be serving you.

#### CREATING A BARE-BONES BUDGET

Once you have a clear picture of your spending, it's time to construct a bare-bones budget. This isn't a budget for aspiration; it's a survival budget. Prioritize essential needs such as housing, utilities, food, and transportation to essential work or appointments. Non-essential items must be drastically cut or eliminated entirely until your financial situation improves. This budget should be realistic and achievable, focusing on the absolute minimum required to live.

## IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL VS. NON-ESSENTIAL SPENDING

A CRITICAL PART OF UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE IS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL SPENDING. ESSENTIALS ARE THOSE COSTS THAT ARE UNAVOIDABLE FOR BASIC SURVIVAL AND FUNCTIONING. THIS TYPICALLY INCLUDES RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, ESSENTIAL UTILITIES (WATER, ELECTRICITY, HEAT), BASIC GROCERIES, NECESSARY MEDICATION, AND TRANSPORTATION TO YOUR JOB OR FOR VITAL ERRANDS. EVERYTHING ELSE, SUCH AS ENTERTAINMENT, DINING OUT, NEW CLOTHING (UNLESS IT'S FOR WORK AND YOUR CURRENT IS UNUSABLE), AND OPTIONAL SERVICES, FALLS INTO THE NON-ESSENTIAL CATEGORY AND IS THE FIRST TO BE TARGETED FOR CUTS.

## DRASTICALLY CUTTING ESSENTIAL EXPENSES

When you are broke and need to save money, even essential expenses often have room for reduction. It requires a willingness to make significant lifestyle adjustments and to seek out the most cost-effective options available. Think creatively and don't be afraid to explore less conventional solutions.

### REDUCING HOUSING COSTS

HOUSING IS OFTEN THE LARGEST SINGLE EXPENSE. IF POSSIBLE, CONSIDER NEGOTIATING YOUR RENT WITH YOUR LANDLORD, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A GOOD TRACK RECORD AS A TENANT. IF THAT'S NOT AN OPTION, EXPLORE TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS LIKE HOUSE-SITTING, STAYING WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY, OR EVEN DOWNSIZING IF FEASIBLE. FOR HOMEOWNERS, DELAYING NON-ESSENTIAL REPAIRS OR SEEKING COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS CAN PROVIDE TEMPORARY RELIEF.

## MINIMIZING UTILITY BILLS

UTILITY BILLS CAN ADD UP QUICKLY, BUT THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO REDUCE THEM. SIMPLE ACTIONS LIKE UNPLUGGING ELECTRONICS WHEN NOT IN USE, USING ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS, TAKING SHORTER SHOWERS, AND ADJUSTING YOUR THERMOSTAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SEEK OUT UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR NEGOTIATE PAYMENT PLANS WITH YOUR PROVIDERS IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING TO MEET PAYMENTS. SEALING DRAFTS AROUND WINDOWS AND DOORS CAN ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ENERGY FEFICIENCY.

#### STRETCHING YOUR FOOD BUDGET

FOOD IS A NECESSITY, BUT IT'S ALSO AN AREA WHERE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED. PLANNING MEALS, COOKING AT HOME, AND AVOIDING PRE-PACKAGED OR CONVENIENCE FOODS ARE KEY. FOCUS ON BUDGET-FRIENDLY STAPLES LIKE RICE, BEANS, PASTA, AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES. UTILIZE COUPONS, BUY IN BULK WHEN APPROPRIATE, AND EXPLORE LOCAL FOOD BANKS OR COMMUNITY GARDENS IF AVAILABLE. LEFTOVERS SHOULD BE CREATIVELY REPURPOSED TO AVOID WASTE.

### LOWERING TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

IF YOU RELY ON A CAR, CONSIDER IF YOU CAN CARPOOL, USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, OR EVEN BIKE OR WALK FOR SHORTER DISTANCES. IF A CAR IS ESSENTIAL, ENSURE IT IS WELL-MAINTAINED TO AVOID COSTLY REPAIRS AND IMPROVE FUEL EFFICIENCY.

SHOP AROUND FOR THE MOST AFFORDABLE AUTO INSURANCE RATES AND CONSIDER IF A LESS EXPENSIVE VEHICLE IS A VIABLE LONG-TERM OPTION. FOR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL, LOOK FOR DISCOUNTED PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSES.

## CREATIVE WAYS TO REDUCE DAILY SPENDING

BEYOND THE MAJOR ESSENTIAL EXPENSES, COUNTLESS DAILY SPENDING HABITS CAN BE RE-EVALUATED TO FIND SAVINGS. THESE SMALLER ADJUSTMENTS, WHEN MADE CONSISTENTLY, ACCUMULATE INTO SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL GAINS. IT'S ABOUT SHIFTING YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT CONSTITUTES A "NEED" VERSUS A "WANT."

## THE POWER OF "NO" AND DELAYED GRATIFICATION

Learning to say "no" to impulse purchases and social spending that you cannot afford is crucial. Embrace delayed gratification. Instead of buying something you want immediately, add it to a list and revisit it after a set period (e.g., 30 days). Often, the urge will pass, and you will have saved money. This practice helps break the cycle of instant consumerism.

#### FREE ENTERTAINMENT AND HOBBIES

ENTERTAINMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO COST A FORTUNE. EXPLORE FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY, SUCH AS VISITING PARKS, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS ON FREE ADMISSION DAYS, OR ATTENDING FREE LOCAL EVENTS. FOR HOBBIES, OPT FOR LOW-COST OR FREE OPTIONS LIKE READING, DRAWING, JOURNALING, HIKING, OR LEARNING A NEW SKILL ONLINE THROUGH FREE RESOURCES. ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL OUTLAY CAN BE INCREDIBLY FULFILLING.

### DIY AND SKILL SHARING

Instead of paying for services, consider doing them yourself. This could range from basic home repairs and car maintenance to grooming and cooking elaborate meals. Furthermore, explore skill-sharing with friends or neighbors. Perhaps you can swap gardening advice for help with a leaky faucet, or exchange cooking lessons for childcare. This fosters community and reduces reliance on paid services.

### UTILIZING SECONDHAND AND BARTERING

THE SECONDHAND MARKET IS A TREASURE TROVE FOR SAVING MONEY. LOOK FOR CLOTHING, FURNITURE, BOOKS, AND EVEN ELECTRONICS AT THRIFT STORES, CONSIGNMENT SHOPS, OR ONLINE MARKETPLACES. BARTERING, OR TRADING GOODS AND SERVICES DIRECTLY, CAN ALSO BE A FANTASTIC WAY TO ACQUIRE ITEMS OR GET HELP WITHOUT SPENDING CASH. GET CREATIVE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER IN EXCHANGE.

## MAXIMIZING INCOME WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

While cutting expenses is vital, increasing your income, even modestly, can provide much-needed breathing room and accelerate your path to financial stability. Think about leveraging your existing skills and time in new ways.

## SELLING UNUSED ITEMS

DECLUTTER YOUR HOME AND TURN UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH. GO THROUGH CLOSETS, ATTICS, AND GARAGES TO IDENTIFY

ANYTHING YOU NO LONGER USE OR NEED. CLOTHING, ELECTRONICS, BOOKS, FURNITURE, AND COLLECTIBLES CAN OFTEN BE SOLD THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORMS, GARAGE SALES, OR CONSIGNMENT STORES. THIS NOT ONLY GENERATES INCOME BUT ALSO FREES UP PHYSICAL SPACE.

#### TAKING ON GIG WORK AND FREELANCING

The gig economy offers numerous opportunities to earn extra money on your own schedule. Consider services like driving for ride-sharing companies, delivering food, offering pet-sitting or house-sitting services, or undertaking freelance work in your area of expertise (writing, graphic design, web development, virtual assistance). Even a few hours a week can make a significant difference.

#### UTILIZING SKILLS FOR SMALL SERVICES

THINK ABOUT SKILLS YOU POSSESS THAT OTHERS MIGHT PAY FOR. THIS COULD INCLUDE TUTORING STUDENTS, OFFERING HANDYMAN SERVICES, PROVIDING CLEANING OR ORGANIZING HELP, OR EVEN PERFORMING SMALL ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES. ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY OR ON LOCAL ONLINE FORUMS.

### EXPLORING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for government assistance programs. These can include food stamps, housing assistance, utility subsidies, or unemployment benefits. Research local and national programs that you might qualify for, and don't hesitate to apply. These programs are designed to help individuals and families in times of financial need.

## MINDSET SHIFTS FOR FINANCIAL SURVIVAL

SAVING MONEY WHEN YOU ARE BROKE IS NOT JUST ABOUT NUMBERS; IT'S ALSO ABOUT YOUR MINDSET. ADOPTING A RESILIENT AND PROACTIVE ATTITUDE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OVERCOMING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES AND MAKING LASTING CHANGES.

## CULTIVATING A SCARCITY MINDSET (TEMPORARILY)

During periods of financial hardship, temporarily adopting a scarcity mindset can be beneficial. This means being hyper-aware of every resource and using it as efficiently as possible. It involves being thrifty, avoiding waste, and prioritizing needs over wants. This mindset is a tool to navigate the immediate crisis, not a permanent state.

### FOCUSING ON WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL

When facing financial difficulties, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by factors outside your control. Shift your focus to the aspects you can influence: your spending habits, your efforts to earn more, and your attitude. By concentrating your energy on actionable steps, you regain a sense of agency and empower yourself to make progress.

## CELEBRATING SMALL WINS

SAVING MONEY IS A JOURNEY, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES ALONG THE WAY, NO MATTER HOW SMALL. DID YOU STICK TO YOUR GROCERY BUDGET THIS WEEK? DID YOU RESIST AN IMPULSE BUY? PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK! THESE SMALL VICTORIES BUILD MOMENTUM AND REINFORCE POSITIVE BEHAVIORS, HELPING YOU STAY MOTIVATED

#### BUILDING A SUPPORT NETWORK

DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF. TALK TO TRUSTED FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, OR FINANCIAL COUNSELORS ABOUT YOUR SITUATION. SHARING YOUR CHALLENGES CAN PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND PRACTICAL ADVICE. SOMETIMES, SIMPLY HAVING SOMEONE TO LISTEN CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN YOUR ABILITY TO PERSEVERE.

### LONG-TERM FINANCIAL HEALTH

While the immediate focus is on saving money when you are broke, it's essential to lay the groundwork for long-term financial health. The strategies implemented during tough times can become habits that lead to lasting financial security.

### DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

Once you are on more stable ground, refine your budget to reflect a sustainable spending plan. This budget should allow for savings, debt repayment, and some discretionary spending. The principles of tracking and mindful spending learned during your broke phase should be maintained.

#### PRIORITIZING EMERGENCY SAVINGS

The experience of being broke underscores the critical importance of an emergency fund. Make it a priority to build and maintain an emergency savings account that can cover 3-6 months of living expenses. This fund is your safety net against future unexpected events.

#### INVESTING IN FINANCIAL LITERACY

CONTINUOUSLY EDUCATING YOURSELF ABOUT PERSONAL FINANCE IS AN ONGOING INVESTMENT. READ BOOKS, ATTEND WORKSHOPS, AND FOLLOW REPUTABLE FINANCIAL EXPERTS. THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT MANAGING MONEY, THE BETTER EQUIPPED YOU WILL BE TO MAKE SOUND FINANCIAL DECISIONS THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE.

NAVIGATING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IS A CHALLENGING BUT ULTIMATELY CHARACTER-BUILDING EXPERIENCE. BY IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIES OUTLINED ABOVE, YOU CAN NOT ONLY SURVIVE BUT ALSO THRIVE. THE DISCIPLINE, CREATIVITY, AND RESILIENCE YOU DEVELOP WILL SERVE YOU WELL AS YOU WORK TOWARDS A MORE SECURE AND PROSPEROUS FINANCIAL FUTURE.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q: WHAT IS THE VERY FIRST STEP | SHOULD TAKE WHEN | REALIZE | AM BROKE AND NEED TO SAVE MONEY?

A: The absolute first step is to meticulously track every single expense for at least one month. This provides a clear, factual understanding of where your money is going, which is essential for identifying areas to cut back.

## Q: ARE THERE ANY FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP ME MANAGE MY MONEY BETTER WHEN I'M BROKE?

A: YES, THERE ARE NUMEROUS FREE RESOURCES. MANY BUDGETING APPS OFFER FREE BASIC VERSIONS, LIBRARIES PROVIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY BOOKS AND SEMINARS, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS OFTEN HAVE FREE BUDGETING TEMPLATES AND EDUCATIONAL CONTENT. ADDITIONALLY, NON-PROFIT CREDIT COUNSELING AGENCIES SOMETIMES OFFER FREE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS.

## Q: How can I reduce my food costs significantly without resorting to unhealthy options?

A: To reduce food costs, focus on planning meals around sale items and staple ingredients like beans, rice, and oats. Buy seasonal produce, cook from scratch, pack your lunch, and minimize food waste by using leftovers creatively. Exploring local food banks or community gardens can also supplement your food supply.

## Q: WHAT ARE SOME QUICK WAYS TO EARN A SMALL AMOUNT OF EXTRA CASH WHEN I NEED MONEY URGENTLY?

A: QUICK WAYS TO EARN MONEY INCLUDE SELLING UNUSED ITEMS FROM YOUR HOME, TAKING ON SMALL GIG JOBS LIKE FOOD DELIVERY OR RIDE-SHARING, OFFERING SERVICES LIKE DOG WALKING OR BABYSITTING, OR PARTICIPATING IN PAID ONLINE SURVEYS (THOUGH THESE TYPICALLY YIELD VERY SMALL AMOUNTS).

## Q: How important is a positive mindset when trying to save money while broke?

A: A POSITIVE AND RESILIENT MINDSET IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. IT HELPS YOU STAY MOTIVATED, OVERCOME SETBACKS, AND FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS RATHER THAN PROBLEMS. CELEBRATING SMALL WINS AND FOCUSING ON WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL CAN PREVENT FEELINGS OF OVERWHELM AND DESPAIR.

## Q: SHOULD I CUT ALL "FUN" EXPENSES WHEN I AM BROKE, OR IS THERE ROOM FOR SOME SMALL INDULGENCES?

A: While drastic cuts are often necessary, entirely eliminating all enjoyable activities can lead to burnout. The key is to find extremely low-cost or free alternatives for enjoyment. For example, a picnic in the park is a much more budget-friendly option than dining out. Prioritize needs, but find creative ways to maintain some level of well-being.

## Q: WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE PEOPLE MAKE WHEN TRYING TO SAVE MONEY WHILE BROKE?

A: A COMMON MISTAKE IS NOT BEING REALISTIC ABOUT THEIR SITUATION OR SETTING UNATTAINABLE GOALS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO DISCOURAGEMENT. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ERROR IS FAILING TO TRACK EXPENSES ACCURATELY OR CONSISTENTLY, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY WHERE SAVINGS CAN BE MADE.

## Q: How can I ask friends or family for financial help without feeling embarrassed?

A: BE HONEST AND DIRECT ABOUT YOUR SITUATION. FRAME IT AS A TEMPORARY NEED AND HAVE A CLEAR PLAN FOR HOW YOU INTEND TO REPAY ANY LOAN. FOCUS ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECT OF NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET, RATHER THAN DWELLING ON FEELINGS OF SHAME. OFFERING TO HELP THEM IN RETURN WITH A SKILL YOU POSSESS CAN ALSO CREATE A SENSE OF MUTUAL SUPPORT.

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how to save money when you are broke: How to save Money Hamilton Blanza, 2018-10-18 Some people say I just can't save money, while others have saving accounts full to the brim. What is the mindset that makes some people save and while others just can't do it? How to convert from a person who can't save to have a saving account you can boast off? Saving money is just as much part of your personality as anything else. You are either a personality type that can save money or you can't. The good news is that this part of your personality can be retrained and you can slowly but surely make saving money a part of your daily routine. The brain is like any other body part and has to be trained to become good at anything. For example, you do not lose weight the day you start dieting, or you do not learn to drive a car in the first lesson. The key to getting started is small, and altering a very important mindset, it is not about making huge savings all the time but, simply adopting a small principle that every little adds up. This one principle is the most important aspect of getting into a habit of saving money. Looking for that £100 to put in you saving account will not do the trick, especially if you are not a money saver. Making a habit of small £1 savings or any amount for that matter will help you slowly build a habit which would transform into a bigger lump-sum over a period. You have to train your brain, hence altering your personality to make saving a habit. And, like anything else in life you have to start small, learn from your mistakes and persevere to make saving a habit and part of your personality leading to fruitful results. I am sure with the introductory part of this book you have read; you already have an idea of the core message that will be communicated to you.

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how to save money when you are broke: How To Save Money Ann Russell, 2023-04-27 With the recent cost of living crisis, we are all looking for ways to cut bills and save money. Ann Russell, who is best known as TikTok's Auntie, has lived much of her life on a tight budget, and since energy bills first started rising, has been answering fan's questions not just about cleaning but about all kinds of ways to economise. Following on from her first book, How To Clean Everything, in How To Save Money Ann will share her advice on the best ways to save money and cut back in all sorts of areas, covering everything from budgeting to meal planning and reducing food waste, and from tips on spending less each month to the most energy efficient ways to heat your house, do your laundry etc. Written with Ann's trademark warmth, humour and understanding, this is a book that will help everyone who is looking to spend less while still getting the most out of life.

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most-asked questions from The Dave Ramsey Show—everything from budget planning to retirement planning or personal buying matters, to saving for college and charitable giving. This is Dave in his most popular format—ask a specific question, get a specific answer.

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**how to save money when you are broke:** The Playbook Billy Guidry, 2018-04-24 If you're serious about getting your money right, I created for you a 400+ Page MASSIVE book (also available as an eBook) to change the way you approach success and business. I lay out the strategies you need to get you from just getting by, to prosperity-and even wealth if you choose.

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short and offers a way forward: the HOPE Plan, a series of straightforward, actionable steps to build financial literacy and expand opportunity so that the poor can join the middle class. Fully seventy percent of the American economy is driven by consumer spending, but more and more people have too much month at the end of their money. John Hope Bryant aspires to "expand the philosophy of free enterprise to include all of God's children" and create a thriving economy that works not just for the one percent or even the ninety-nine percent but for the one hundred percent. This is a free enterprise approach to solving the problem of poverty and raising up a new America. "Economic immobility is the defining issue of America in the twenty-first century. John Hope Bryant makes an engaging case for why we must make our economy work for everyone. How the Poor Can Save Capitalism is a must-read for business leaders, policymakers, and community leaders who want to make the American Dream a reality for all our children." —Ben Jealous, former CEO, NAACP "John and I want the same things. And the goals of this book are the same goals of my Rebuild the Dream campaign. He has provided the road map to economic recovery for this country at a time when economic inequality is at its peak. I, for one, will be following the steps laid out in the HOPE Plan." —Van Jones, former Presidential Advisor to Barack Obama and current host of CNN's Crossfire

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how to save money when you are broke: Spending Your Way to the Poorhouse TOMMY L. GARDNER, 2004-02-04 There are thousands of book out there that promise you riches and wealth. My book doesnt give you a magic potion that will let you become rich overnight. It simply tells you in simple, easy to read terms how to take control of your spending and saving practices so you can avoid financial destruction. If you simply want to know how to keep some of the money you earn and save some of it, this book is for you. Before you can learn money management, you must reprogram yourself to learn a different way to spend and save. In life, we learn, unlearn and relearn. Dealing with money is no different. This book is filled with simple, down-to-earth, easy to read ways to change your life financially. It contains some humorous stories and quotes about money to get you thinking about where you are, and where you want to be financially. I honestly want to help you with your money problems. With this book in hand, you can learn ways you never dreamed to handle money in your day-to-day lives. You wont be disappointed.

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something before you buy it, looking after the things you already have, and managing your resources, such as time, money and energy. This book will help you do all these things and more with your money.

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