

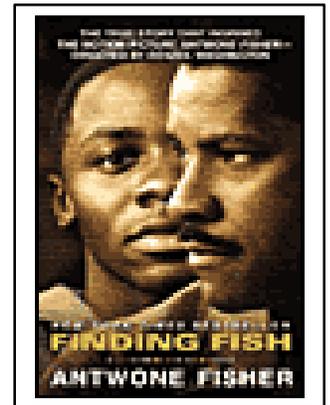
# Uncommon Success

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## Antwone Fisher – Finding Uncommon Strength and Success

At the recommendation of friends, I recently watched the movie, **Antwone Fisher** – what a great story of overcoming challenges and making something of your life! More recently, I came across a book review about Antwone Fisher in a Rocky Mountain High School (RMHS) newsletter. **Finding Fish**, a Memoir of the Antwone Fisher Story was reviewed by Pam Downing, a media specialist at RMHS – and as she puts it – “it is a great read!”

**Finding Fish** is a memoir that any angry person should read – and a book for anyone who needs to have a reason to hope. It is a painfully honest story that illustrates the power or resilience and compassion in the face of difficult challenges. For teens or adults, it is a great read, and a reminder that life is what we choose to make it, no matter what circumstances may come our way. Lawrence Fishburne, the author of this book, has every right to be angry. Born in jail, transferred between abusive foster homes, and ultimately choosing homelessness over the predators who reside in the local inner city YMCA, Fishburne joins the military as a very angry young man. He finds, though, that it is his own rage that undermines his ability to move ahead in the place he most wants to succeed.



Fishburne has amazingly survived his enlistment because of his own sense of resilience, but to move beyond survival, he needs help. He finds it in a compassionate and wise military man who takes the time to see the talent that lies below the surface of Fish's pain: Fish is, of all things, a writer ... and a good one at that. With caring and dedication, Fish's mentor helps him complete a successful term of duty, and he helps Fish establish the inner strength to go on to become a respected Hollywood screenwriter.

Normally not one to pick up a memoir, I could not stop reading this one. Fishburne's narrative hooks a reader immediately. He is brutally honest within beautifully written passages. It's hard to believe he had no formal training as a writer, which makes this book all the more important for teens to read.

**Lessons Learned:** What **Finding Fish** shows us is that **we can all succeed once we find that talent or purpose that is within each of us**. With the help of a good friend and the courage to face his challenges, Lawrence Fishburne proves that anger does not have to interfere with attaining your dreams. Today, Lawrence Fishburne is a very successful and respected Hollywood screenwriter living in Los Angeles - **way to go Fish - Dreams Do Come True!**

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Uncommon Success is a program of the Uncommon Friends Foundation designed to inspire, motivate and empower tomorrow's leaders through character and leadership education. We help students make their dreams come true.

### Uncommon Friends Foundation

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