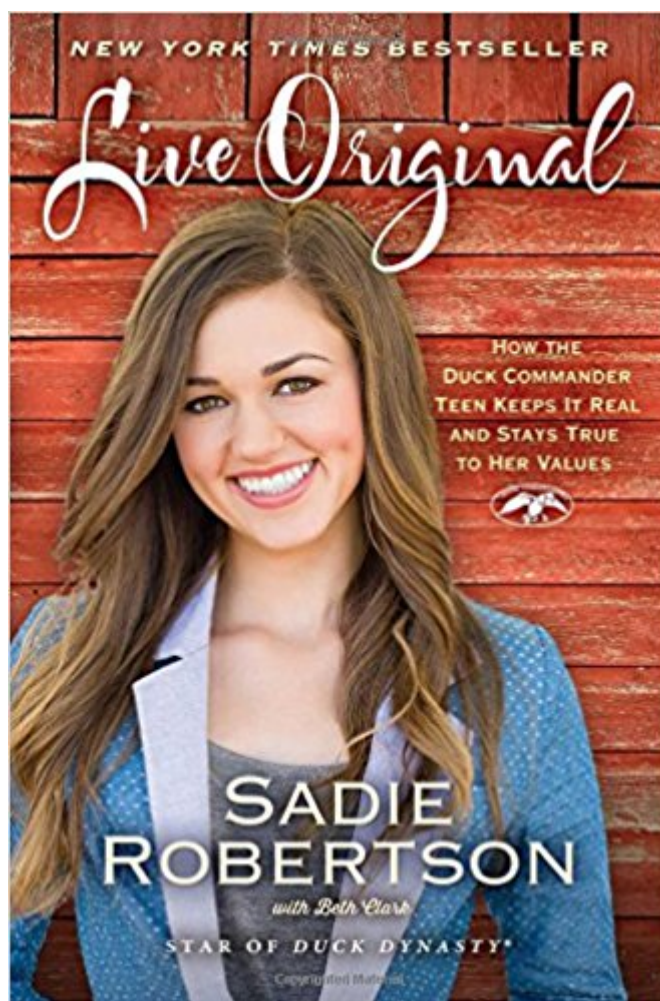


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Live Original: How The Duck Commander Teen Keeps It Real And Stays True To Her Values



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Sadie Robertson is a star of A&E's Duck Dynasty and daughter of Willie and Korie Robertson. She shares her outlook on life as she opens up about herself and the values that make her family what it is. Sadie Robertson represents everything that a well-adjusted teenager should be, even while growing up in the spotlight on Duck Dynasty. She exhibits poise, respect for her family and friends, and a faith that influences her choices. Everyone wants to know how a family as eclectic as the Robertsons are raising such confident, fun, family-loving kids. With this book, Sadie sheds light on the values instilled by her family that make her the person she is. Sadie lives by a simple list of principles that lead her to personal and spiritual growth and allow the relationships she has with her friends and family to flourish. These values include think happy, be happy; dream big; shake the hate; do something; and many more. Living as a culturally relevant teen who loves God and her family, Sadie has become a role model for other teens and for parents who are eager to instill the same characteristics in their children.

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Customer Reviews

Sadie Robertson catapulted into stardom as a young teenager, starring in the hit reality series A&E's Duck Dynasty, as well as landing first runner up on ABC's Dancing With The Stars Season 19 at just 17 years of age. The now 20-year-old has expanded her platform as a motivational speaker and advocate for her generation. On a mission to empower her peers in the name of positivity, self-confidence, and a call to "live original," Sadie designed and

launched a 16-city motivational tour called the Live Original Tour in 2016. She recently announced her plans for Live Original Tour 2017 set for this fall. Sadie has also ventured into acting, appearing in *God's Not Dead 2*, the 2016 film about Columbine shooting victim Rachel Joy Scott. She is also in *I'm Not Ashamed*, as well as taking on a starring role in the Hallmark movie, *Sun, Sand, & Romance*. Sadie embodies the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of the Robertson family and has carried her philosophy into multiple business ventures including her own phone app, SADIE, a prom dress line with Sherri Hill, school supplies for DaySpring, jewelry and home goods with Glory Haus, and a fashion line with Wild Blue Denim. She has also partnered with Roma Boots and worked alongside them in their mission to "give poverty the boot" and spends time every year traveling the world serving those in need with One Squad, a group of young people that Sadie created with Help One Now, that seeks to engage her generation in social justice by caring for children and orphans around the world. A bestselling author, Sadie is currently working on the follow up to her New York Times bestselling book, *Live Original: How the Duck Commander Teen Keeps It Real and Stays True to Her Values*, which, along with her newest books, *Life Just Got Real* and *Live Original Devotional* are available at retailers nationwide. For more information, please visit LiveOriginal.com. Beth Clark is a writer and publishing consultant and runs a business called Thinkspot Communications in Franklin, Tennessee.

Live Original 2> 2> If there is one thing my family hears a lot, it's this: "Happy, happy, happy." My grandfather Phil Robertson, whom I call "Papaw Phil," is famous for these words, and I am glad he is. I like being part of a family that's happy! I know that not everyone has a happy family, but we can still choose to live a happy life, because happiness starts with what's inside of us, not with what we have or do not have. If we can think happy, we can be happy. When I was in junior high school, I learned a song called "Garbage in, Garbage Out." I liked it because of the words, and so I played the song for my eighth-grade Bible class and gave a speech about it. I learned an important lesson from that song: what you think about will come out in your life. If you put garbage into your mind, garbage will come out. It's just like what happens if you put junk food into your body. If you eat nothing but chips and desserts, you will not end up being lean and fit and strong. To put it politely, you'll be the opposite. In the same way, if you fill your mind with negative thoughts, bad words, or ideas that are not nice or respectful toward others, you will eventually think bad thoughts, use bad language, and act on bad ideas. The good thing about the "garbage in, garbage out" principle is that it also means that if you fill your mind with positive thoughts,

encouraging words, and ideas about how to be kind or how to be a good friend, then all those things will show up in the way you act and eventually become the way you live. 3> There's a connection between the way you think and the way you are. Not only that, there's also a direct link between the way you think today and the person you will become tomorrow. Your thoughts, words, and actions will determine your life more than anything else – more than where you go to college, more than what you major in, and more than the first job you get. Years ago, someone came up with a great quotation that makes this point really well. I say "years ago" because a version of this saying goes back at least to 1910, and I say "someone" because it has been credited to all kinds of people, from Mahatma Gandhi to Margaret Thatcher's father to the founder of a supermarket chain in Texas.¹ I'm not sure anyone knows who should really get the credit for it, but I like the words, and I know they are true: Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become your character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.² The short "Sadie version" of this quotation is: your thoughts determine your destiny. If you want to get a glimpse of where you are headed in the future, start by looking at what you're thinking about today. Before you go any farther in this book, I want to encourage you to make up your mind to be happy, because your mind is where happiness begins. Thinking happy will not mess up your schedule, and it will not cost any money, but it will be the best investment you can make. It won't even make you tired; in fact, it will probably give you more energy than ever, because happiness just has that effect on people. If you are down or discouraged, decide today to shake that off and become a happier person by thinking happier thoughts. You can make your life and your future better just by thinking happier thoughts. 3> Too many people believe that other people will make them happy. This is especially true for teenagers. So many of us think we will be happy if we can just hang out with the "right" group of people or if we can get the boyfriend or girlfriend we want. We also tend to think things will make us happy. We say we will be happy if we can get a certain outfit, pair of boots, new type of phone, or kind of car. We sometimes think we'll be happy if we make the best grades in the class, have the lead in a play, or are starters or high scorers on a sports team. I have to say to my fellow teenagers: this kind of thinking is just not right. True happiness doesn't depend on a certain group of friends, a boyfriend or girlfriend, a new phone, an outfit, or a car. These things might make us excited for a little while, but they cannot make us truly happy for a long while. Ultimately, happiness can only come from inside you. If you allow any of these other things to determine your happiness, you will always be let

down. The world is not perfect: people disappoint us, friends change or move, parents lose jobs, and bad things happen. Paul said in Philippians 4:12-13: I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.³ For several years, my family and I have traveled to the Dominican Republic on mission trips. I'll write more about that later, but for now I just want to say that when we go, we meet people who have nothing the world says is important, yet they are happy. Then I think about the TV show where a couple who won millions of dollars in a lottery was interviewed. This couple said it was the worst thing that had ever happened to them—the money just created a lot of stress. They said their whole family ended up fighting over the money and then lost it because they did not know how to manage it. I'm guessing that these people were not happy with what they had before they won the lottery, so it's not surprising that they weren't happy with more. Happiness is a choice—a choice to be joyful, no matter what the circumstance. This is something adults try to tell us, and I'll admit it: they're right. The only thing that can really make us happy is a relationship with God. If we know Him and do our best to do what His Word tells us to do, we will enjoy lifelong happiness. He knows exactly what we need in order to be truly happy, and He will lead us to those experiences if we seek Him, trust Him, and obey Him. We have to make a choice to have a relationship with Him. That's the best and most important choice we will ever make. It will not guarantee that we won't have hard times, but it will take us a long way toward a happy life. As teenagers, there are a lot of things you and I do not have control over. But we are 100 percent in control of the way we think, the way we feel, and the choices we make. We have the power to choose what we think, and what we think will determine the way we feel. Bible teacher Joyce Meyer says:

“Positive thinking doesn't just happen. It's something you have to do on purpose.”⁴ I always try to put positive things into my mind so that positive things will come out in my words and actions. Like other people, I do not always feel like being positive or happy. Sometimes it would be a lot easier to complain, but what good would that do me? Sure, sometimes it takes more effort to be happy than to be sad, but the result is worth the effort. We are naturally drawn to people who are positive and happy. When I see a positive person, I think they have their life figured out. They seem to have everything going on. I want to get to know those people because they have something I think is valuable: confidence and a happy, positive attitude. Negative people are no fun to be around and they certainly don't seem confident or together. If we hang out with positive people, their good attitudes will influence us, and we will become upbeat and happy

too. But like Joyce Meyer says, it will not just happen. We have to work on it every day. We have to choose to be positive, even when circumstances are negative. We have to choose to be happy, even when discouraging things come our way. If you are not in the habit of choosing to be happy, it may take some practice. But just keep working on it. You'll get there •and you'll be glad you did. 3> When I think about people who are truly happy, I have to mention my two sisters. At the time I'm writing this book, my little sister, Bella, is eleven years old. My older sister, Rebecca, is twenty-five. She came to live with our family in 2005 as an exchange student from Taiwan, and now she is just as much a part of our family as the rest of us. Bella is only in fifth grade, but I know a lot of fifth graders who already take life very seriously. Bella does not! She loves to laugh and play, and if she is involved in something, she is determined to make it a fun, happy experience for herself and for everyone else. She has a great sense of humor, which I think is very mature for her age. Unlike a lot of kids her age, she does not laugh at bathroom jokes or sarcastic comments about other people. She knows what is genuinely funny in a clean, wholesome way, and she can dish out that kind of humor like no eleven-year-old I have ever met. I think Bella's main goal in life right now is to put smiles on other people's faces. She just loves to make others happy; that's what she thinks about, so that's how she lives. And if a person's goal is to make others happy, then that person will definitely be happy too. Another thing Bella does is refuse to get upset over little things. Not long ago, one of her friends was mean to her and blocked her on Instagram. Instead of coming home from school that day pouting about the situation or being dramatic and feeling that no one liked her anymore, Bella simply said, "That was ridiculous. I mean, that was ree-diculous!" She could have easily been hurt or angry, but she was not. In fact, the whole incident really did not faze her. She is not the kind of person who lets other people's actions upset her, and that's a big reason she is so happy. Rebecca is one of those people who is cute and happy and bubbly almost all the time. She loves to laugh and to make others laugh, and she really enjoys telling jokes. The problem with her jokes is that they may be funny in her native language or in the country where she was raised, but they are not funny at all in English or in Louisiana! Here's one of her jokes: "One time a banana got hot and took off his coat and slipped." (Yep, that was the joke.) Here's another one: "Once there was a match that had an itchy head; he scratched it and caught himself on fire." Ha! See what I mean? The fact that the jokes are not funny ends up making Rebecca's attempts at humor kind of funny in their own way. We all laugh at her jokes just because she tries so hard to spread laughter around our family. Rebecca is strong and positive, and other people cannot help but be happy around her. I am so glad she

joined our family because just her presence makes me happy. While I'm thinking about happy people, I can't overlook my great-uncle Si. Seriously, he is the happiest, funniest, most positive person I know. I'm sure a lot of people my age cannot say they have a strong relationship with their great-uncle, but Uncle Si and I are very close. I like being around him as much as possible, because any time he is involved in anything, it's a guaranteed laugh. He has the ability to make anything fun and to see the humor in things that might be frustrating to other people. Recently, Uncle Si was duck hunting in very cold weather with Papaw Phil and my uncles. Suddenly, their boat began to sink. I was not there, but I heard the sinking boat brought out everyone's true personality. Papaw Phil took it like a man; he just stood there and watched while the boat sank and then walked very calmly through the water to the duck blind, even though he was about to freeze. My uncles were jumping around screaming, all shouting out different ways to fix the boat. And Uncle Si just laughed and told jokes while he watched the boat go down. One time something really sad happened to Uncle Si; his house was infested with termites. He and his wife, Christine, had lived in that house for a long time. It was home to them and they really loved it. The termites did a lot of damage to the house before Uncle Si realized it, so he and Christine had no choice but to move out before it fell down. Uncle Si's response to the situation was not, "Oh, poor me. I'm losing the house I've loved and lived in all these years." His response was, "Okay. We've got termites. We need to get a new house." So they moved into a new home, and they are very happy there. I know the reason Uncle Si handled this situation so well is that he does not let his circumstances determine his happiness. He is a happy person, no matter where he lives. He was happy in his old house, and all he had to do when he moved to the new house was take his happiness with him. And for Uncle Si, that was no problem at all!

3> Lots of little girls like the movie Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I was one of them. One of the songs in the movie is "Whistle While You Work." The lesson of the song is that work—whether it's homework or cleaning your room or a job in some kind of business—does not have to be boring or hard. It can be fun if you think of ways to make it fun. I have never been good at whistling, but I love to sing while I work. In fact, I have always turned my study guides into songs or raps to help me remember things. A lot of people think the job I have now—on Duck Dynasty—is really fun. They say they would do anything if they could be a television star. Being on TV is fun at times, but at other times it's hard work—just like anybody else's job. I can choose to be happy about it or to complain about it because I have to film instead of going out with my friends. I almost always decide to be cheerful about it, because that just makes life a whole lot easier than

being angry or disappointed. I guess I learned to be happy when I was very young and worked in my family's duck-call business. This was way before most people ever heard of Duck Commander. Serious hunters knew about my papaw Phil's company, but not many other people did. Even though the company was not the big business it is now, it took all of us in the family to make it successful—even me, when I was six or seven years old. When I was that age, my older brother, John Luke, and I worked for Duck Commander during the summers and at other times when we were not in school. Our cousins Reed and Cole (Jase and Missy's sons) worked with us. The four of us are very close in age. John Luke and Reed were born during the same year. About two years later, Cole and I were born within several months of each other. So all of us have grown up together, and now our two families live right across the street from each other. When all of us were young, we'd pile into someone's car and make the trip to Mamaw Kay (most people call her "Miss Kay") and Papaw Phil's house, which is about forty-five minutes from our house. In those days, my grandparents ran the Duck Commander business from their home. They had enough land to build a warehouse on their property, so that's where the boys and I went when we "went to work." We packed boxes, answered phones, and did everything else we could to fill orders for duck calls. The song "Hollaback Girl" was popular at that time, and we sang it often, calling it our "warehouse song." At the end of each day, Mamaw Kay gave us each five dollars. But those payments were not our greatest rewards. Our greatest rewards were all the good times we spent with our grandparents and the lessons we learned from them. Mamaw Kay and Papaw Phil did not have much money back then, and they definitely were not "famous" like they are today. But they were happy. The boys and I never questioned that. We saw our grandparents work really, really hard to make a small business successful. We saw them love God, love each other, and love our family. We knew from the time we were really young that these things are what make people truly happy. Mamaw Kay has been a happy person for as long as I can remember. She is the type of grandmother who always has a big hug for her grandchildren, who loves to teach us lessons from the Bible and important things about life, who makes us cookies or our favorite meal for no special reason, and who always sees the best in us. I don't mean she overlooks our faults or lets us get away with being disobedient. She never had any trouble punishing us when we were little (for example, if we argued in her house, we had to go outside until we could be nice to each other), but she is also quick to compliment us when we do well, and she tells us often how much she loves us. Papaw Phil has also been happy for as long as I can remember. I don't think a lot of people realize this about him because he comes across so

differently from Mamaw Kay. He is not one of those sweet, cuddly grandfathers who wraps you up in his arms and starts swinging you around when you go to see him. He's a man who is happy because he is totally comfortable with himself, and he has no need to impress anybody. He knows what he believes and he sticks to it, no matter what other people think. He tells the truth exactly as he sees it, and if people don't like it, that does not bother him. I have never seen him sad or shaken; he is solid. And he's happy. When I think about high school students like me and about all the drama that goes on because someone does not feel accepted by the popular group, I get really sad. Some students spend so much time being upset and disappointed, when they could spend that same amount of time doing what makes them happy and following their dreams instead of getting upset about what other people think. If we could all just take a lesson from Papaw Phil and accept ourselves even if others reject us, we would be a lot happier. People who can be who they are, and accept themselves as they are, are some of the strongest, happiest people in the world. My papaw Phil is definitely one of them! All of our family is happy because our happiness is not based on being on TV or on any of the things that come with it. Not that we never face struggles and not that we never get down about something, but underneath it all, we really are happy. Our happiness is based on loving God and knowing God loves us, and on loving each other. That's what makes us happy, happy, happy.

Now, I will admit that I don't watch Duck Dynasty. But this family does intrigue me, and when I saw that one of the kids was coming out with a book, I was interested. I do follow Sadie on Twitter, and watch her on Dancing with the Stars. I don't know, the kids just interest me more than the adults. But this was a fresh perspective in a world where teens are finding more and more bad role models. Maybe I was just curious about how someone so young could be so well-adjusted. But Sadie really is the real deal. In yesterday's US Weekly article about Sadie, they had a chart comparing her to Kendall Jenner. While I don't believe in comparisons, this does go to show you what a positive influence Sadie is. Sadie knows that people are going to be looking up to her, and also be looking for her to slip-up, and this shines forth in her words. Sadie's had her share of trials, but she keeps her head up. While some might think it isn't possible for someone to seem so... happy and unbothered, Sadie lets God and her faith shine through. The writing seemed a bit simple, although she's only 17. But the words were genuine and heartfelt. Sadie talks about issues that all girls/teens go through, but she doesn't do so in a preachy way. She talks straight from the heart. But she also does so with humor. I enjoyed the personal anecdotes and learning more about the other Duck Dynasty stars. Even though she's younger than me, I think Sadie is a great role model, and this

shows in the book. She speaks genuinely, from her heart, and with faith. I think this is a book that all teen girls need to read.

My 12 year old daughter LOVES this book!! And her 10 year old sister can't wait to get her hands on it. And I am thrilled my girls have such an awesome Christian example to follow!! Thanks Sadie!!!!

EVERY teenage girl needs to read this book. I admire Sadie for being the young lady that she is, and praise her parents for bringing her up that way. I watched (and rooted for her) on DWTS and was so proud how she stuck to her morals and didn't let the world around her change her. I wish all teenager girls looked up to her as a role model rather than some of the ones (Miley) that need to change their ways. Thank you, God, for a girl like that in this world. Gotta love Sadie Robertson! Good job Korie and Willie... they have to be so proud of their daughter.

This book may seem geared towards young girls, but this 42 year old women got a lot out of it. I really think boys would like this too because the same issues cross both sexes.

I have one of these books. I have hilited and made comments in the margins. I was going to give it to my 12 year old but I wanted to keep it for my library so I ordered another one for my 12 year old and another one for my 16 year old! I definitely recommend this it is geared towards teens but I got a lot from the book myself and I am 35! I just wish I could get a signed copy!!

Fabulous book for any teenage girl! I originally picked it up for my niece who had been going thru a rough time with friends at school. I picked a copy up for myself too and really enjoyed it! Wish I had something similar when I was a teenager. There's so many great helpful tips!

I would recommend this book to anyone. Moms should read this with their daughters and friends should read it together. It gave me a new outlook on life (I'm 23 in graduate school) and taught me how to live life more positive, encouraging and confident!

Two granddaughters loved the books, keep praying for the other two.

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