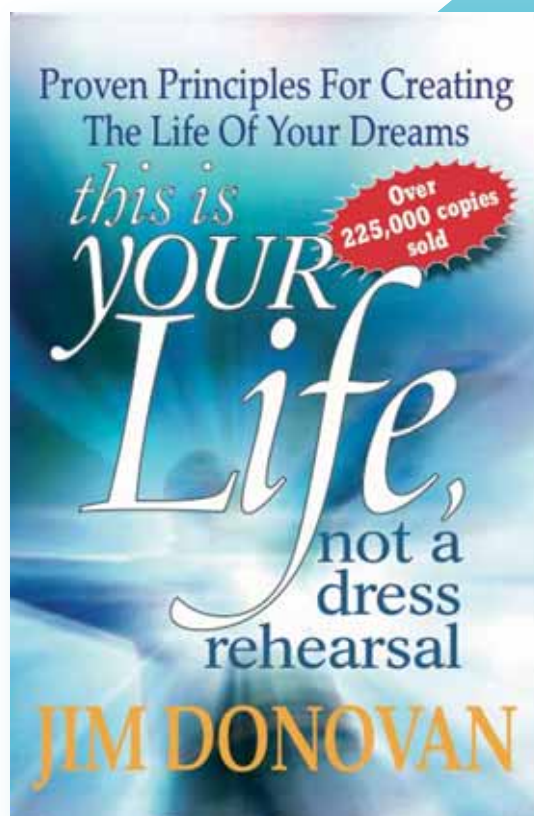


# Exclusive interview with Jim Donovan



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**bestselling author of *This is Your Life, Not a Dress Rehearsal*.**

**NO LIMITS:** How did you get started as a writer?

**JD:** This was quite by accident, if you believe in such things. I was in the process of putting my life back together and owned a small marketing and advertising agency in New York, creating brochure, newsletter and advertising copy and such, for small business clients.

While this was great for the business, I wasn't really writing what I wanted to write so, one day while my (now) wife was out and I was sitting at the computer, I started writing about some of the ideas that were helping me change my life. Ideas I wanted to share with friends.

I named it "Jim's Jems," sent it to various people and posted it on AOL and CompuServe. This was in 1991, pre-internet. Much to my surprise, several people wrote back that they enjoyed what I had written and that it helped them. I started getting email for all over the world, a real novelty back in '91. That was all the encouragement I needed so I kept doing it and still do to this day. This was the start of what was to become a whole new chapter (pun

intended) in my life. Little did I know, at that time, where it would lead me.

**NO LIMITS:** Why do you do what you do?

**JD:** Over the years, I've accepted the fact that I have a talent for communicating and my writing seems to be inspire people. For me, this is the most important work I could do. As a matter of fact, I don't consider it work at all. I really enjoy writing and knowing that my books are helping people create a better life for themselves. I love sharing ideas and strategies that have helped me since I know they will help anyone who uses them.

**NO LIMITS:** What makes Jim Donovan tick? What gets you going?

**JD:** Great question! Lots of things—especially learning new things and sharing that with people. I really love that I am having a positive impact on people around the world. For a guy with relatively no formal education who spent a lot of years, as one reporter called it, "aimlessly wandering," it blows my mind where I am now. This really attests to the fact that the ideas in

my books will work for anyone, because that's how I got where I am. I live the principles I teach and have been doing so for over two decades and I've watched as my life continues to expand and become more amazing.

**NO LIMITS:** Why do you feel people in Australia will want to read your work?

**JD:** I've always felt a connection to the Australian people, at least the one's I've met over the years. They tend to be up-front with people and have a great sense of humour. I try not to take myself too seriously and I think the Australians are a lot like that, too.

I also feel people there are ready to start believing in themselves more and living their dreams. This is becoming evident with the emergence of all the Australian products making their way here in the US and everywhere around the world. And, people in Australia have always seemed to connect with my writing. I have a lot of Australians on my Jim's Jems newsletter list.

As a matter of fact, one of the first comments I received about my book came from a teenager in Sydney. She wrote to say that, "because she read my book, her life would be different." That was 10 years ago and I still get emotional whenever I retell that story. To be able to have a positive impact on a young person, a half a world away, that gets me going.

**NO LIMITS:** What do you feel is the biggest obstacle people face?

**JD:** Their own beliefs. We all doubt ourselves way too much. I see people, time after time, start thinking about a goal or a dream and within seconds, they start undoing it by questioning their own ability. You never know what you're capable of until you go for it. I used to have a sign on my desk that read, "If you don't do it, you'll never know what would have happened if you had done it."

**NO LIMITS:** You write about responsibility. Why is that important?

**JD:** So many people get stuck trying to place blame for whatever happens to them. It's always someone or some institutions fault. While this may seem like a good way to escape responsibility, it really takes your power away. Unless and until you take total responsibility for your life, you are powerless to do anything about it. The really, really cool thing is that as soon as you are willing to "own your stuff," you have the power to change it.

Once I accept my situation, whatever it may be, I can start doing something about it but if I continue to place blame or live in denial, I'm stuck there.

**NO LIMITS:** What about goals. Why do we need them?

**JD:** Like the Cheshire cat said to Alice in Alice in Wonderland, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." I would ask, "If you don't know where you're going, how will you know when you've arrived?"

So many people are unhappy and living lives, as Thoreau said, "Of quiet desperation," mainly because they've never taken the time to think about and clearly define what it is they want in their lives. I know, I was one of them until, after I hit my bottom and started climbing back up, I decided I wanted more out of my life. I started studying everything I could get my hands on in the personal growth field and still do. The amazing thing I noticed over the years is that the more I applied these principle, the better my life got and the happier I was and am.

**NO LIMITS:** If you could give just one piece of advise to the next generation, what would that be?

**JD:** Realize that you are living during most exciting time on this planet. Within reason, there's nothing that you cannot be, do or have in your life. Nothing!

All you need do is start defining what that looks like, start creating a vision of your "ideal" life in all areas. Then, challenge any limiting beliefs that get in your way and "move confidently in the direction of your dreams," as Mr. Thoreau also said.

We live in an abundant Universe and that there's more than enough for everyone. Only engage in things that are a win for everyone involved.

Make a life-long commitment to learning and stretching yourself. Treat everyone you meet as though they were the most important person in the world—in their mind they are. Make this a practice and you'll have more friends, and more people who want to help you succeed, than you could ever imagine.

"Within you is the power to change your life." Now go and create the life you were born to live.

Be well and God bless you.