

Summary of the Book Talk on
Plastic Ocean: How a Sea Captain's Chance Discovery Launched a Determined Quest to Save
the Oceans By Captain Charles Moore
Submitted by Denise Post

Below are my notes taken during the book talk.

1. Under what scenario (political, social and economic systems) could recycling become the solution to plastic pollution?

If what we have read is accurate, then recycling isn't a viable solution to the plastic problem. Even now China is refusing our recycled goods and many are going to the landfills. At the end of his book, Capt. Moore suggests using a 4th R, Refuse. Refuse to use plastics whenever possible. This may be the best message to go forward with.

2. Can modern design and production innovations make zero waste more than aspirational?

Local sourced goods would need less packaging, but the cost of producing innovative packaging may keep the designs from becoming viable solutions. The alternative is to support zero waste companies.

3. When and how can personal solutions to plastic pollution i.e. lowering one's plastic footprint, translate into a true global solution to plastic pollution?

It would need to be many people working together to send the message.

4. Will crises forever be the driver of fundamental economic, political and social change?
If so, what will be the crisis with plastic pollution that forces radical change?

Health. We are becoming plastic people. At this point, there is no direct link to health issues and the plastic so we do not see the direct effects. Without direct effects it is difficult to influence people to change. We need a new human solidarity

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5. While reading Plastic Ocean, recall one or two details that were new and/or interesting to you.

I had never heard of “nurdles”, so this was a new term to me. I now know that nurdles are the preformed plastic pellets that will be used to make all plastic items. These proliferate in the ocean and on many beaches. These nurdles have been proven to accumulate chemical pollutants on their surface, making them even more harmful to animals that eat them.

Plastic in my conditioner. I had no idea that my liquid hair conditioner had plastic within it.

6. Is there an organization, conference, or event involving plastic pollution that you're involved with or that interests you?

I teach STEM in an elementary school. We have followed Boyan Slatt and his efforts to design an ocean cleanup device.

7. For those of you who are Planet Stewards educators working or planning a stewardship project - does your project involve plastic pollution? If so, how? How will the students be involved?

I am not a planet Steward educator.

Some links and suggestions:

Creation of gyre Surfrider organization

The story of plastic - Earth day on Discovery Channel

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