

## **Megan Moore - Half a Million Secrets Speech Coverage**

LONG BEACH, California — “Secrets can take many forms — they can be shocking, or silly, or soulful,” said Frank Warren in a TEDTalk in March 2012.

Warren’s TEDTalk focused on the double nature of secrets, especially those shared anonymously. They are both vulnerable yet freeing, deeply personal yet strikingly universal.

Warren is the founder of the popular website [PostSecret.com](http://PostSecret.com) where viewers are invited to send in anonymous notes on postcards that contain secrets they have never told anyone else.

Warren read some of the half-million secrets that have been shared with him over the years. The soulful confessions ranged from tender to sobering.

“I found these stamps as a child, and I have been waiting all my life to have someone to send them to. I never did have someone,” said the first secret, written on an old green postcard covered in stamps.

Silence swept across the large auditorium as this first peek into an anonymous mind was revealed.

“Everyone who knew me before 9/11 believes I’m dead,” said another. The audience was chillingly silent at this secret.

The genius of a site like PostSecret is that it’s easier to share something personal to strangers. Being open and straightforward is not as hard when the person receiving the information doesn’t know you.

Warren realized this in 2004 when he had a crazy idea to distribute self addressed postcards to people on the streets of Washington D.C., asking them to share their secrets with him. [PostSecret.com](http://PostSecret.com) was born soon after.

Not all the secrets were sad. Many were humorous and had the audience laughing.

“I give decaf to customers who are RUDE to me,” said a cheeky confession written in permanent marker on a Starbucks hot cup sleeve. This secret was met with laughter and applause from the audience as Warren continued on with his talk.

From marriage proposals to unused suicide notes, PostSecret has demonstrated people’s need to have their voice heard.

People anonymously share the deepest and darkest parts of themselves with Warren. The viewers who read the posted secrets then can use them and apply them in their own life experience.

“They can connect us to our deepest humanity or with people who we will never meet,” said Warren.

To end his speech, Warren played a voicemail posted by a young girl from her grandmother who has now passed away. In the touching voicemail, the grandmother sings happy birthday to her granddaughter and tells her how much she loves her.

“When people I love leave voicemails on my phone I always save them incase they die tomorrow and I have no other way of hearing their voice ever again,” said the secret.

The TEDTalk demonstrated that secrets can impact many lives. The allure of the PostSecret website is that the viewer can find camaraderie in finding out others share the same secrets as them.

“Secrets can remind us of the countless human dramas of frailty and heroism, playing out silently in the lives of people all around us, even now,” said Warren.