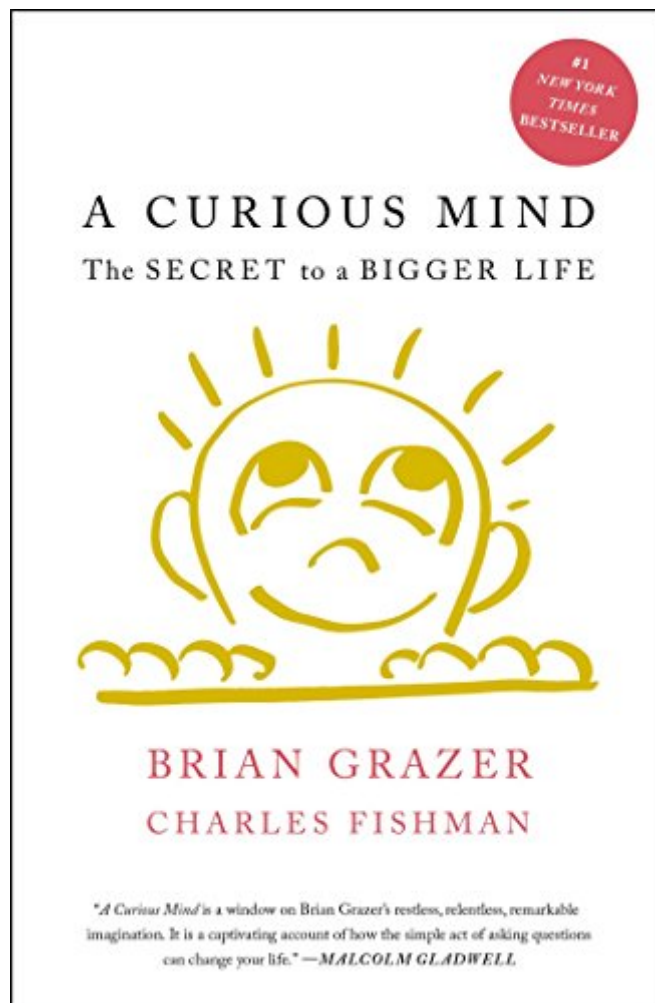




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# A Curious Mind: The Secret To A Bigger Life



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author and Oscar® winning producer Brian Grazer has written a brilliantly entertaining and eye-opening exploration of curiosity and the life-changing effects it can have on every person's life. From Academy Award® winning producer Brian Grazer, New York Times bestseller *A Curious Mind* offers a brilliant peek into the "curiosity conversations" that inspired him to create some of the world's most iconic movies and television shows. He shows how curiosity has been the "secret" that fueled his rise as one of Hollywood's leading producers and creative visionaries, and how all of us can channel its power to lead bigger and more rewarding lives. Grazer has spent most of his life exploring curiosity through what he terms "curiosity conversations" with some of the most interesting people in the world, including spies, royals, scientists, politicians, moguls, Nobel laureates, artists, anyone whose story might broaden his worldview. These discussions sparked the creative inspiration behind many of his movies and TV shows, including *Splash*, *24*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Apollo 13*, *Arrested Development*, *8 Mile*, *J. Edgar*, *Empire*, and many others. *A Curious Mind* is not only a fascinating page-turner, it also offers a blueprint for how we can awaken our own curiosity and use it as a superpower in our lives. Whether you're looking to strengthen your management style at work, uncover a new source of creativity, or become a better romantic partner, this book and its lessons on the power of curiosity can change your life.

## Book Information

File Size: 2321 KB

Print Length: 321 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (April 7, 2015)

Publication Date: April 7, 2015

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B00LJXK23C

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #15,942 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Self-Help > Creativity #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Business & Money > Management & Leadership > Decision-Making & Problem Solving #51 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers

## Customer Reviews

I had no idea who Brian Grazer was before seeing an interview with him promoting A Curious Mind. After hearing the concept and realizing how prominent he is in the entertainment industry I was really interested to read this book. Overall it is an easy read and definitely worth it. The interviews Grazer has done are absolutely fascinating. He only really shares maybe 10-15% of them in detail and most are with people that are completely inaccessible to regular society; such as multiple US Presidents, Fidel Castro, Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger, Oprah Winfrey, etc. Some are people that I wasn't aware of (but probably should have been) such as the scientist who invented the atomic bomb and a South American woman activist who was held captive for more than a month by the government and lived to tell about the torture she endured and the tyrant dictator responsible. All of them made me want to learn more. Grazer also shares a good amount about his life, his work and his thought process behind the "curiosity" interviews. These were all interesting topics but unfortunately he gets a little redundant throughout the book. I only needed to be told about his box office successes once not every other chapter. He does make a really great argument for the intellectual side of curiosity and how undervalued it is. I just would have preferred if there was one chapter dedicated to his life, and another at the end with what he wants to teach the reader around the importance and power curiosity can hold. My only other slightly negative feeling was that I really wanted to read more of Grazer's interviews in detail. The end of the book lists pages and pages of names he has met over the past 20 years. There are so many intriguing people it was almost disappointing not to get more. (i.e. Steve Jobs, Howard Stern, Mark Cuban, Jay Z just to name a few). Hopefully he has another edition in the works!

I had high expectations for this but was disappointed. 44% of the book is taken up by a list of people Grazer spoke to, acknowledgements, author biographies and an index. I feel ripped off. Grazer says he didn't want the book to be about "his" curiosity but about what curiosity can do as a tool in all our lives. It would have been instructive for him to provide a few examples making the connection between a curiosity conversation and a decision he made and the impact on his life. There is a lot of

philosophizing about the power of curiosity.... I'd prefer a little less tell, a little more show.

“I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.”—Albert Einstein It really started with grandma Schwartz. In Brian Grazer’s book, *A Curious Mind/The Secret to a Bigger Life* (2015), he writes about the influence of one ancestor early in his life who invited him to believe, in spite of learning challenges empirically supported by bad grades in school, that he was a “genius” and asked “good questions.” At a public interview with journalist and author Malcolm Gladwell in New York earlier this year (92YPlus, 2015), Grazer shared an early memory when he was driving with his grandmother in a convertible when a bee landed in the car. He asked her, “What do you think goes faster, grandma, a bee or a car?” She responded it was a brilliant question and reminded him that he always asks very good questions. His grandmother, he says, gave him a sense of intellectual validity within his world of dyslexia, not provided him in school. Thanks to his grandmother, he never stopped asking questions. Grazer reveals that he was always curious as a young person, and it served him early after graduating from the University of Southern California when trying to determine what he was going to do until he could get into law school. He overheard a conversation outside his window between two young men, one of who said he had just left a law clerk position at Warner Brothers. Grazer makes the call (thereby creating an opportunity) about a position he assumed would be open, and asked if he could apply. They said yes, he did, and he got the position, which, it turns out, consisted of him delivering “important papers” to “important people” in the movie business. This began his connection to movie making, and ignited his curiosity about people in the entertainment industry, their motives, and their own ideas of creativity. Grazer’s moments of serendipity continued later after he had produced some TV shows. He first saw TV’s Ron Howard from the sitcom “Happy Days,” again, outside of a window, and called out to him asking if he they could meet. Howard agreed. And they’ve been partners for over 30 years, Howard as director, and Grazer as producer. Together they have created some of the most successful and important films of the last 25 years: *Night Shift*, *Splash*, *Apollo 13*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *Beautiful Mind* (2015). In total these films have won Oscars and earned more than \$13 billion at the box office. Money aside, Grazer said in his New York interview with Gladwell, the most successful movie for him personally was “Beautiful Mind” because he set an intention to make a movie that would de-stigmatize mental illness; from the feedback he has receive from professionals in the mental health industry, as well as people he his own industry, he knows he was successful. Grazer shares in his book he realized early in his professional life the movie business

was built on ideas. He decided to set a goal to meet one new person in the entertainment business every day. He called them "curiosity conversations" (2015). He only asked for five minutes of their time, and made sure they knew he wasn't looking for a job (2015). This book is the result of 35 years of curiosity. He said his conversations were successful because he was an active listener, who did little talking, and had low expectations. These weren't discussions with anticipated outcomes, but dialogue that revealed a platform for creativity, and ideas, to emerge. This book is a valuable read to discover not only the back-stories, and insights from many talented and successful people, but also to learn how they pursued their own whispers of curiosity to follow ideas into manifestations, people like Steve Jobs, Princess Diana, Jonas Salk, Henry Kissinger, Norman Mailer, and Andy Warhol. As Grazer writes in his book and illustrates with his experiences, "Life isn't about finding the answers, it's about asking the questions" (2015).  
Malcolm Gladwell with Brian Grazer: Genius and Curiosity  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSQjzHx-Wkc>

I was going to give a copy to my granddaughter, but the book contains too few facts that illustrates the benefits of a Curious Mind.

I'd recommend this as an article - the main point is clear but the personal path to obtaining and utilizing curiosity is simple and obvious yet the author repeats this - attempting but failing to provide additional perspective - over and over and...

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