

[PDF] Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear

Elizabeth Gilbert

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Elizabeth Gilbert : Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear:

1487 of 1520 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly powerful. By LadybugTalk about receiving the right message at the right time. Wow. Big Magic is one of the most honest discussions about the creative process that I've ever read. Gilbert strikes a playful and conversational tone, but make no mistake, this is all straight talk. Her no-BS attitude helps do away with the unrealistic expectations and unnecessary melodrama attached to the concept of "creative living" (like how she so expertly pish-poshes the "tormented artist" ideal). And in its place, she asks all people who feel called to create (writers, painters, musicians, ice skaters, WHATEVER) to quietly and

joyfully accept their creative inclinations and ideas as gifts from the universe. She reminds them to approach their creativity with curiosity and openness, with playfulness and joy; even when it's tough, even when there is no Pulitzer, no bestseller list, no Olympic medal, no call from the Met. Own that creativity, she encourages. Also, stay light with it. This was the message I (apparently) desperately needed to hear. I'm a stay-at-home mom with three young children. And when people ask me what I do, that is what I always tell them. But that isn't what I want to tell them. What I want to tell them; what I want to shout from the rooftops, in fact; is that I'm a writer. Sure, barely anyone reads what I write, I've never been published, and it probably goes without saying that I've never been paid for a single sentence. In other words, no one really gets anything out of my work but me. But I love it, straight up. So I keep writing, regardless. Yet it feels weird to declare yourself "A Something" when that something doesn't earn you money or status or likes or hits or retweets. Which means even though this side-passion feels so authentically "me," I hide it so people won't think I'm a loser, an imposter, a wannabe, an embarrassment, a failure; and the list goes on. I guess this reality had been bumming me out more than I realized, because when I read the following words, they resonated with me in an unimaginably powerful and loving way--like I was receiving a cosmic hug: "Shake yourself free of all your cumbersome ideas about what you require in order to become 'creatively legitimate'; You do not need a permission slip from the principal's office to live a creative life. Or if you do worry that you need a permission slip; THERE, I just gave it to you; Now go make something." In other words, Gilbert's message is this: accept that you need to create. Accept that this is a part of you, that you are ALREADY "creatively legitimate." And just do what you naturally feel compelled to do. Do it with joy; even when it gets difficult; and don't worry about how it will be received (if it's received at all). If you are called to be a maker, then you will just have to make. Own who you are, for better or worse. So that's what I'm doing from now on. I'm owning it. This is me stating my intent: Hello, world. My name is Ladybug. I am a writer. 239 of 258 people found the following review helpful. "Holy Crap, Elizabeth!!" By Heather LaRee I've hit my happy... stride in this book... when reading a book that I absolutely don't want to stop... I want to keep seeing flashing neon lights framed around the BIG MAGICAL WORDS that spells, "YES YES YES YES YES!" Thankfully, I'm also in the section where Gilbert reminds and affirms that LIFE doesn't always abide to how and what we want when we want it... but she also encourages that... if we are faithful lovers, that magical "IT" won't leave us either. So, I have 100 pages remaining, but am SO pumped and happy that I have this snippet of time to WRITE... a review. If you're passionate about your writing, your art, your whatever-makes-your-precious-heart-sing be happy... I highly recommend Gilbert's book -- this one. For if you've stalled, set down, given up, cried privately, wondered if it's just too freaking late for you to be the artist, the receiver, a creator, because of the other practical life... here is an experienced wayshower who calls your bluff, your whatever you've told yourself why you can't. She's been rejected (tons), she's kept her day jobs, she's continued through deserts of unknown, silence, angst, doubt, about "the work"... and she's laying it out for us/me/you/your offspring/your friend... find your way. Find it. Because it IS there (patiently waiting, playing, whistling, digging in the sand with its toes) and it's probably not quite how you've framed it (if you've stalled). I am feeling this is my "eat, pray, love writing" book. Thank you, Elizabeth (and I adored your comment, "Are you finished with that?" Thank you again ~370 of 406 people found the following review helpful. One creative's engaging and personal take on how to live a more joyous and creative everyday life. By IRG Given the success of her earlier works, it's probably no surprise that Gilbert has now entered the self-help book genre. I can easily see how her editors and publishers might have pushed her along this path and into creating this book. It's not without merit but it's one of those things where it might never have seen the light had it NOT been written by a best-selling author who does intersperse her thoughts with her real-life experience with the challenges of the creative process and who has the creds to speak with authority. Your response to this book is likely to be based as much on how many books/articles you've read on the topic of creativity rather than on what the author actually puts forth here--or your personal feelings about her life. If you've read a lot already, you'll know that there isn't necessarily anything "new" here on the subject but rather, as always, some clever packaging and a unique POV--and, as you'd expect of a good writer, some memorable quotes. What may keep you more interested are the various personal insights Gilbert offers on her own life and its creative path. She is honest about the difficulties and that alone helps "ground" her book and give it the credibility it needs to be a true inspiration. Big Magic is one of those titles that turned me off and not on. It's only the subtitle that drew me in: Creative Living Beyond Fear. Yes, that's the thing about creativity. It requires risks and comfort with the unknown. Fear is the killer and the dragon we must face to shape our best lives. If you come away with nothing more than a bit less fear about living your daily life as you would like, then the book is worth your time. Sometimes it's not about one's career or writing a book or screenplay or achieving world fame or success. Sometimes it's just about getting all the joy and juice out of an average day and life. All inspiration is personal and subjective. If Gilbert's work has "spoken" to you, you're likely to both enjoy and benefit from her insights from her journey. Clearly she has been living a creative life on many levels.

The instant #1 NEW YORK TIMES Bestseller Named a Hot Fall Read by USA Today, Vanity Fair, Newsday, & O

Magazine, thenbsp;Seattle Times, Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Mashable, Pop Sugar, and the San Antonio Express-NewsNamed a Best Book of the Year by Brainpickings and Book Riot"A must read for anyone hoping to live a creative life... I dare you not to be inspired to be brave, to be free, and to be curious.rdquo; mdash;PopSugarFrom the worldwide bestselling author of Eat Pray Love: the path to the vibrant, fulfilling life yoursquo;ve dreamed of. nbsp; Readers of all ages and walks of life have drawn inspiration and empowerment from Elizabeth Gilbert's books for years. Now this beloved author digs deep into her own generative process to share her wisdom and unique perspective about creativity. With profound empathy and radiant generosity, she offers potent insights into the mysterious nature of inspiration. She asks us to embrace our curiosity and let go of needless suffering. She shows us how to tackle what we most love, and how to face down what we most fear. She discusses the attitudes, approaches, and habits we need in order to live our most creative lives. Balancing between soulful spirituality and cheerful pragmatism, Gilbert encourages us to uncover the ldquo;strange jewelsrdquo; that are hidden within each of us. Whether we are looking to write a book, make art, find new ways to address challenges in our work, nbsp;embark on a dream long deferred, or simply infuse our everyday lives with more mindfulness and passion, Big Magic cracks open a world of wonder and joy.From the Hardcover edition.

Praise for "Eat Pray Love" Gilbert s prose is fueled by a mix of intelligence, wit and colloquial exuberance that is close to irresistible. Jennifer Egan, "The New York Times Book " A meditation on love in its many forms her extraordinary journey lets even the most cynical reader dare to dream. "Los Angeles Times" Praise for "The "Signature of All Things" A bracing homage to the many natures of genius and the inevitable progress of ideas, in a world that reveals its best truths to the uncommonly patient minds. Barbara Kingsolver, "The New York Times Book " Raucously ingenious "Signature" is not just a historical novel that spans two centuries and many geographies. It s a 500-page novel of ideas I found unshackled joy on every page. -- "The Chicago Tribune" A delightful book one of the best of the year Gilbert marries the technical, cultural and spiritual with a warm, frankly funny wit that adds richness to all three. All Things Considered, NPR "Praise for "Big Magic: " An empathetic and inspiring guide to mustering the courage to live a creative life. Nearly anyone who picks up this self-help manual should finish it feeling inspired, even if only to dream of a life without limits. "Publisher's Weekly" (starred review) Praise for "Eat Pray Love" Gilbert s prose is fueled by a mix of intelligence, wit and colloquial exuberance that is close to irresistible. Jennifer Egan, "The New York Times Book " A meditation on love in its many forms her extraordinary journey lets even the most cynical reader dare to dream. "Los Angeles Times" "About the AuthorElizabeth Gilbert is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of "Eat Pray Love" and several other internationally bestselling books of fiction and nonfiction. Gilbert began her career writing for "Harper's Bazaar," "Spin, The New York Times Magazine" and "GQ," and was a three-time finalist for the National Magazine Award. Her story collection "Pilgrims" was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway award; "The Last American Man" was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The follow-up memoir "Committed" became an instant #1 "New York Times "bestseller. Her latest novel, "The Signature of All Things," was named a Best Book of 2013 by "The New York Times, O Magazine, The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune," and "The New Yorker." Gilbert s short fiction has appeared in "Esquire, Story, One Story, "and the" Paris ."