

The Creative Brain: The Science of Genius

Nancy C. Andreasen

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Shakespeare's tragic plays, Mozart's sublime symphonies, Einstein's revolutionary theories--how did these geniuses create such magnificent and highly original works? Were their brains different from those of ordinary people? Using modern neuroscience together with first-person accounts of creative breakthroughs from artists and scientists such as Mozart, Henri Poincaré, and Neil Simon, *The Creative Brain* illuminates where extraordinary creativity comes from.

Acclaimed brain scientist Nancy Andreasen proposes that, due to enriched connections between certain areas of the brain, geniuses are able to tap into the unconscious mind in ways that most of us can't. She also explores the link between creativity and mental illness, and she shows how all of us can enhance our creative potential through mental exercises. Clearly and accessibly written, *The Creative Brain* is a fascinating investigation into the mystery of human genius.

The Creative Brain: The Science of Genius Details


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Author : Nancy C. Andreasen

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From Reader Review The Creative Brain: The Science of Genius for online ebook

Mylah says

Interesting enough to enjoy and finish. Not necessarily a must read.

Benjamin Conlon says

"The Creating Brain: The Neuroscience of Genius" written by Nancy C. Andreasen medical doctor and physician is a detailed novel that covers widely the basis of the human brain and its development through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The book not only mentions the primitive functions of the brain but the individual creative qualities that each brain consists of and what sets of breakthroughs constantly occur in various fields such as the arts and science primarily. This novel assiduously introduces differences between documented ordinary and extraordinary creativity and how dependent factors including social/physical environment, education, and involvement in the arts/sciences have as one on the effect of the marveling human mind. Topics such as networks of the brain, associations between the frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital lobes, and neurons of the brain are all intricately mentioned consistently in the book. Highlighted in the anatomy of the brain the mind is broken down formally into the left and right hemispheres of the brain which further split into cortex's that are responsible for memorable functions such as spatial/physical perception and visual/cognitive perception.

Proven through Nancy's studies the brain can only be observed through statistics and consistent trial and error study. Creativity bound in the mind cannot be determined definitely in considering the great lack of scientific evidence and the unfamiliarity of what is premeditated in the brain and how it reacts so spontaneously. We can make predictions and theory's implying what we do have knowledge of to evaluate new questions and answers. The author in repetition places recollection on some of the great minds of the 19th and 18th century polymaths and musicians referencing Wolfgang Mozart, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Issac Newton, and Benjamin Franklin. The author having prior knowledge of the error haven been a literature major before studying the vast sciences spoke of the connection between increased amount of mental creativity with mental illness ranging from mood disorders, bipolar, or anxiety or depression. It i was said that the catalyst of their creativity was in some means an effect of their mental illness. Genetics and brain plasticity our used to determine heritable traits and the effect these traits have on the manifest of the brain.

I would strongly recommend this book to readers who are interested in the brain/life sciences or the in neurological sciences preferably. Accounting age i believe that readers ranging from 14+ can comprehend the information being shared.

Othman says

a very interesting read

♥ Ibrahim ♥ says

This is a book that has been reading so easily with such engaging clarity and charming flow. It's written for you and me by an author who actually writes impressive textbooks published by Oxford. The book makes me pause and think and inspires me with many ideas for side subjects to consider. I like how she began her book with something along the lines of the intellectual adventures of the early man, and man finding that creative spark wherever he or she went.

Metin Tiryaki says

Beyinle pek alakas? yok, dahiler ve yarat?c?l?k üzerine yaz?lm?? bir kitap.

Tim Gannon says

Written by a psychiatrist who has also spent much time doing research - explores the subject of creativity both historically and current - goes over the relationship between creativity and mood disorders/schizophrenia - looks at nature vs nurture - even how to define creativity - goes over neuroimaging data on the subject - even the effect of lithium on creativity - discusses personality and cognitive characteristics of creative geniuses - neuroplasticity is touched on - it was quite interesting - it ends with her suggestions on how to improve creativity in your own life, children and society.

Sharon says

I found this book to be thin on substance and a bit fragmented in its focus - or at least the focus that the title implies. It's a meandering discourse of various historical attempts to understand creativity. The author's own research seems thin, too, when compared with the rigorous studies conducted by other neuroscientists.

Tu?ay Ilyaso?lu says

Yeni hic bir sey soylemeyen, sadece 1 cumle ile ozetlenebilecek, yazarin bol bol kendini ovdugu kitap.

Mark says

One of the oddities of the exploding field of brain science is that very few researchers are exploring the one area that arguably makes us most human -- our creativity. Part of the reason is that it's devilishly difficult to measure and to assess.

Nancy Andreasen, a University of Iowa professor and a pioneer of brain research, is one of the small group that continues to explore the creative urge.

This book is a good overview of what she knows about creativity both from self-reports by highly creative people and from the studies she has done, largely using authors who participate in the renowned Iowa Writers Workshop.

Andreasen also is one of the few to rigorously explore the connection between high levels of creativity and mental illness, and she has found that highly creative people, and many of their relatives, do have a greater propensity to suffer from mood disorders, particularly mania and depression. On the other hand, she notes that almost all the authors and others she has interviewed note that they are at their least creative when they are sick, and so she doesn't make the mistake of lauding insanity as a sort of template for achieving great work.

The book also contains good primers on brain organization and function, and in the end, some practical suggestions for how we can all promote more creative thinking in ourselves and our children (among the ideas: spend a half hour a day deeply exploring a new subject you know nothing about; or spend an equal amount of time letting your mind "wander" without outside distraction). Ideas like these are based on the finding that our brains remain plastic and capable of rewiring throughout our lives, and on evidence that creative people have their strongest activity in the "associative" areas of the brain that link different functional sectors together. "The key thing," she writes, "is to let your mind wander freely and to go to 'that place' where ideas and images rise to the surface from unconscious or preconscious sources, form or float or fly, ultimately colliding and connecting to create novel associations that cannot occur easily through consciously willed 'brute force' cogitation."

Heather says

Thoughtful examination of what we know and what we might want to know about creativity, including how to foster it in ourselves and our children.

Onur Çukur says

If you want to know what neuroscience is and what it can do this book is the basic guide for you.

Jenny says

The topic was very intriguing unfortunately, this was not a well presented book. The writing was not engaging and the book was sprinkled with these annoying parenthetical side comments like blah blah blah (but Michelangelo was also born from a middle class family too!) blah blah blah brain etc.

I guess I was just not amused by these comments and some of the suggestions she makes in the end are such no brainers (ha!) that it's almost pathetic that people have to be told. My guess is that people that are reading that book, esp a book on the brain probably don't need to be told not to expose their children to too much TV.

There are some interesting facts that are presented, but overall, it was uninteresting.

Ade Bailey says

This book reads deceptively simply. She is a genius writer herself, and there is more to the words than the voices of a neuroscientist, psychiatrist, PhD literature scholar and lover of those very words she weaves into a transparent shimmer that is, like the brain, wider than the sky and not even in the same universe as the sum of its earth bound parts.

Emna says

Average. Just general facts about giftedness, creativity, with examples of famous 'highly creative' people. I was expecting more medical details, such as: are there medical proofs for a different functioning of creative/gifted individuals? But the book is more kind of literature-style than medical-scientific one...

Benjamin Conlon says

"The Creating Brain: The Neuroscience of Genius" written by Nancy C. Andreasen medical doctor and physician is a detailed novel that covers widely the basis of the human brain and its development through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The book not only mentions the primitive functions of the brain but the individual creative qualities that each brain consists of along with what sets of breakthroughs constantly reoccur in various fields such as the arts and science primarily. This novel assiduously introduces differences between documented ordinary and extraordinary creativity and how dependent factors including social/physical environment, education, and involvement in the arts/sciences has an affect on the marveling human mind.

I felt that the book was relevant and straightforward when it came to describing the human brain. Nancy felt positive about the decades of neuroscience through the advancing technology that given us new resources to generate new methods and study's to evaluate the brain in itself. Haven that been said I felt negatively about how she reference unfamiliar literature while teaching about the brain. This book met expectation because it explained the functions as well as structures of the brain accurately. I have learned an abundance of the brains anatomy, function, and processes through reading this book I would strongly recommend this book to readers who are interested in the brain/life sciences or the in neurological sciences . Accounting age I believe that readers ranging from 14+ can comprehend the information being shared.
