

Big Magic

Elizabeth Gilbert

A discussion guide for the Simple Scrapper Book Club.

QUOTE // p. 9 - "When I refer to "creative living," I am speaking more broadly. I'm talking about living a life that is driven more strongly by curiosity than fear."

QUESTION // Q1. What fears do you face as a scrapbooker?

QUOTE // p. 23 - "I believe that creativity is a force of enchantment - not entirely human in its origins."

QUESTION // Q2. Do you believe there is a mystical or spiritual aspect to ideation and creative inspiration?

QUOTE // p. 73 - "Sometimes I grope around in the dark, desperately looking for magical creative stimulus, and all I come up with something that feels like a damp washcloth."

QUESTION // Q3. Does this ever happen to you? What are the ways in which you seek inspiration and come up empty.

QUOTE // p. 86 - "You do not need anybody's permission to live a creative life."

QUOTE // p. 89 - "Are you considering becoming a creative person? Too late, you already are one. To even call somebody "a creative person" is almost laughably redundant; creativity is the hallmark of our species."

QUESTION // Q4. Do you see yourself as a creative person?

QUOTE // p. 110 - "No matter how great your teachers may be, and no matter how esteemed your academy's reputation, eventually you will have to do the work by yourself."

QUESTION // Q5. Have you ever sought out more education to avoid doing the work?

QUOTE // p. 117 - "Every time you express a complaint about how difficult and tiresome it is to be creative, inspiration takes another step away from you, offended."

QUESTION // Q6. Do you think we (collectively) complain too much about our struggles in scrapbooking?

QUOTE // p. 150 - "Because if you love and want something enough - whatever it is - then you don't really mind eating the shit sandwich that comes with it."

QUESTION // Q7. What's your flavor of shit sandwich? In other words, what aspects of scrapbooking aren't your favorite but you're are willing to tolerate them because it's important to you?

QUOTE // p. 158 - "The essential ingredients for creativity remain exactly the same for everybody: courage, enchantment, permission, persistence, trust - and those elements are universally accessible."

QUESTION // Q8. Which ingredient do you need more of in your life?

QUOTE // p. 161 - "Stop treating your creativity like it's a tired, old, unhappy marriage and start regarding it with the fresh eyes of a passionate lover."

QUESTION // Q9. What would this look like for you?

QUOTE // p. 175 - "Create whatever you want to create - and let it be stupendously imperfect because it's exceedingly likely that nobody will even notice."

QUESTION // Q10. Are there "rules" you wish you could break? Why haven't you yet?

QUOTE // p. 237 - "Curiosity is the truth and the way of creative living."

QUESTION // Q11. What are you curious about?

QUOTE // p. 254 - "Call attention to yourself with some sort of creative action, and - most of all - trust that if you make enough of a glorious commotion, eventually inspiration will find its way home to you again."

QUESTION // Q12. What is your next action?