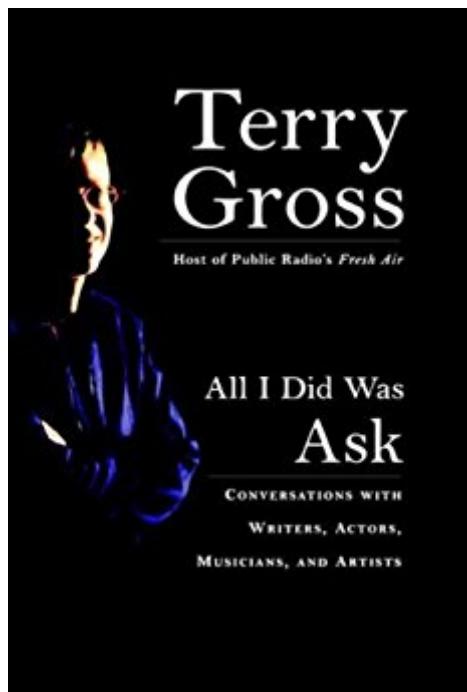


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All I Did Was Ask: Conversations With Writers, Actors, Musicians, And Artists



Synopsis

"I'm Terry Gross and this is Fresh Air . . ."Now available in paperback--a selection of revealing interviews from the award-winning National Public Radio showOriginating from WHYY-FM in Philadelphia and heard on more than 450 NPR stations, Fresh Air with Terry Gross has become a daily habit with millions of listeners nationwide--a must for anyone hoping to keep up with what's happening in the arts. Over the last twenty years, Terry's guests have included our most significant writers, actors, musicians, comics, and visual artists. For her first collection, Terry has chosen more than three dozen timeless interviews that prove to be as lively on the page as they were on the radio. Her questions--probing yet sensitive--encourage revelations from figures as diverse as John Updike, Isabella Rossellini, Conan O'Brien, Samuel L. Jackson, Johnny Cash, and Nicolas Cage. And in her introduction, the generally self-effacing host of Fresh Air does something she wouldnt dream of doing on the air--she reveals a thing or two about herself.

Book Information

File Size: 4079 KB

Print Length: 384 pages

Publisher: Hachette Books; New title edition (September 1, 2004)

Publication Date: September 1, 2004

Sold by:Ã Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC2IFI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #192,621 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9
inÃ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > General Broadcasting
#133 inÃ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio > General Broadcasting #281 inÃ Kindle
Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Popular
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Customer Reviews

So this might sound weird... but when I am going to bed, I can't read anything that is too plot driven. Otherwise I can't get to sleep! So I've started reading interviews with people, or autobiographies, since I already know what's going to happen for them. This book is lovely. It's a great way to get perspective in many different ways about celebrities or icons, and truly view them as fellow humans. I love Terry's in depth and fearless questions. This will be a forever bedtime book for me.

Arrived on time in condition advertised. This is a great read. The interviewer asked great questions and the interviewees were candid and open. As an artist, it helped me see how other artists in various fields approach their lives and work. It was also of benefit because, since I'm newly being interviewed myself, I can hear what makes an interesting and enlightening talk. I recommend this book highly.

I'm digging the book so far. Terry Gross is a personal hero of mine, I wish I can interview just like her. Although it's not the same as hearing the interview because you can't tell the nuance of the interviewee's voice. But I believe that can be fixed by finding the interview in the archives. Nevertheless, I like how she provides context on the interview that she decides to showcase in this book. I wish there will be second volume of the interview because this book was written 10 years ago and more people have been through Fresh Air. She doesn't explicitly tell you how to interview people but it is inferred through the introductory paragraphs for each interview section. I guess the readers can learn that by close analysis of the transcript. If they do decide to make volume 2. I hope that through the ease of the digital age, they will provide links of said interviews. Also support your local public radio station. I feel that I just have to mention that.

If you are a Fresh Air listener, then you'll definitely enjoy this book. It's almost like listening to her on the air. It's like I can hear her voice when she asks her guests questions. If you're not a Fresh Air listener, it's a good way to discover an interviewer who has talked with a wide swath of people. Fan or no fan of Fresh Air, reading the book is like reading the transcripts of her interviews. Since her guests are so varied, it's a great way to discover new authors, artists, actors, statesmen, etc. It's a great read. I'd recommend buying it!

But the back stories and Terry's OWN take on some of her interviews is fascinating reading. I often think I know what Terry is thinking during an interview. Most of the time I feel I agree with what I imagine is her perspective. So I was eager to read this and find out if I was right. Well, I was right -

and wrong. Terry has all the deep thinking and interesting, nuanced opinions you'd expect her to have. But I found out a lot about Terry Gross that I didn't know. I came to appreciate her as an interviewer even more, when I realized I'd been projecting my own opinions and perspectives onto her as interviewer, because she's able to be so transparent. I admire Terry Gross, Diane Rehm and other interviewers who are able to elicit the opinions, feelings and philosophies of the people they talk to. Now I understand a lot more about what it takes to get there - how Terry has to honor her curiosity and find the middle ground. And some of the vignettes are just plain fun. I like to think I'd be able to suffer the tauntings of Gene Simmons without succumbing to anger, but after reading the book I admire Terry for just laying it out there. Nobody's perfect. None of her subjects, and not Terry herself. Turns out, I didn't know Terry Gross well at all, even after listening to her for years. I was seeing myself in the mirror of my own perspective. But now that I know her a little better, I like her and her show even more.

Ms Gross must be THE consummate interviewer of all timeIf only i could find how she might autograph my copy!!Terry rules, as she has for years and yearsThank you , Terry!

I really enjoyed this book. The collection of Ms. Gross's interviews is diverse, fascinating and revealing. Some of her subjects were completely unknown to me, and opened insights to a variety of artists' approaches to their work. And at the same time, one gets a deeper insight to the interviewer herself. I suppose my only complaint would be that it wasn't long enough. I finished the last page and wanted more.

At first I missed Terry Gross's voice, inflection, expression, then I imagined it as I read. What the book adds are personal, behind the scenes reflections, so that the book is about Terry and the interviewee. This book explores dialogue and reflection while telling good stories. A good read from a good human.

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