



## The Book of Questions

*Gregory Stock*

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## **The Book of Questions** Gregory Stock

A New York Times bestseller with over 1.9 million copies in print, **THE BOOK OF QUESTIONS** poses 265 questions that invite people to explore the most fascinating of subjects: themselves. These questions are as intriguing as our very lives because they are about our lives-our fundamental values and beliefs, our dreams and nightmares about sex, money, love, power.

Some of the questions thrust you into a value-testing hypothetical situation (Would you accept 20 years of extraordinary happiness and fulfillment if it meant you would die at the end of the period?), some ask you to delve into your past (When is the last time you stole anything?) and help you find out if you've changed (Would you now return it if you could?), and others reveal your basic nature by examining your behavior (When you are given a compliment do you usually acknowledge it or suggest that you really do not deserve it?). Whether used as an avenue for personal growth, a tool for deepening relationships, or simply as an entertainment, *The Book of Questions* may be the only publication that challenges-and even changes-the way readers view the world, without offering a single opinion of its own.

## **The Book of Questions Details**

Date : Published January 3rd 1987 by Workman Publishing (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780894803208

Author : Gregory Stock

Format : Paperback 205 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Psychology, Philosophy, Reference

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## From Reader Review The Book of Questions for online ebook

### StoryTellerShannon says

First off, this book is great fun but only if the people you do this with are willing to think and be open. I tried this with my older brother and his wife several years back but they were too close minded and guarded to be honest. Stock's book challenges the mind and makes any literate person take a look at their own life, as well as the lives around them.

Even better, if you want to get to know someone really well . . . I'm talking about their values, morals and beliefs; not their favorite rock group or favorite food . . . this is a great book. Just be careful of what you ask; you may not always like the answers.

Some top questions . . . (1) If you could get honest answers to any questions you asked, what would be your top three and why?; (2) If you caught your father holding hands with another woman and he asked you not to tell your mother, what would you do? What if your mother confided it was eating her alive b/c she felt your father was cheating on her?; (3) would you like to know the precise date of your death?; and (4) If 100 people were chosen at random, how many more do you feel would be leading a more satisfying life than you?

There are lots of others but you'll have to do some reading and buy the book. :)

**OVERALL GRADE: B plus to A minus; WHEN READ: 2001 (revised review mid April 2012)**

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### Mike (the Paladin) says

I see a lot really high ratings for this book here. I suppose I can see why some would like it. It puts me in mind of a lot of discourses and discussions from high school psych and philosophy. At first I thought my take on this book (that it's largely silly and pointless [and I'm not the only reviewer to use the word pointless]) might be a function of age and years lived. Then I saw a review by a younger reviewer who pretty much agreed with me.

This is supposed to be a book of questions that will tell us about ourselves if we approach them...introspectively and thoughtfully. I can see groups of people sitting around looking at this book maybe at a party and discussing eachother's answers.

Some few of the questions I did find interesting and thought provoking. The majority however I found...well, pointless even silly. I see many don't agree with me but I looked at questions that made strange assumptions or gave an incomplete premise, or an absurd premise and mostly shook my head.

This is another I'd suggest you get out of the library and look at yourself...for me I consider the time I put into it largely wasted. I give it 2 stars for the questions I did find somewhat valuable. Who knows maybe I'm just to closed or fixed minded....or maybe you'll find more questions that seem valuable than I did.

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### Amirm says





## Nazanin says

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## Shar says

My husband and I use this book, and others like it, often with close family and friends. It's a great conversation starter and gets everyone thinking about how they feel about life, values, problems, etc... It's become one of our favorite activities after a good game of Settlers of Catan.(Be aware that some questions may be inappropriate for your audience so just skip over those.)

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## Aleksiel says

While some of the questions were interesting, I didn't feel challenged or having to really think about most of them. It's a fairly entertaining book to read while waiting for the bus, but I expected much more.

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## Aaron says

If you found a book of more than 217 hypothetical questions and their follow-ups and could use it as an excuse to achieve a deeper understanding of yourself or someone else, would you?

Would you rather fight 100 duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck?

Given two equally terrifying alternatives as presented in several of these questions, which one would you choose and how would you live with the consequences? Don't you find your answer as interesting as I do?

Why only include roughly 217 questions, Gregory? Doesn't that seem a little limited in terms of effort, or is this really all of the questions you could think of? Did you know I read this on the toilet in one sitting? Did I just gross you out? How does one apologize in question form? Could I *be* any sorrier?

How would you justify your single word answers to questions that clearly only require one word answers? Follow-up questions: Does including questions that only request one word answers limit the value of this book? Does it seem like a cheap question to include when you can toss off an answer and move on? Or should you voluntarily put in a little bit more effort into your answers, like your brother does?

Who shot JFK? Whatever your first answer is, it's wrong; now can you tell me the correct answer?

If I wanted to attempt to answer questions to make me wonder how I've lived my life and how I treat people, would that make me a masochist? If I am a masochist, how do I effectively balance that with my sadism?

Have you stopped beating your wife? Follow-up questions: Have you quit smoking yet? Do I look fat in this? Do you think she's pretty?

What is the proper way to end a review?

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### **John Wiswell says**

One of the few books you're guaranteed to think about for longer than you read it. Of course, Stock cheats to achieve this: the book is only questions, and often only one question per page. Instead of trivia, *The Book of Questions* is preoccupied with moral problems, asking what you'd do if you found your best friend was a heroin dealer, or when you were happiest, or would you walk four city blocks naked in return for a massive donation to a charity of your choice? They're questions that probe your values and beliefs, hopping between hypotheticals and your life observations, from finance to piety to pure implausibility. The questions are so different from one to the next that they never get boring, especially if you read them in the bathroom like I did. They're provocative, entertaining for personal reflection if nothing else, many sounding like they came from an Intro to Philosophy teacher's notebook, the kind used to probe and tease helpless students. But being a book, it just gives you the prompts and leaves aside the academic browbeating.

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### **Sari says**

I learned a lot from this book. If you can get people to admit honest answers you may find yourselves surprised to learn knew things about the people you know.

Be warned though, this book may lead to unpleasant situations. I had a guy break up with me because of one of my answers. Looking back, I am glad we read the book together because his answer would have made me think twice about the relationship.

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### **Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says**

"Would it disturb you much if, upon your death, your body were simply thrown into the woods and left to rot? Why?"

"Would you like your spouse to be both smarter and more attractive than you?"

"You know you will die of an incurable disease within three months. Would you allow yourself to be frozen within the week if you knew it would give you a modest chance of being revived in 1,000 years and living a greatly extended life?"

"If you could increase your I.Q. by forty points by having an ugly scar stretching from your mouth to your eye, would you do so?"

"Would you be willing to murder an innocent person if it would end hunger in the world?"

I love this book. I've had a copy of this book since 1991. I've replaced my old worn copy for a new one. It's one of the books I always keep. It started in 1991 when I was planning to drive with friends across the country. We were all teens and we wanted something to entertain our time (no portable DVD players or cell phones back then) so I bought this book. Asking and answering these questions kept us not only busy but also very entertained. Not only that, but it started heated debates and revealed so much about our friends and ourselves.

Later, I would "use" the book as an icebreaker for visiting relatives and finally, it was used often by my hubby and I (lots of fun sex questions in there).

Highly recommended. I dare you to tell me you did not answer at least one of the above questions automatically!

updated for rating- oops!

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