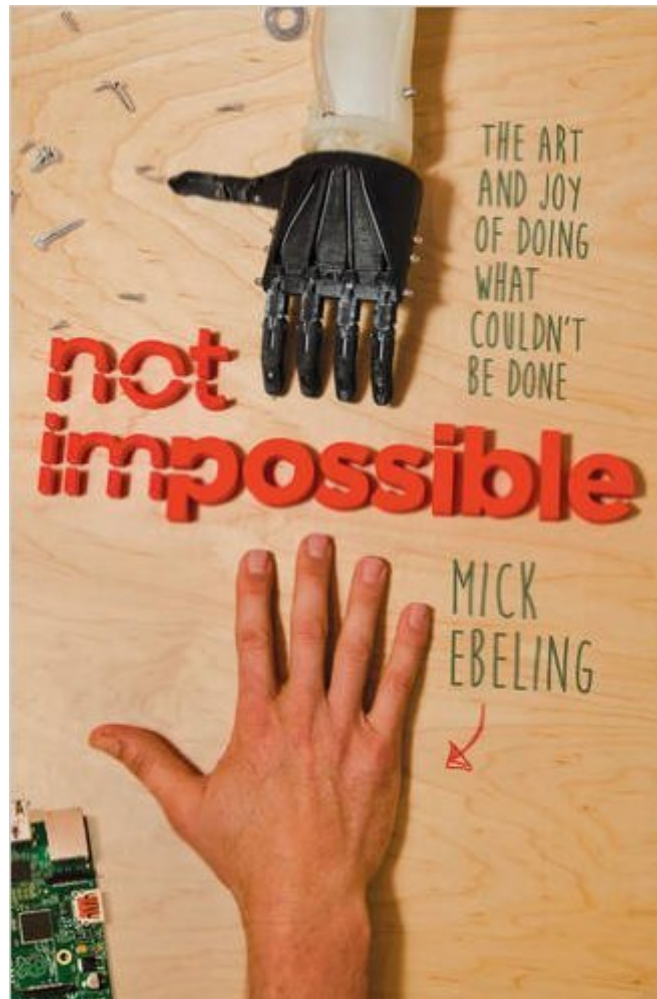


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Not Impossible: The Art And Joy Of Doing What Couldn't Be Done



Synopsis

What if you discovered by accident that you could change the world? Mick Ebeling—a film producer by trade, optimist by nature—set out to perform a simple act of kindness that quickly turned into a lifelong mission. In the process he discovered that he could, indeed, change the world—and this fascinating new book shows how you can, too. On the cutting edge of the new Maker Movement—an outgrowth of the hackers of a decade ago—Mick Ebeling has found ways to create new, simple, do-it-yourself technologies to help people surmount seemingly impossible odds. With a bunch of nuts and bolts, a few jimmy-rigged web cameras and a coat hanger, he got a paralyzed artist drawing again; for less than a hundred bucks, he made prosthetic arms for a boy whose arms had been blown off in the war in Sudan. From the beginning, Ebeling has dreamed big, but that doesn't mean his accomplishments have come easy. He's had to deal with the little voice in his head we all recognize—the skeptical, disbelieving part that says, "Sorry, this ain't happening." Yet he found the courage to ignore that voice and move on. And believe. And get things done. The first result was the Eyewriter, which Time magazine called one of the Top 50 Inventions of 2010—a device that tracks eye movements and translates them into a cursor on a screen, then into paint on a canvas or a sculpture design. Later he travelled to the Sudan with the homemade prosthetic hand his team created and taught the locals to use the 3D printers—now every week another armless boy gets new working limbs and hands. Fascinating, inspiring, and bursting with optimism and new ideas, Not Impossible is a true testament to the power of determination. It will motivate you to accept the idea that all problems can be solved—and that you have the ability to change the world and make miracles happen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There're a lot of good life lessons in this nonfiction work. The author, Mick Ebeling, is a fireball, a good guy who seems never to slow down. In watching him bring about the almost-impossible, you feel empowered. I enjoyed his narrative voice, which reminded me of Tim Ferriss. There's good and not-so-good in his story. For one thing, I thought I was going to read about a trip to Sudan to give a boy a 3D arm and hand, but for the first 100 pages of the book, it was another story entirely. Very inspirational, but still. And after a while, I jokingly wrote in my notes (at page 104), "Yeah, Mick, we get it, you're bitchen', but what's in it for me?" It was tongue-in-cheek, but I was getting a little tired of his awesomeness. But then at the 36% mark (on my Kindle), I wrote, "the reason I bought this book." Because Ebeling talked about how we "create meanings around what can and can't be done. These are not facts - they are conversations that we have in our heads..." and about changing your brain to anticipate the positive. There's more but you get the idea. It's great. I didn't care for the part where he talks about selfishness as being a good thing, because it's not predictably so. For every person whose selfish actions (e.g. a desire to feel good about himself) leads to a positive outcome (e.g. new 3D arms for crippled children), there's another guy whose selfishness is about helping himself to your wallet. That analogy (about the pancakes, Mick) made me squeamish; it undermined his other proclamations. But all in all, it's a pretty cool read, a lot of nice things happened, and you can take some of his life lessons to the bank. I especially liked the strategy of looking at an upcoming challenge in the past tense, as if it already happened. Plus his narrative voice is funny and personable. So I recommend the book.

Mick Ebeling and his group are selfless and wonderful people who think of others before themselves. Mick has won many awards for his work helping the less fortunate be able to get along in life much better. To be honest, Mick is the son of a dear friend. However, if you knew what he and his group did you would be amazed as well. Not Impossible makes DIY, accessible, tech-based solutions for people around the world, and then powerfully tells those stories to inspire others to do the same. [...] is where you can find additional information on this wonderful group.

An inspiring and often hair-raising account of one good man -- allied with an odd but appealing bunch of bootstrapping hackers -- who refuses to accept "no" as an answer when faced with

apparently insuperable obstacles. This book throws down the gauntlet to those of us who've kept our wings self-clipped throughout our lives. It's an effective rebuttal to those who think "saving the world" is a naive or outlandish proposition. It's also a bracing argument for the ethos of open source (which Ebeling aptly characterizes as "The Occupy Wall Street of the Internet"). "If you take anything at all from this book," Ebeling writes, "I hope you take this: If this guy Mick can accomplish what he accomplished, what could I do if I set my mind to it?" Message accepted, Mr. Ebeling!

Disappointed with the book. The author is an amazing guy but it's also obvious he is full of himself. I had to force myself to finish the book. The overall theme got lost for me in the personal touting. I'd summarize it like this "just go do it." Good advice. My guess is the book is better if you have a personal connection with the author.

This is an inspiring read! it is amazing to read about Mick's perseverance and selfless desire to make the world a better place just one small step at a time. Most of us go about our daily life intending to make a difference.....should I give to charity this month?....should I donate my time the local humane society?.....should I be on a different path in life? There is no right answer, but Mick's story definitely reminds us that we can do more and that Margaret Mead's quote could never be more true "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

Mick takes making, hacking, and DIY to a whole new level with real people and real problems. This is a book to inform and inspire. I recommend reading and discussing it with leadership teams across any organization, with young people, and with your own children, family members, and friends. This book is a reminder that it's all about mindset, it's all about what's possible, and that it all starts with us. Stop second guessing and start doing! Begin by buying this book for yourself and everyone you know and care about.

There is so much negativity in the world. It is hard to escape it. Newspapers and television networks bombard us with it twenty-four hours a day. And then this book comes along and gives us a totally positive example of what mankind can do if we work together. Mick's refusal to accept "no" for an answer is a testament to his tenacity. What he was able to accomplish is amazing. This book will be inspirational for all those out there trying to overcome the impossible. Just think, how many awesome inventions will come to fruition as a result of Mick's actions.

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