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# Eyes Wide Open: Overcoming Obstacles And Recognizing Opportunities In A World That Can't See Clearly



## Synopsis

In this New York Times bestseller, Isaac Lidsky draws on his experience of achieving immense success, joy, and fulfillment while losing his sight to a blinding disease to show us that it isn't external circumstances, but how we perceive and respond to them, that governs our reality. Fear has a tendency to give us tunnel vision—we fill the unknown with our worst imaginings and cling to what's familiar. But when confronted with new challenges, we need to think more broadly and adapt. When Isaac Lidsky learned that he was beginning to go blind at age thirteen, eventually losing his sight entirely by the time he was twenty-five, he initially thought that blindness would mean an end to his early success and his hopes for the future. Paradoxically, losing his sight gave him the vision to take responsibility for his reality and thrive. Lidsky graduated from Harvard College at age nineteen, served as a Supreme Court law clerk, fathered four children, and turned a failing construction subcontractor into a highly profitable business. Whether we're blind or not, our vision is limited by our past experiences, biases, and emotions. Lidsky shows us how we can overcome paralyzing fears, avoid falling prey to our own assumptions and faulty leaps of logic, silence our inner critic, harness our strength, and live with open hearts and minds. In sharing his hard-won insights, Lidsky shows us how we too can confront life's trials with initiative, humor, and grace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Isaac is inspiring. He triumphs in the face of great challenges, with grace and humility. I have seen how Isaac meaningfully connects with and touches those around him, and each of us is better for it.

Because of his exceptional experiences, Isaac has much to teach readers about his practical yet expansive approach to life. They will greatly benefit from his book." — Sandra Day O'Connor, Associate Justice, US Supreme Court (Ret.) "Few people have excelled in as many different ways as Isaac Lidsky has and few have surmounted such hurdles. He has a fascinating, inspiring story to tell, and many practical, powerful insights to impart." — Gretchen Rubin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Happiness Project* and *Better Than Before* "Moving and empowering." — Susan Cain, New York Times bestselling author of *Quiet* "Throughout his entire life, Isaac has proven time and time again that anything is possible, no matter the circumstance. His story is one of true strength, perseverance, and hope — one that we can all learn something from. Isaac's journey will encourage many to think with limitless boundaries and go after their dreams, no matter how big." — Dan Gilbert, founder and chairman of Quicken Loans Inc., and majority owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers "In the face of great challenges, Isaac Lidsky has repeatedly chosen to take responsibility for his life and his happiness. In *Eyes Wide Open*, he teaches us how, inspiring us to envision and create the lives we want for ourselves. His insights are practical and powerful, pure and profound." — Shawn Achor, New York Times bestselling author of *The Happiness Advantage* and *Before Happiness* "Without sight to guide him, Isaac Lidsky gives us a book of extraordinary vision about how to make best use of our talents. Read, savor, and grow!" — Barbara Oakley, PhD, bestselling author of *Mindshift* and *A Mind for Numbers* "In *Eyes Wide Open*, Isaac Lidsky vividly demonstrates how to live and lead well-empowered, aware, and accountable. He is a beacon of true success and inner happiness, and his vision is worthy of careful study." — Michelle Gielan, bestselling author of *Broadcasting Happiness* and founder of the Institute for Applied Positive Research "This master class in counting one's blessings will stay with readers long after the final page is turned." — Publishers Weekly "In our personal and professional lives, we can all benefit greatly from Isaac Lidsky's clarity of vision. *Eyes Wide Open* is a joy to read and to learn from. It is rich with valuable lessons to improve ourselves, our relationships, and our businesses." — Dr. Ivan Misner, bestselling author of *Masters of Networking* and founder of Business Network International "In *Eyes Wide Open*, Isaac captures the essence of exceptional living and leadership through the lenses of inner vision and aspiration. True perspective is an active pursuit. I learned much from this book and will approach my life and my work with my eyes wider open!" — McKeel Hagerty, International Chairman of the Young Presidents' Organization "Eyes Wide Open will enable anyone who has an interest in living a fuller life to do just that. Not only will Isaac inspire you to do so, but he also provides the construct to pull it

off."•Jack Daly, author of The Sales Playbook

Isaac Lidsky "may possess the most eclectic resume in entrepreneurship" according to Inc. Magazine. He played series regular "Weasel" on Saved by the Bell: The New Class; graduated from Harvard College at age nineteen with a degree in mathematics and computer science; graduated from Harvard Law School magna cum laude; served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg; argued more than a dozen appeals in federal court on behalf of the United States and never lost a case; started a tech company that sold for \$230 million; transformed a struggling \$15 million concrete subcontractor into an industry-leading \$150 million construction services company in five years; and founded Hope for Vision, a nonprofit organization that funds the development of treatments and cures for blinding diseases. Lidsky was born with Retinitis Pigmentosa, a rare degenerative disease of the retina that caused him to gradually lose his sight. Lidsky lives in Windermere, Florida with his wife, Dorothy; their triplets, Lily Louise, Phineas, and Thaddeus; and baby Clementine.

Isaac lives life without boundaries. For a glimpse of this Amazing Individual Google his Ted Talk . He is a father of four including triplets, a husband, a motivational speaker, a lawyer, and business owner. and The book Eyes Wide Open is the real life story of a boy discovering he has a retina disease that in the future will cause blindness. The story of determination , acceptance self awareness and the overcoming obstacles. The journey begins in Miami, has stops in Hollywood, Harvard to study Math and computer science and also receive a law degree. Isaac then clerks for the Supreme Court. A great read.

An inspired book, easy to read with touching life stories. Mr. Lidsky is an excellent wordsmith. His chapter relating life to business was special to me. Assets, liabilities, balance sheet, income, expense all have their corollaries with life and he explains it well. I appreciated his thoughts on listening as it relates to hearing. Blind people don't hear better, they listen better and that is something that we should all practice.

I read Eyes Wide Open in preparation for an interview with Isaac Lidsky on my podcast. I was very impressed with what I came away with from both these experiences and the way he outlines his philosophy. Perception is never a passive process to take in the objective truth of the reality around you. In every moment, you are making educated guesses to construct an internal, conceptual

understanding of the world. You frequently mistake this conception for the genuine article. You take this for granted. In his book, we learn how Isaac Lidsky went from being a successful teenage actor on TV to losing his sight and learning to reassess every unconscious assumption he had about life as a result. Isaac contends that going blind the way that he did is one of the best things that ever could have happened to him, as he learned to see his life beyond the illusions of his mind that would have kept him a prisoner of bad luck and circumstance. As Isaac began to lose his sight gradually over the course of more than a decade, he gained uncommon insight into the layers of meaning his mind automatically added to his perception. As micro blind spots formed in his vision, his brain would do everything it could to immediately compensate for them, often with wildly inaccurate guesses (such as perceiving a urinal as a sink in a bathroom). The mind is always attempting to sort incoming stimuli into the categories it knows. When the old categories we carry are not adequate for new types of information, we run into conflict with reality. We cease to be able to communicate with each other. We make terrible choices about what to do with our lives because we cannot align our actions with what is real. As Isaac had to learn how to reinterpret his most fundamental perceptions of the world, he took less and less for granted about the way his mind worked. For that reason, he is thankful for the new outlook being blind gave him. Highly recommended for a very visible example of how the mind can change the experience of reality.

Issac Lidsky can add gifted new author to his eclectic resume. My eyes are riveted to the pages and I can not put the book down. I highly recommend Eyes Wide Open !

good book

This magnificent book describes the process by which Isaac learns to overcome obstacles; open our eyes. Isaac accomplishes, time after time, at a level of his own determination. It is an inspiration. Do not miss it

I was driven to read this from the initial sample that told the fascinating anecdote about how Mr. Lidsky impressed a dinner group with how he knew exactly where the bathrooms were when they, the sighted, did not. The overall book did not disappoint in its overflow of ideas and wisdom. My only caveat to readers is that the prose varies from articulate to hyper-articulate to florid and long-winded. At its purplest, I wished it were faster. His insights, however, are timeless reminders. His vulnerability is refreshing, if a bit shelf-worn. The chapter on his father sneaking them into the

Super Bowl is a treat.

This is now on my list of all time favorites. It is BOTH inspirational AND practical.

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