



The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life

Julie Bogart

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A joyful and accessible approach to homeschooling that harnesses children's natural curiosity and makes learning a part of everyday life, whether they're in elementary or high school

Parents who are deeply invested in their children's education can be hard on themselves and their kids. When exhausted parents are living the day-to-day grind, it can seem impossible to muster enough energy to make learning fun or interesting. How do parents nurture a love of learning amid childhood chaos, parental self-doubt, the flu, and state academic standards?

In this book, Julie Bogart distills decades of experience--homeschooling her five now grown children, developing curricula, and training homeschooling families around the world--to show parents how to make education an exciting, even enchanting, experience for their kids, whether they're in elementary or high school.

Enchantment is about ease, not striving. Bogart shows parents how to make room for surprise, mystery, risk, and adventure in their family's routine, so they can create an environment that naturally moves learning forward. If a child wants to pick up a new hobby or explore a subject area that the parent knows little about, it's easy to simply say "no" to end the discussion and the parental discomfort, while dousing their child's curious spark. Bogart gently invites parents to model brave learning for their kids so they, too, can approach life with curiosity, joy, and the courage to take learning risks.

The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life **Details**

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From Reader Review The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life for online ebook

Joanna says

I wanted to love this book. I have a MS in Applied Psych, focused on educational psychology. I'm a homeschooling mom. We practice delight-directed learning. The cover art is adorable. I'm clearly sold on the premise of this book!

Unfortunately, Bogart just doesn't present the information in a way that connects with me. She gives an example of a commonly accepted idea from ed psych, say, scaffolding, without identifying it as such at the time - but then goes on to include the term "scaffolding" in a list a chapter or two later without ever connecting it to the previous example.

The whole book feels similarly disjointed, and a quick glance at her "notes" section suggests a lot of surface-level research with no real depth or breadth of understanding (and perhaps a bit of cherry picking when it comes to her sources). I wasn't expecting the book to read like a thesis, but I did expect her to support her ideas more fully. I got the sense that she wrote the book based on her experience as a homeschooling parent, then backtracked to add in the "research" support at the very end. It feels disingenuous, and frankly I was annoyed by the constant slips into self-promotion present throughout the book.

I'm sure Bogart is a very nice lady, but the tone of this book was unappealing. I debated whether I should keep reading after she flippantly referred to the reader as "cupcake," and the bit about mimosas being mandatory when brunching with other moms struck me as either a) a cry for help or b) a failed attempt at humor/relevance. Can we stop with the mommy drinking culture shtick already?

I gave this one 2 stars because it could be truly useful as encouragement for the mom who has never studied motivation and learning theory on her own, and who needs a little push to relax into a more natural style of home-based education.

It isn't a terrible book. It was over-hyped. I expected more.

Heather Huson says

Started out great, but fell flat for me pretty quickly.

olwen says

Dirty bathrooms ,hiring cleaning staff ?

I really dislike the chapter on not cleaning or hiring cleaning staff .saying teenagers need to be in the world not the kitchen,saying housework is not rocket science .it all sounded so belittling.cooking is a skill as worthy as any other .not cleaning the kids bathroom ,but if they are filthy cleaning it every quarter .ugh not for this family .you can home school and all chip in with t h e care of the home ,children's learning should be

vast enough to encompass this

Katie says

This book is everything I know deep in my heart, but forget to keep in my brain to apply daily. Julie offers wisdom and deep encouragement for the learning journey each of us is on. Will be a quarterly read for me.

Kristin C says

I am a new brave writer follower and I am in love with Julie's philosophy and ideas. We think along the same lines in regard to parenting and homeschooling. This book would have been perfect, except for the fact that I have been binge listening to all of her podcasts (which I love) and the podcasts were the exact same content as her book. If I hadn't just heard all the same stories, I would have thoroughly enjoyed the read, but I was so excited to dive in and hear from her some more, I was disappointed that it was the same thing I'd already gotten.

Suebee says

This book is truly wonderful but also a bit overwhelming in the sense that it makes you want to overhaul a lot and introduce all her wonderful ideas - but she encourages you to try one thing a month, to take it slow. I am a longtime fan of Julie and her podcasts and "Gracious Space" books, and this book condenses a lot of her wonderful advice about incorporating surprise, risk, mystery, adventure, and curiosity in your homeschool. Julie knows that the best education takes place when parents and kids are connected, and when parents listen to their children when there are things that just aren't working.

P.S. I wonder if the picture of the child with an electronic tablet (instead of a book or something else) on the cover was a deliberate choice - Julie encourages moms to "shake hands " with technology and not be afraid to embrace it as an educational tool. I differ with Julie's philosophy on technology, specifically with young children, so I'm definitely curious about that.

Amy says

Julie Bogart's philosophy that parent connection is more important than academic instruction is the greatest piece of homeschool advice I have ever received. It makes such a difference to know that. This book is more encouragement. I wish it would have gone into more depth about homeschooling through tricky situations, but I love the emphasis that learning happens everywhere. I enjoy her relaxed, forgiving, and flexible approach to home education.

Ashley says

Whether you've homeschooled for 2 years or 20, whether your kids are in public school or private, whether you work outside the home or not, this is an invaluable resource for bringing connection, happiness, and warmth to your family. Julie's blend of humor, inspiration, and practical ideas apply to all parents, all styles, all beliefs, all backgrounds! I plan to re-read every year on principle and every time I face a moment of doubt or crisis.

Carolyn Leiloglou says

I enjoyed Julie's slew of practical suggestions. I'm not sure I, or any one person, could put them all into practice. But I think that's the point. Rather than sticking to just one theory of education, drop the guilt, pay attention to your kids, and do what works for your family.

Heather says

The Brave Learner is an excellent book! Julie not only gives a compelling vision of how parents can support learning at home but practical advice that one can implement right away. I had a hard time putting this book down, finishing it in three days. However, I've already begun re-reading it to glean specific ideas for implementation. Thank you, Julie, for writing such a treasure!

Lauren says

Literally EVERYTHING I want in a parenting book- reassurance & validation, tons of practical tips, sweet stories, philosophical discussion, and just all-around wisdom about parenting beyond the system— all packed to the brim with enchantment. I would recommend this to absolutely everyone.

Christy Lindsay says

I'm giving this one 5 stars only because I can't give it 4.5. And the the things I didn't like may be the things that help another mom out there so I'll leave it at 5.

Julie gives such practical no nonsense wisdom and advise. She helps you let go of the non-essentials and helps you get your vision and focus back in track. The end of the book was invaluable in that she becomes like a homeschool therapist and helps you get to the root of maybe what's going wrong in your homeschool and how you can fix it. Or in some cases be ok with it not being perfect. I've never read such brutal honesty in any other homeschool book.

The section about self-care for the homeschool mom is so important. I wish I had read this years ago.

My only problems with the book was that I was a little overwhelmed at the beginning when she talked about setting up a creative space and stocking it with all these craft and art supplies and letting the kids makes a mess. ? Sorry. Totally not doing that. I also wasn't sure how I felt about her leniency with online gaming for kids. I totally get her point on that one in one sense and I'm glad it worked for her son in that he became a

self taught computer programmer. However there are kids out there that are totally addicted and become unmotivated to do anything else. Lastly, the part about housekeeping didn't really help me. I can't afford a housekeeper like she suggested and I'm not going to allow my kids to free load and not do chores either just so they can focus on their studies or interests. We all live in this house together. You wouldn't expect your college roommate to do all the cleaning for you.

I feel like those really were minor issues when I got so much more good out of this book. This is also not a christian book. A lot of homeschool books are, so I just wanted to put that out there in case it matters to someone.

Laura says

This book is for anyone with a child. The ideas and suggestions for leading children to learn with delight are valuable and easy to implement. There is also plenty of encouragement for the times when, to a teacher's dismay, education seems so mundane and dreary. It happens. Pick up and continue. I'm recommending this to homeschoolers, public schoolers, and private schoolers, and I'm planning on using what I've learned with my youngest child (and I'm in my penultimate year of homeschooling and will be done next year after thirty years and nine kids).

Sarah Lawhorn says

Wow! I'm already ready to listen to/read this again!! I got the Kindle version with Audible narration, so - best of both worlds! Julie reads it to you AND you can easily highlight to reference later. ??????????

Samantha says

I have enjoyed listening to Julia Bogart's youtube/podcast. I have heard so many positive reviews about the Brave Writer curriculum that I have considered using it (but have not). I knew from listening to her before that she takes a neutral stand in her curriculum on religion/theology. Which I don't have a problem with as it is teaching writing not the Bible. So going into reading this book I knew it would not be from a Christian worldview. I believe she claims to be a Christian.

There are some great practical tips in the Brave Learner that any homeschooler could apply if they were looking for more creative ways for learning. I feel like you could find most of these tips in other sources. Julia does present them in a nice way. But...

Unless you are a child centered home, child led educator, and follow "gentle" parenting some of this will not fly for you. Probably better fitted for unschoolers, relaxed or eclectic, and secular homeschoolers. I feel that this book is filled with a lot of propaganda that most homeschoolers try to avoid (why they don't put their children in public school) especially if you're a Christian. While my child means the world to me, we are not a child centered home. Our home is a family home which considers all members not just the children. Where we work on our marriage- which will be longer than the amount of time my children are in my home. (Maybe if Julia and her husband had not just focused on their children they would not be divorced?) And while I do think whatever philosophy of education you practice there will be times that you do follow

your child's lead and learn about what they are interested in. But not to the point that I would just follow that and not complete core subjects or allow my child to decide how much school she feels like doing. As the teacher and parent we are to be leaders and help/guide them in their education and life.

There are a few things that had me shaking my head. Multiple times she degrades rote memorization. And while I know public schools do none of that anymore (or even when I was in school) most homeschoolers do especially classical and CM. It's not that you have them memorize and not understand as she implies. You have them memorize so that down the road they have knowledge to draw upon with understanding. She made the point that we live in a digital age- they have calculators and the internet they don't need to have things memorized! They just need skills to analyze the information. Really she is promoting Google IQ. And really this is a problem, public schooled adults even today and the children coming out don't know a whole lot, but yeah we have google... This one reason our culture today is falling apart we don't know our history, grammar, or basic math.

She really promotes the home being set up for the kids..you know they didn't get to pick their parents or where they live or the things they have as you do being an adult so forget what you have worked for or what you have it should all be for your children. Don't get the furniture you want or have things look nice. Examples she gives- if you get a new table you should dent it yourself so you don't get upset when your child does. And get a couch that can take a beating. How about instead we teach our children to treat belongings with care and respect? She says children should just be allowed to be children. I agree they should enjoy childhood but I'm not raising my child to be a child, she will be an adult one day and the habits, morals and personality she has now will be who she is as an adult.

She promotes children to not be required to do chores-as there is enough time as an adult to learn these skills when they need them. If you can afford to she says to pay for cleaning services. If you can't you can do it as a family or just do what you can and leave the rest...until it bothers you. Ask your kids if they want to help but don't demand it. Maybe this is why there are young adults today that need "Adulting" classes, because their parents didn't teach them basic life skills!

She also really promotes allowing your child to play video games. If your child wants to experiment with cuss words allow them to or rock music or whatever they fancy... Just don't be a controlling parent! She promotes "gentle" parenting over "authoritative" parenting. Trying to suggest parenting in a homeschooling book is hard because you parent based on your beliefs- theology will play a big role in your parenting style kinda hard to address from a neutral standing point.

The positive take away from this book is building a good relationship with your child. Helping them to have creative outlets and encouraging them in learning new things and finding interest/hobbies.

Overall I would have rated this book 1.5 stars.
