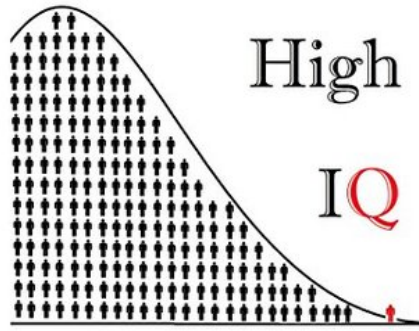


Curse of the High



IQ

by
Aaron Clarey

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Society, by statistical necessity, needs to focus on the majority. It needs to be built and designed for "the average." Society, by moral necessity, also needs to focus on the disadvantaged and disabled. Helping those who cannot help themselves. But while the majority of society's resources, attention, and infrastructure is dedicated to average or below-average intelligent people, little-to-none of it is paid to the abnormally intelligent. And while having a high IQ is an overall net benefit in life, being an statistical intellectual freak is not without its drawbacks.

Welcome to the "Curse of the High IQ."

Whether you fall asleep during class, constantly ram heads with your boss, can't understand why people watch the Oscars, are an alcoholic, or are accused of having "ADD," having a high IQ can be a maddening experience. What you see as the obvious solution is what the "normies" will fight against tooth and nail. Your D-'s you keep getting in English? Your superior mind being held hostage by the boring and inferior mind of your teacher. And you'd like to start a family? Good luck finding an intellectual-equal for a spouse. And so while the world obsesses with their own problems or (rightly so) the problems of the disadvantaged, no one is paying attention to the problems of the abnormally intelligent. However, that all changes now with "Curse of the High IQ."

"Curse of the High IQ" is the first book specifically written for abnormally intelligent people. It identifies and addresses a litany of problems intelligent people face, as well as analyzes them and provides solutions. But more importantly it aims to bring sanity to those who struggle with abnormal intelligence, especially those who are unaware they have it.

So if you're constantly at odds with society, are suffering from depression or ennui, can't find any reason or agency in life, or just plain can't find any friends, consider purchasing "Curse of the High IQ." It's guaranteed to make your life a little easier.

Curse of the High IQ Details


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From Reader Review Curse of the High IQ for online ebook

Leann says

Goofy Book by Arrogant Man

I took an IQ test once at 14 years old in CA before everyone was obsessed with social media, like MySpace and Facebook. It was long and boring, but I received 141. At the time, I was not a person interested in those things. To be honest, I am still not. I spent all my time on chat rooms and roleplaying sites for people who liked to learn to write. This book only had two female so called "geniuses" in the beginning.

Come 15, my mom's abuse led me to believe I was retarded. I was normally a person with average self esteem and I knew I was atypical, like Daria. I am a feminist, not some weird SJW or MRA. I don't really get these so called trending groups all over social media these days. I was too depressed to even search up my region, as the book suggested! I live on the border of OR and WA. I can only imagine how many people must be 90 here, but I highly doubt being in the mid 40s or 50s range is really some impressive miracle.

My friends usually come off the internet, as I had a hard time socializing with people when I dropped out at 15. One friend who is very dear to me was diagnosed with bipolar at only 9 years old. Her parents are both engineers with similar IQ. She told me by only the next grade, her IQ dropped five points. She is my age now and has difficulty feeling any emotions. We had an obnoxious friend who was cocky, assuming he had it so rough because he was a pedophile and in jail five years. My friend thought he was an idiot, but he swears by the Google's top IQ test that he is 135! He doubts we were any more intelligent than he was, but whatever. Some people are just gullible. Everyone removes him on Skype, because he adds us all to a group and complains about suicide ideations. He's just someone who wants attention.

I could not finish the book. All it reminded me was of how all boys think they're going to grow up, become James Bond or George Clooney, their favorite actor and have a key to the playboy mansion or marry Beyonce. It was ridiculous. Well, maybe I'll fit in better in Portland. Go to a mosh pit at Darcell's or something.

Russ says

Fairly entertaining as a misanthropic rant. Not a whole lot else to recommend though, there's not a whole lot of advice here. It also gets repetitive despite the very short length. I'd have given it a three, if the author's libertarian bent didn't show so much. You have the author recommending that highly intelligent people take advantage of welfare programs instead of suffering having an intellectual inferior as a boss. By the end though, there's a lot of moaning how unfair it is that abnormally intelligent CEOs are forced to subsidize such welfare programs. There's no evidence given that CEOs are especially likely to have extremely high intelligence. In fact, a lot of points in here criticizing the work environment seem to suggest the opposite. It's a quick read though, so if you can get the book from a library, it might be worth it (especially for those with an above average IQ and a misanthropic/nihilist bent).

Elio Penn says

Meh.

I agree with most of 1-3 star reviews of this book. Had I read those before purchasing this book, I would have borrowed it from my local library, instead. Overall a disappointing read because it was poorly written, provided few solutions, backed up by mainly anecdotal data, and can be summarized as one long diatribe about being smarter than the general population. I expected more from a self-proclaimed incredibly intelligent individual. My challenge to the author is to change the system (perhaps, starting with the k-12 education system). Clearly, he has the smarts to do so.

Mick Pletcher says

WOW! This book is a necessity to read for anyone with a high IQ or parents whose child has a high IQ. The author is very frank. Some people will likely be offended by the author's condescending attitude in some parts of the book, but I saw them as getting straight to the point without any political correctness. The book has answered so many questions I have had about myself that I never quite understood. For one, I have been an adrenaline junky for quite a while and the author discusses how some people with high IQs desire adrenaline sports to give them that satisfaction they don't get from normal everyday activities that just bore them. It also explains my constant desire to build new things, such as the house I am building. Surprisingly, the author has a great deal of the same views as myself, which are often considered weird in the typical social atmosphere due to the fact that they do not conform to any one group. I am likely going to read the book a second time in the near future. It is that good!

Dante says

In his book "David and Goliath", author Malcolm Gladwell describes the Tversky Intelligence Test, named for the revolutionary psychologist Amos Tversky: "The faster you realized Tversky was smarter than you, the smarter you were." Tversky died in 1996, taking with him any further opportunities to administer the IQ test named for him.

After reading "Curse of the High IQ", I propose an alternative -- the Clarey Intelligence Test: "The faster you realize Aaron Clarey is an insufferable asshole whose presence should be evaded at all costs, the smarter you are."

Given that Clarey apparently named his business "Asshole Consulting" -- according to the book, those words actually form his consultancy's web address (though I haven't checked it myself) -- he might take a kind of perverse pride in being the standard for such a test. (I suppose one might give him some credit for self-awareness....)

Be that as it may, based on this book, I would say he **vastly** misunderstands the relative importance, benefits, and challenges of having a high IQ as you navigate life.

I speak from a credible position: my I.Q. ranks in the 99th percentile (on either the Wechsler or the Stanford-Binet scale), and I'm a graduate of a university that consistently ranks among the top 5 in the U.S. My I.Q.

alone would qualify me as Clarey's intellectual peer, yet after plowing through this book I'm certain I'd rather never meet the guy, and that there is far more pleasant (and intellectually-stimulating) company to be found among the people Clarey dismisses because they don't share his affliction: an abnormally high I.Q.

The book illustrates the dangers of self-publishing: stylistically, his prose is mundane; the text is sorely in need of a good editor; and the layout suggests the late-1980s word processing skills used by a college student to cheat the margins and line spacing to expand a term paper to the minimum required length.

The book is rife with ill-informed generalizations and poorly drawn conclusions, among them:

- that an abnormally-high I.Q. person can only be intellectually satisfied by other abnormally-high I.Q. people. (As if intelligence, creativity, and innovation was **only** possible by people with I.Q.s over, say, 130, or that there is only one kind of intelligence.)
- no one intelligent goes into fields like psychology, or studies the liberal arts -- the truly intelligent only tackle majors like Economics, Computer Programming, the hard sciences, etc.
- Wyoming is dumb. Clarey actually writes this shit: "If you ever visit, live, or do work in Wyoming you will quickly realize the general population is slower, dumber, and just not as smart as the average population. My experiences there let me to develop the rule of 'The Wyoming Three', where you have to ask people three times to get something done right once." (Again, note the uninspired prose; maybe Clarey **is** abnormally intelligent, but nothing about his writing skills says so. No one will ever confuse him with Truman Capote re: style & proficiency, in any case.)

I could point out more condescending & dismissive assholery, but I hope you get the point. It's the kind of Ayn Rand claptrap that most (**actually** intelligent) people eventually recognize for the nonsensical bullshit it is, however enamored they were of it as teenagers or Young Republicans / Libertarians.

The book is a quick read, primarily because it isn't much more than a glorified magazine article (or webpage screed) expanded to (almost) book length. I would have quit reading midway through as it was becoming clear that the return-on-investment (time) would be minimal if I kept reading. But since I can be a bit OCD about finishing books I've started, I read it all. (My suspicions halfway through reading it were confirmed.) The only upside was that, given that it's such a short book, it didn't take me much time to finish.

I'll grant that Clarey made a few interesting observations, but they're so outnumbered by the volume of the aforementioned ill-informed generalizations and poorly drawn conclusions that I don't recommend anyone take the time to pan for gold here. Consequently, I'd give this book only 1.5 stars if half-stars were possible; as Goodreads doesn't allow them, he benefits from my grudgingly rounding up to 2 stars.

High I.Q. isn't necessarily the curse his title would have you take it for. My guess is that Clarey got ostracized as a kid -- then in college and ultimately in the workforce -- not because he's abnormally-intelligent, but rather because he's an unlikeable, disdainful shithead. Emotional intelligence is a real thing, and it **can** be learned. Clarey would serve himself well by doing so, instead of rationalizing his failure at it as one of life's "unsolvable problems."

Dan says

Although the author has solid points and ideas, the book is written as one long rant against the world in a blog post that just keeps going. I'd love to see a more capable author with a more positive worldview tackle the topic.

Ivette Sánchez gallegos says

TLDR; Guy who hasn't amounted to much wants to think of himself as a genius really bad, but is glaringly ignorant. Long whiny rant against the world ensues. Oh the irony.

For such a "genius," the writer of this extended blog post comes across as horribly ignorant. He cites absolutely no sources for his chagrins other than the enormous chip on his shoulder. For example, he demeans and attempts to discredit the field of psychology in one breath, only to use Maslow's hierarchy of needs to "prove" his point in the next. He throws in random percentages when talking about "economics," to slander certain segments of the population; which reveal his heavily biased and uninformed political view. As an Economics graduate I was appalled at the fallacies he tried to pass for "Economics." They were nothing more than tired political tropes and dog whistles. All the while exalting what a genius he is and how the world has cheated him.

I had to laugh when he aligned himself by proxy with the "1%," and whined about how the rest of the country wanted a cut of his money; even if the rest of the... book (if you can call it that) was filled to the brim with him sniveling about working in the corporate world and how bothered he was to answer to his bosses. Um... The wealthiest 1% in the United States don't have bosses. They have shareholders. They don't WORK for anybody, they are the OWNERS of the means of production. Over and over again his ignorance of multiple topics and fields shines through. In this case taxation laws, policies, regulations, and apparently entire income groups and the lines between social classes.

He has a fixation with STEM degrees although gathering from his work experience he himself does not have one, and consequently craps on all other majors. He writes as if he speaks for the high IQ community, asserting that they fit the very narrow profile he perscribes, which include things such as using drugs because of boredom (... because "normal" people don't do that...riiiiiight).

He is obsessed with the concept of achieving greatness and has a grudge against anyone and anything that supposedly impeded it for him and for high IQ holders everywhere. He has gripes against the school system, Oprah, and even a sandwich server in Wyoming; because it is the world's fault he was not able to achieve "greatness." I'm not kidding. This is no book, and this is no author. It's the continuous rant of a self aggrandizing loser. The guy needs a therapist, there's some serious cognitive dissonance going on. You wouldn't be able to have an intelligent conversation with him without fact checking his every third statement. Insisting he's a genius and belittling the rest of the world make him feel better to the point that he's adopted flawed generalizations and dogmas to fit this world view.

Friso van Dijk says

*** Nope. Don't even bother.**

The book, as the title presupposes, touches on the woes of living with a high IQ. Prompted by the title, I set to reading this prolonged blog post (that's what it felt like), which could've used a final edit before publication. Quite ironic when writing a piece about not being able to live up to your full potential. However, these were only minor annoyances and gave no cause for a lower rating.

Recommended by goodreads after reading *Outliers: The Story of Success*, the title piqued my interest. It started off in a similar manner, touching on the basis of statistics in describing what outliers high IQ people are. The book then continued with a summary of how the smart are disadvantaged and held back from their true potential by the general populace in education, their careers and whilst dating, while also mentioning the potential correlation between high IQ and mental illness. However, none of his claims were supported by some much-needed evidence, of which the author showed some capability only in the mental illness chapter.

The end of the book lifted the spirits a little by offering insights in how to deal with the addressed points, but all that stuck with me were the three options offered: drowning your sorrows in alcohol, doing drugs or become an adrenaline junkie looking for your next novelty fix. The final premise remaining that there's no 'fix' for the bored kind of depression you're feeling. The whole read felt like a prolonged blog post, which could've used a final edit before publication. Quite ironic when writing a piece about not being able to live up to your full potential. However, these were only minor annoyances and gave no cause for a lower rating.

Now on to my opinion. Whilst cleverly written, the author takes you on a train of thought set out from the beginning, slowly building up to his premise that a high IQ is something one just has to accept and that the mediocrity of society is what it is. He even states that you might come to resent people and could just live on welfare when you're done with society. Every negative remark he makes towards those of lesser IQ is preceded by an apologetic sentence, as a way of saying sorry before you be mean. It doesn't really make you less mean.

At some points the author attempts to insert certain ways of dealing with a high IQ, all based on intrinsic motivation in your work and any other intellectual pursuits (although you'd have to read the intrinsic motivation between the lines, he basically says to stop giving a shit about the rest of society). These feel like half an attempt at making the grey, depressed picture he paints a little brighter.

The bottom line is that this book offers some anecdotal insights which everyone has to deal with at some point, albeit written from the point of view of someone with a high IQ. The author makes very little attempt in keeping his neutrality and bulldozes with brute force over things called respect and compassion, something which an actual society is built on. This strikes with his confession of being a libertarian halfway through the book, which opened my eyes to the depressed, almost nihilistic story it is: someone who has to come to terms with himself on the fact that he has a high IQ and that the world isn't fair. If you're interested in the topic, do give it a read, as it was of some interest and it's not that long, but all I wanted to say when I turned the final page was: get over yourself.

Leroy says

Depressing, but true.

If you have a suspicion that you have a high IQ then you should definitely read it, and be prepared to be depressed by the time that you're done reading it.

Why would someone be depressed?

If your entire life was in the fast lane, and you need to dodge slow/stupid people all the way.. only to have it mostly benefit them (the slow ones) what is the purpose of your life?

Read it, and get over it. YOU can make a difference (even if it doesn't improve humankind for another 100 years)

Geoff Smith says

This was an interesting book.

Part of me was frustrated by it for two reasons:

1. It described a lot of my life experiences (my IQ is allegedly high)
2. It struck me as a really angry 180 page quasi nihilistic rant.

I think that this book really does need to be read by parents who suspect their children are above average. And maybe, when they get a bit older, the children themselves. The last two chapters on limiting greatness and solutions are very good.

Throughout the book, the author makes interesting observations about the broader economy (if more people were allowed to do computer jobs from home then the world would be a more efficient place in terms of fossil fuel use, employee happiness, and family stability).

The major negative to the book is the author's anger at people he perceives to be stupider than himself, but he admits that he's not religious. So if IQ, personal greatness, or economic impact are your heuristics for judging people, it makes sense to be frustrated at people you feel can't keep up with you.

The book can, I fear, engender some cynicism or nihilistic feelings because of the rhetoric used. But many young people of high intelligence already feel trapped but they don't think it's because they're being held back. They think it's because they're stupid or too easily bored or some other nonsense.

The book does utilize foul language, watch out for that if that sort of thing offends you.

Leslie says

Ok I have a high IQ but I didn't agree much with this book. It is not objective at all. The guy is angry, very angry, and he's just ranting about how unfair life is for HIM, generalizing to all high IQ people like we were him. As much as I can understand his anger, I find it very immature for his age. I used to be, and still am sometimes like him, but I'm just 25. And I already understand that the kind of black and white view he seems to have, and I used to have back when I was 17, is in fact very stupid and simplistic. He separates clearly « smart » and « stupid » people in his book, like if there was a clear line between them. I agree that most people tend to be stupid but it's not that simple. First of, the line is very blurry. There is a large grey area of people who can be very dumb in some aspect but very smart in other. There's not just one type of intelligence out there. Second thing, high IQ people, following this same rule, can be very stupid in many areas, they aren't as superior as the author seems to think.

For that reason it doesn't require a high IQ person to stimulate another. Most of my friends are « normal »

people and we still have a lot to share. On the contrary it happens that I met high IQ people that I didn't like at all. Same IQ doesn't equate instant compatibility. I think he brushes off normal people as plain « stupid » way too easily. And maybe that's why his social life is such a failure.

Now don't get me wrong, a lot of what he said in the book is true, and I'm quite of a misanthrope myself. So I understand where he's coming from. I really do. Yet what he said is too biased and not suitable for a book that young gifted people might read and that will paint such a disgusted view of the world. This book should have been a long blog post but not a book. In my opinion a book requires a certain amount of objectivity. It should be detached from one self experience and it should solely be based on hard scientific facts. And this book is definitely not. I give it two stars for the half truths you find all over the book and that a smart person can separate from all the bullshit and therefore get to learn something anyways, but otherwise this book is not worth it.

Zora says

3.5 stars. This book is ok. I've had an interest in IQ for a while, so I've spent time reading, researching and listening to podcasts by those considered experts in the field.

This author is not one of those experts. He comes across as arrogant and sarcastic and the book is largely a rant, as other reviews have noted. However, I wasn't bothered by that because it's relatable and somewhat entertaining.

His recommendations weren't bad but I wasn't overly impressed because they seemed like no-brainers and anyone that's intelligent would eventually figure them out. But in saying that, a younger person might find the recommendations helpful.

I didn't necessarily agree with his view that those with high IQs have a proclivity to turn to drugs and alcohol. Perhaps some do, but research suggests that intelligent people are more inclined to follow smart health practices and have a longer life expectancy.

I saw the book as more a mildly entertaining rant, rather than learning anything new, but I still enjoyed it overall and would recommend it for a quick, entertaining read or Audible listen, as long as you're not expecting a book containing credible scientific research.

Jeffrey Falk says

This is one of the more disappointing books I've read.

It not only offers virtually no solutions, it is written from a confused and inconsistent philosophic context. This is compounded by the fact that the author is a "libertarian" and mentions Ayn Rand positively but writes from the perspective of a conservative (who nevertheless professes to be anathema to conservatives) who disdains the current intellectual establishment and the idea and potential of the humanities equally. Perhaps the best aspect the book is implicit, which the "high IQ" readers can infer without explicit clarification: life is finite and, as a popular movie explicated: "Get busy living or get busy dying."

Trey Mleynek says

Pleasantly surprised by Aaron and how well this book was written. There are some very good points made that will make you stop and think about your own life and how you handled certain things. He covers his beliefs on high school, college, careers and psychology.

The first few chapters changed my life when he spoke about going to school. How well you do in a subject in school is entirely dependent on the teachers passion for the subject. This really opened my eyes as I was a student that was always failing in school up until my senior year. This made me believe that I was dumb or lacked basic knowledge as those around me excelled.

It made me realize that

1. I'm not dumb. IQ score: 134
2. My teachers lacked passion so they gathered up extremely mind numbing material to educate me.

This is one of the most profound lessons I learned by reading but there were multiple others I'll save so you can have a chance to read it yourself. Great read!

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