

THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

Worksheet for Brian Koppelman | How to Make Billions (Episode 283)

Do you have a way to access the most creative part of yourself? Do you acknowledge your secret dream and chase it with rigor, or do you neglect that dream and let it turn toxic inside of you?


On this episode, Brian Koppelman tells us how he turned around his writer's block at age 30 and got himself out of the toxic slump to co-create *Rounders* and *Ocean's 13* and become the showrunner, co-creator, and executive producer of Showtime's *Billions* and host of Slate's *The Moment* podcast.

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Pick a Side

Brian notes that the line between being an artist and delusional is very thin. The way to know which side of the line you are on requires that you create objectively undeniable work and that you need a frame of reference to know when you've hit the mark.

Identify something in your life for which you feel you have boundless (or significant) enthusiasm. While this enthusiasm is key, alone it isn't enough. Have you objectively reviewed the quality of your work and approached it with a cold eye? If not, it may be time to separate the enthusiasm from the quality of the work and make sure what you're creating is truly undeniable.



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Reciprocate

Brian talks about how he is able to get billionaires to open up and tell him things about their world to which most people would never get access. The most important thing he talks about is making them feel understood and to reciprocate by offering them genuine value in return.

Identify a difficult or strained relationship with someone in your life that you'd like to improve but have struggled with. Examine your approach and honestly identify if you're trying to build a bridge by offering value to that person or if your tactics are one-sided. Challenge yourself to focus on what that other person might be feeling and how you can show them you understand their position. Observe how your relationship changes once you've done this.

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Don't Let It Linger

One key trait of successful people, according to Brian, is the ability to make the decision to keep moving forward during pivotal times in their life by not dwelling on successes or failures.

Reflect on a critical time in your life where you lingered after the event — either dwelling on a failure or marinated in the excitement of a big victory. What kind of momentum did you have after that event and how long did it take you to start moving forward again? Can you compare this to a time where you simply acknowledged a key event and pressed forward? How did they differ?

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Secret Dreams

Brian talks about the “secret dreams” many of us have, where we feel there is something more to life but we have no idea what that *more* is. He also notes that denying that dream will cause something within us to die and create a toxicity that will spread to all aspects of our lives — something we’d all obviously like to avoid.

What “secret dream” do you feel you have and may be denying, either due to your age, personal circumstances, or some other excuse you tell yourself? Challenge yourself to follow the resources outlined by Brian to clearly define the “what” you were meant to be and outline a plan to address the “how” — then get started.

Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here.](#)

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About



Join us as we get deep into the untapped wisdom of the world's top performers – from legendary creators to intelligence operatives, iconoclastic writers to visionary change-makers.

We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth – and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these valuable insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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