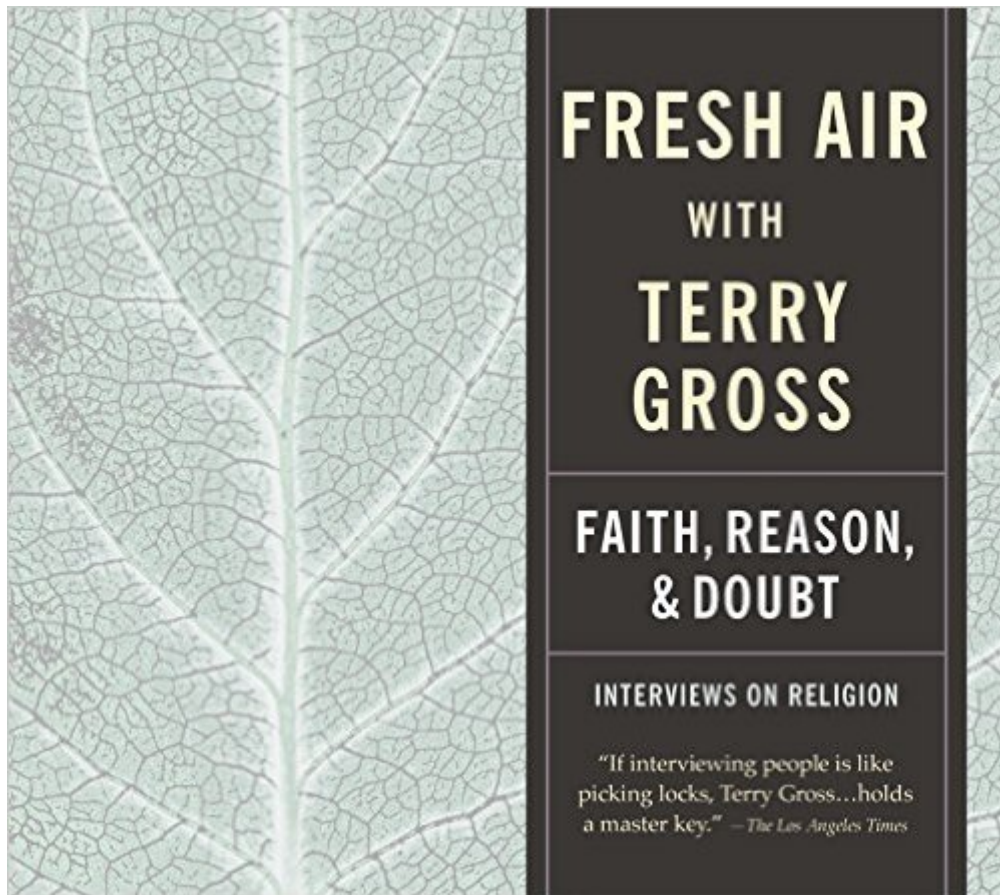


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# Fresh Air: Faith, Reason And Doubt



## Synopsis

Insightful and thought-provoking conversations exploring religion-and atheism-from diverse spiritual, cultural and political perspectives, as heard on the Peabody Award-winning radio show Fresh Air with Terry Gross. One of the most popular programs on public radio, Fresh Air is carried by over 500 stations and in Europe on the World Radio Network. Each week, nearly 5 million listeners tune in to hear probing and reflective interviews about arts, culture and politics. This new collection features interviews with an array of guests with diverse perspectives, from evangelical to atheistic, and the many places in between: Religious scholars Bart D. Ehrman and Karen Armstrong, scientist Richard Dawkins (The God Delusion), novelist Tim LaHaye, geneticist and evangelical Christian Francis Collins, Saturday Night Live's Julia Sweeney (Letting Go of God), and many more. As in previous Fresh Air collections, Terry Gross brings out the best in her guests with a variety of compelling interviews.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Years ago I reviewed a book called "The Middle Mind: Why Americans Don't Think for Themselves" by Curtis White. I blasted the author for aggressively attacking Terry Gross' "Fresh Air" program and using it as an example of typical American brainless entertainment. I thought White's approach alienated readers and inaccurately characterized Gross' work as an interviewer. Gross frequently interviews people in the entertainment industry so these interviews with people about their religious views (or lack of) are atypical for her. I have listened to Gross for years on NPR and I always found her benign. I've always thought White's attack on her interview style was incorrect. Then I listened

to these CDs. Terry Gross interviews people in a manner that allows people to just flatly state what they think or believe. There are few if any challenging questions. What these people say you could get from any of their publications. Here's two examples from opposite extremes: Karen Armstrong, the famous religious scholar who was once a nun, states in her interview with Gross that the essential meaning behind all religions is the Golden Rule. When I heard this I immediately thought, "Oh really?! Aren't you being prescriptive instead of descriptive?" What does Gross do? She moves on in the interview and accepts Armstrong's statement as it is. No challenges. Then we hear Gross interview Tim Lahaye, author of the "Left Behind" series. This is a man who is as close as it gets to being fringe on the far right. Lahaye tells Gross that he respects other people even if he disagrees with them. He then goes on to explain how he once publicly asked the Dali Lama if he would meet with him in private so that he (Lahaye) could share the truth about Jesus Christ.

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