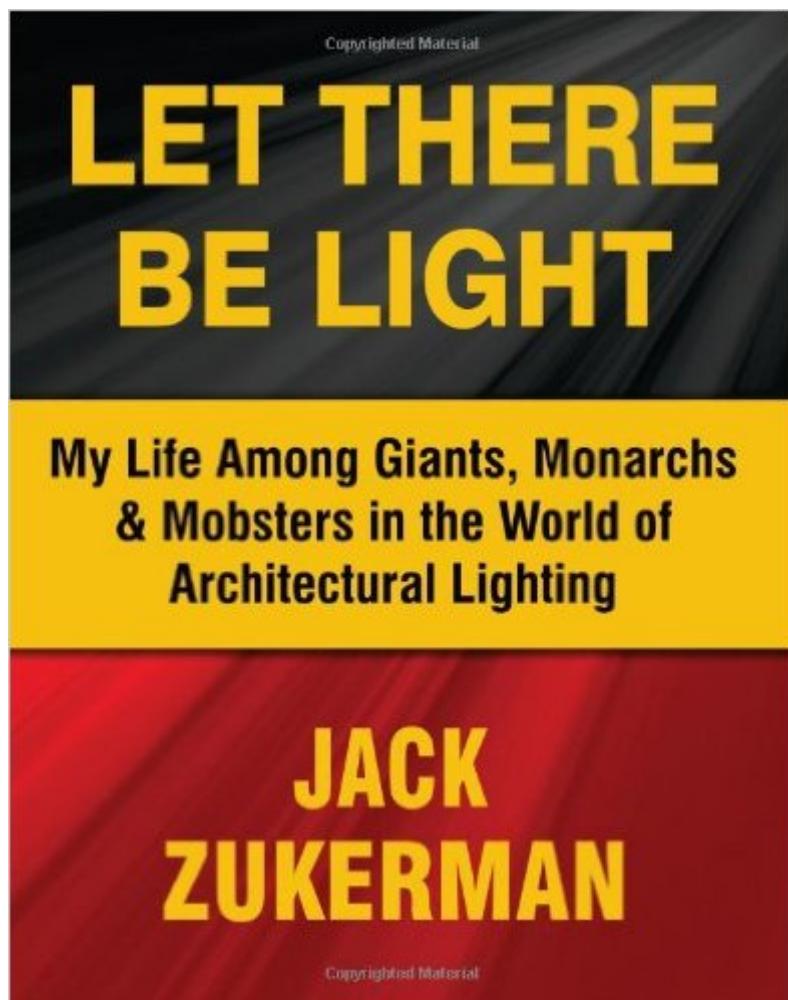


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# Let There Be Light: My Life Among Giants, Monarchs & Mobsters In The World Of Architectural Lighting



## Synopsis

Let There Be Light is a highly personal journey whose beginning was the starting point of a meteoric rise that captured the admiration and imagination of the architectural lighting industry. Book One is Jack's own inspiring story, which takes him from 1940s Moline, Illinois, where he literally had to fight his way through his school years, to the top of the lighting world-in New York, where he bickered and dickered with armed mobsters and worked on the World Trade Centers; in Chicago, where he lit the John Hancock Building; and finally in Southern California where his neighbors and friends included Alfred Hitchcock (another lighting expert), Dean Martin, Danny Thomas, and notorious mob lawyer Sydney Korshak. It takes us into a world of geniuses, rogues, and entrepreneurs. Let There Be Light is actually two books in one-a uniquely witty portrayal of Jack Zukerman's life, but also celebrating the art and engineering of an industry in which Jack more than made his mark.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book should be 'must reading' for any young person who is overwhelmed by life's challenges. How a young man can overcome and then achieve is a testament not only to Zukerman, who tells the story of his life, but to those who are inspired by his story. You don't have to be in Zukerman's industry. Any uptight corporate culture will do. The story is about what happens when you buck the trend, and have it backed up by ingenuity and inspiration. That's where Zukerman made his mark. Those he met along the way only added to a life-experience that became the fabric of his success. What I really loved was the fact that he didn't forget his roots. The lighting designers who

contribute to the book seem to do it in partial reverence for the author. The full package that is Zukerman's life is more compelling than many fictions.

I noticed, before I started reading, that the book was divided into two parts. The first part is an autobiography of Mr. Zukerman's life. The second part is about the lighting industry. I began reading the autobiography with interest, thinking that I would only skim the second part. The autobiography is, indeed, fascinating. But the second half was surprisingly compelling. I have never been particularly interested or aware of lighting. But as I was reading, I marveled at the difference effective lighting can make and the impact of lighting on our lives. I found myself looking around to observe how the room where I was reading was lit. I learned a lot and was delighted by what I read. Over all, Mr. Zukerman's book is a great read with plenty of great stories and information for those interested in both the human and technological aspects of life and that, I think includes all of us.

Let There Be Light is a must read for all those interested in the entrepreneurial spirit. Zukerman's rise to success is the story of the "American dream" --- a young man from humble beginnings who, through guts, determination, and drive, becomes one of the most successful CEO's in the world of architectural lighting. There are numerous entertaining vignettes of Zukerman's struggle to get to the top -- with armed mobsters, celebrities, and corporate big-wigs in the Fortune 500 world. Additionally, for those interested, the second half of the book is a compilation of revelations written by some of the top lighting designers in the world, which detail their most difficult lighting challenges and installations. Beautiful color photographs of the specific installation written about accompany each designer's article. Although I know nothing about architectural lighting, I found this section very informative and interesting. Overall, Let There Be Light is a wonderful book, which is obviously written with passion and dedication, touching for its personal revelation, enlightening for its knowledge about the field of lighting, and inspirational for all those who dream of entrepreneurial success. I recommend it without reservation!!

First, I have to say upon buying the book, I thought the title was a bit ... gaudy. My first thought was actually "is this jackass saying he's God or something? huh" Still, as an aspiring light designer, I've heard and seen this man's amazing work. Upon reading it, I was thoroughly disappointed and bored. It was just another person's life who's gone through struggles, tribulations, etc. He still is a white man in America who has more privilege than many do, so to me, it was sort of barmy. The writing feels detached, as if the man behind it wasn't actually writing it, and in auto biographies, I

expect that. Still, not everyone can be a writer, that much is true, it's an art form and just because one does amazing lighting doesn't mean one can write, so it should've been expected. Yes, it was packed with importance but still, I found myself falling asleep and having to return the book to get my money back. I think the key to these sorts of books is the importance of humility and family, as someone who hopes to be able to provide for my family one day, if I were to write a book, I'd want to not only write that I was a family person as well as stuck to my roots, but actually acted on it. Yes, I read the book a while back but I don't remember much hearing about the importance of life, of family. Because you can have all the money in the world, but what's the point if you have no one to share your wealth with? I hope not to become a greedy mogul like it seems Mr. Jack Zuckerman has and while his success is truly remarkable, it's made me change my major to something else more soul fulfilling. Plus, I'd like to add that the cover is sort of hideous.

This is a brilliantly written book. If you are going into the lighting business... This is a must read!

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