

# TIME

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"I'll gladly trade beauty, especially since I'm not using my looks to make a living anymore."

TYRA BANKS, *Entrepreneur* and *Supermodel*

## Would you trade 10% of your brains for looks—or vice versa?

### Neither. I'm fine, thanks

By Susan Wolf

LIKE MOST WOMEN, SADLY, I think of much that's wrong with my looks every day. I want thinner thighs, a smaller nose, a narrower gap between my teeth. And even though there are lots of things I wish I understood better, I frankly never think, "I wish I were smarter." So one would think I should leap at the chance of a trade. Alas, good looks never seem to make women happier. I would just be disappointed and regretful—and stupider! So I choose to stand pat.

Now, one might think that reaching this conclusion should itself be therapeutic, making me less dissatisfied with my looks. It doesn't, but I don't mind. There's a lot to be said for living with oneself and making the best of it.

*Wolf is a philosopher and the author of *The Variety of Values**



### Looks. My brain is my life

By Jason Derulo

I WOULD TRADE 10% OF MY looks for some more brainpower. For men, it's less about looks, more about power. The more power—brainpower—you have, the more attractive you are to women. (Women might have a different answer.)

So much of what I do is based on my ideas—writing video treatments, doing stage designs for my tours, finding talent for my record label. I need brain cells! Some people end up being a puppet, but that's not who I am.

I've always been pretty fit, but when I broke my neck and was down for six or seven months, I was obsessed with working out, and I couldn't. That's when it clicked: you always want what you can't have.

*Derulo is a recording artist whose most recent album is *Everything Is 4**