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The Art Of Work: A Proven Path To Discovering What You Were Meant To Do

The Art of Work

A PROVEN PATH *to* DISCOVERING
WHAT YOU
WERE MEANT TO DO



JEFF GOINS



Synopsis

Jeff Goins, a brilliant new voice counting Seth Godin and Jon Acuff among his fans, explains how to abandon the status quo and live a life that matters with true passion and purpose. The path to your life's work is difficult and risky, even scary, which is why few finish the journey. This is a book about discovering your life's work, that treasure of immeasurable worth we all long for. It's about the task you were born to do. As Jeff Goins explains, the search begins with passion but does not end there. Only when our interests connect with the needs of the world do we begin living for a larger purpose. Those who experience this intersection experience something exceptional and enviable. Though it is rare, such a life is attainable by anyone brave enough to try. Through personal experience, compelling case studies, and current research on the mysteries of motivation and talent, Jeff shows readers how to find their vocation and what to expect along the way.

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Customer Reviews

I first encountered Jeff Goins through his website while researching ways to generate an income online. My first impression was that he was another web "Guru" looking to sell me something. I wasn't impressed initially as I scanned over his website. I saw an "artsy" type who I didn't seem to connect to right away. I am a scientist and tend to be more analytical in my thinking. I didn't dig too deep during that first web site visit. I did see that he was giving away his book for the price of shipping and handling. As an ardent bibliophile, as many of you likely are, this caught my attention. Being the jaded soul that I am I figured that he would jack up the shipping and handling to cover the production costs of his book. So I ambled on over to and saw that it looked to be a legitimate book and that it wouldn't be released for another month. I figured that I could part with the \$6.95 without any true sacrifice and went ahead and ordered it. I thought that was that, and I would see it in the mail in a month or so. Boy was I ever wrong! So here it is 33 days later and I must say that I completely misjudged Jeff. I had my blinders on and would have missed some real personal growth had Jeff not knocked them off my face. So what changed my mind, you ask? Well the first thing was that I received an email from Jeff the same day that I ordered the book with a link to a full version of the book in PDF format. So I wouldn't have to wait a month after all to start reading it. That was nice. I also received a link to a writing challenge called My 500 Words. Jeff challenges you to write at least 500 words a day for 31 days, and he emails you a prompt each morning to get you going.

As someone who has already been functioning in what seemed to be "my calling" for over two decades, I wondered if Jeff Goins' latest book would have anything much to offer me. Not because I'm a know-it-all but because I wondered if I had passed my prime or peak. Believe me when I say it had plenty to offer. Not only did this book rip to shreds some erroneous notions that were long standing in my life, it presented what I believe is a better view of life, work, purpose and most important of all legacy. Sometimes I fall for the mistaken notion that doing is more important than becoming. After reading *The Art of Work* I've been reminded that who I am becoming, through both the good times and bad, is what matters most. It is also what people will remember. The same is true of you as this book clearly brings to light. I believe that the takeaway from *The Art of Work* will be unique to each individual who reads it. At first, I thought it might be for people in their 20's and 30's but, as I read along further, I realized that since it was speaking to me that was not the case. Here is the table of contents for those who might be interested:

Introduction: The Cancer That Couldn't Stop the Triathlete
Part One: Preparation
1. Listen to Your Life: The Call to Something Old Not New
2. Accidental Apprenticeships: The Teacher Appears When The Student Least Expects
3. Painful Practice: When Trying Isn't Good Enough
Part Two: Action
4. Building Bridges: The Leap That

Wasn't a Leap5. Pivot Points: Why Failure Is Your Friend6. The Portfolio Life: A New Kind of MasteryPart Three: Completion7.

You could say I'm a vocational enthusiast. It all started when someone handed me a copy of *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker J. Palmer during my senior year of college. Its short-term effect was giving me the courage to say no to a stable, but stressful night job at the college union. The long-term effect? I discovered my "something I can't not do" was helping other people grab hold of their something. There's a lot to grab hold of in Goins' book about discovering "the reason you were born." (No pressure.) Seven themes anchor his ideas - Awareness, Apprenticeship, Practice, Discovery, Profession, Mastery, and Legacy "and each theme is illustrated with anecdotes from the lives of ordinary people, including Goins himself. While Goins is a Christian and cites Christian tradition to make some of his points, religiosity doesn't overwhelm the reader. The practical takes precedent over the philosophical. In the chapter on Awareness, a story illustrates how noticing what makes us different from other people can be a source of both pain and purpose. In the chapter on Practice, we see an example of how our love for something, like painting, might be honed into a skill set, like web design, without making us feel like a sell-out. "Your vocation can evolve," Goins writes in the chapter on Profession, and I breathe a sigh of relief. Now, nearly a decade after my first brush with *Let Your Life Speak*, I hear from young wanderers picking it up for the first time and feeling the pressure to find their path once and for all. "There is a thread we follow," I tell them, paraphrasing a poem from William Stafford called "The Way It Is," but with it we weave many selves over the course of one life.

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