

THE PLEASURES AND SORROWS OF WORK

ALAIN de BOTTON

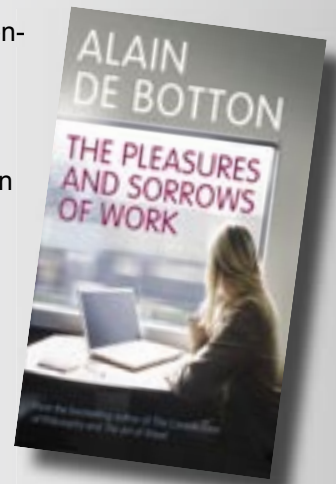
Characteristically lucid, witty and inventive, Alain de Botton's 'song for occupations' is a celebration and exploration of an aspect of life which is all too often ignored and yet as central to us as our love lives.

We spend much of our lives at work – in occupations often chosen by our unthinking sixteen-year-old selves – but surprisingly little gets written about what makes work both one of the most exciting and most painful of all our activities.

The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work is an exploration of the joys and perils of the modern workplace, beautifully evoking what other people get up to all day – and night – to make the frenzied contemporary world function. With a philosophical eye and his characteristic combination of wit and wisdom, **de Botton** leads us on a journey around a deliberately eclectic range of occupations, from rocket science to biscuit manufacture, accountancy to art – in search of what make jobs either fulfilling or soul-destroying.

Along the way he tries to answer some of the most urgent questions we can ask about work: Why do we do it? What makes it pleasurable? What is its meaning? And why do we exhaust not only ourselves but also the planet?

The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work contains over a hundred original images specially commissioned from the great documentary photographer Richard Baker.



Alain de Botton is available for interview



Alain de Botton was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1969 and now lives in London. He is a writer of essayistic books that have been described as a '*philosophy of everyday life*.' He has written on love, travel, architecture and literature. His books have been best-sellers in 30 countries. **de Botton** also started and helps to run a school in London called **The School of Life**, dedicated to a new vision of education. **de Botton's** earlier titles include **Essays in Love, How Proust Can Change Your Life, The Consolations of Philosophy, The Art of Travel, Status Anxiety** and **The Architecture of Happiness**.

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