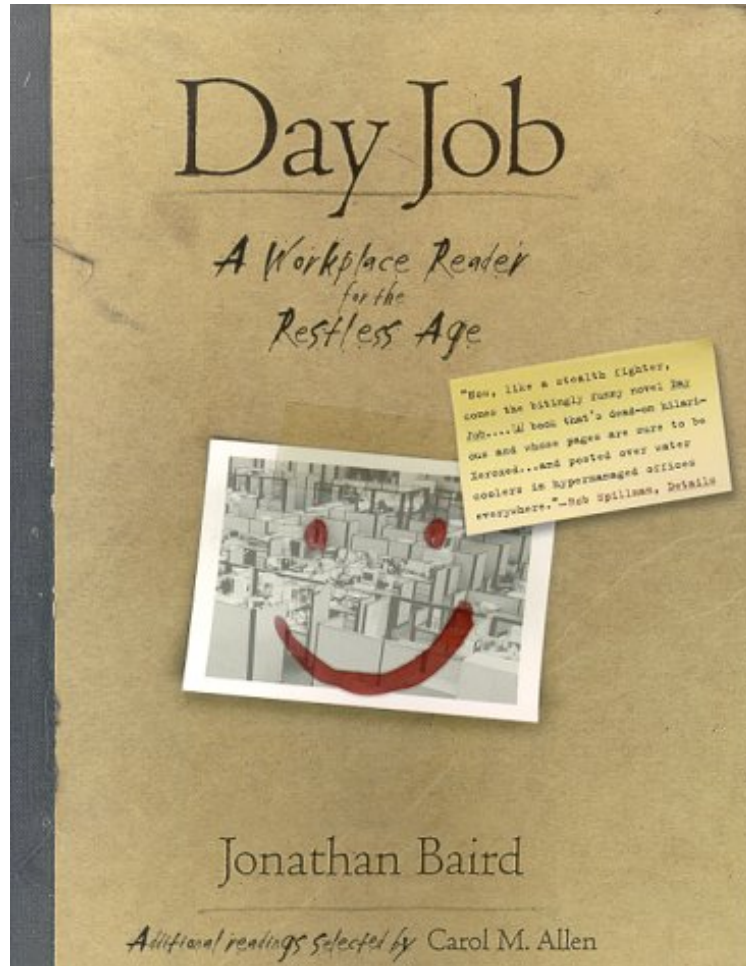


(Free and download) Day Job: A Workplace Reader for the Restless Age

## Day Job: A Workplace Reader for the Restless Age

Jon Baird

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**Jon Baird : Day Job: A Workplace Reader for the Restless Age** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Day Job: A Workplace Reader for the Restless Age:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. same nameBy Carol AllenThe only reason I bought this book was that one of the authors has exactly the same name as I do. The oddest reason I have ever had for buying a book!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An entertaining and intelligent book.By A CustomerJon Baird has written a book that should be read by everyone in the workplace. It allows for self-examination by every professional, and will help co-workers of all levels relate to each other's motivations and attitudes more completely. The book is extremely well written, and entertains in a way that other career-books fail to. It is far superior to either "What Color is your parachute" in terms of implicit career advice, and far more captivating to read than "The Goal," while conveying the same value of information and ideas contained in these other two commercially successful books.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great TQM dissectionBy A CustomerThrough the busy device of sidebars and margin

notes left by a fictional consultant, this beautifully printed novel of "Total Quality Management" is as much an in-joke on the editorial nurturing of a novice journalizer as it is an experiment in loosely melding fiction with nonfiction guru-management primers. Laurance Allen's deadpan closing publisher's note buries the efforts of Baird (who also designed and produced this amusing and informing business reader) within the context of researchers, proofreaders, sources, editors, and, of course, the suits who made it all happen.

It's 9:34 a.m. Do you know where your career is headed? Do you have one? More likely, you'd never call what you do from 9 to 5 a career. You'd call it your day job. And what if you were given a single day to record it all, to ask the important questions about life and career, to air out your strongest and most private opinions and thoughts--what would you say? That's the question that has been put to customer service rep Mark Thornton. And his answer is *Day Job*, a darkly comic, high-velocity run through the modern workplace.

.com Are the walls of your cubicle starting to close in? Have you just sat through yet another meeting trying to rally team morale? Time for a break. Grab a cup of coffee, find a quiet spot, and delve into Jonathan Baird's illuminating and hilarious book *Day Job*. Take comfort in the fact that you are not alone. Mark Thornton works in customer service for a company committed to TQM (Total Quality Management), a program in which "groups of contaminated individuals lapse into loud and ungovernable fugue-like states, wherein future trends of commerce are prophesied and cosmic lessons in human behavior are thought to reveal themselves." Charters, team spirit, unreasonable clients, and a manager totally dedicated to TQM plague Thornton, who, just a couple of years out of college, never envisioned himself working in a meaningless "day job." So when a client recommends participating in the SysCorp Journal program, Thornton jumps on it, hoping, perhaps, to discover a career path for himself. For one day, he'll record everything that happens to him at work, which SysCorp will then analyze and notate. The result is *Day Job*; half business self-help, half humorous novel, it is the journal of a disillusioned worker, complete with notes from SysCorp, doodles and asides from Thornton, and helpful words of advice culled from everyone from Proust and Walt Whitman to Deepak Chopra and Stephen Covey's (*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*). The design--which at first may appear gimmicky--is ultimately delightful, making this book a pleasure to flip through. But the true fun lies in how Thornton dissects his life and the lives of those all-too-familiar characters who appear in our own offices--the defensive temps, the proudly overworked, the suspicious coworkers. Whether you're just starting your career or you've been master of your cubicle for years, you'll enjoy the lively prose (think Douglas Coupland meets "Dilbert"), not just for its humor but also for how close it hits home (or, rather, office). --Jenny Brown From Publishers Weekly This refreshing approach to the conventional business book, a combination of text and illustrations in an unusual format, is guaranteed to grab the reader's attention?and may furnish some insights, chuckles and a lesson or two about satisfaction in the job market. Mark Thornton, whose notes about his job and his life form the basis of the story, is your typical recent college grad. He's got a useless political science degree and tons of student debts and has landed a job as a customer rep for a graphics company in the throes of Total Quality Management (TQM) training. TQM has driven Lon Baffert, Mark's boss, bonkers, so that he periodically pops into people's cubicles and tells them to "get psyched." Mark has latched onto management's limitless appetite for psychological fixes by getting the company to underwrite his Syscorp Journal program. Offered by a rival to TQM, Syscorp's morale and retraining program requires that, for a day, Mark jot down random observations on his life. Baird, who has been a magazine art director, gives the ostensible results of this project a distinctive journal-like look by rendering much of the text as though it's a typed manuscript-in-progress, including marginal doodles, sidebars (for instance, "a Select Inventory of Management Office Furnishings," listing the baffling knickknacks with which middle-managers tend to clutter their offices) and an array of quotations from such masters as Nietzsche and Steven Covey (of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* fame). The trick by which Mark gets to join the design department is the funny payoff for this quirky look at workplace anomie in the 1990s. (Sept.) FYI: The publisher intends to distribute this book only through college and independent bookstores and the Internet, avoiding the chains. Readers are encouraged to interact with the author and publisher at [www.dayjob.com](http://www.dayjob.com). or [jbaird@a-os.com](mailto:jbaird@a-os.com), or [lallen@a-os.com](mailto:lallen@a-os.com). Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Day Job has all the characteristics its subject-corporate culture-lacks: namely originality, realism and youthful brilliance." --Mardi Link, Foreword, July 1998 "This refreshing approach to the conventional business book, a combination of text and illustrations in an unusual format..." -- Publisher's Weekly, July 6, 1998 If you work for a paycheck, then you've seen 'em all: "Focus groups," "TQM," "The flat organization," "Sudden Super Service!" Funny how, no matter what the management Gurus say or do, all too many workers wind up thinking "day job" instead of "career" and "blah" instead of "Wow!" This work, ostensibly a TQM journal, amounts to a bitterly funny business version of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, as our Ivan, one Mark Thornton, makes his way through eight hours in the camp-er, office. You've met the entire cast of characters, in one form or another, in your own workaday life, and the author, a graphic designer, takes no prisoners in his scathing characterizations of office personalities and attitudes. Nor does he spare wooden-headed management practices designed, you perceive, to perpetuate those selfsame timber crania. Interspersed with journal entries are readings from a broad array of personages who have visited this question and set

down their thoughts and reactions, some piquant, some cynical, some tragic. You may not be able to resolve your own situation in quite the same way our protagonist does, but you'll come away from the book having had a more than a few belly laughs and having gained a good deal of wisdom. -- From Independent Publisher