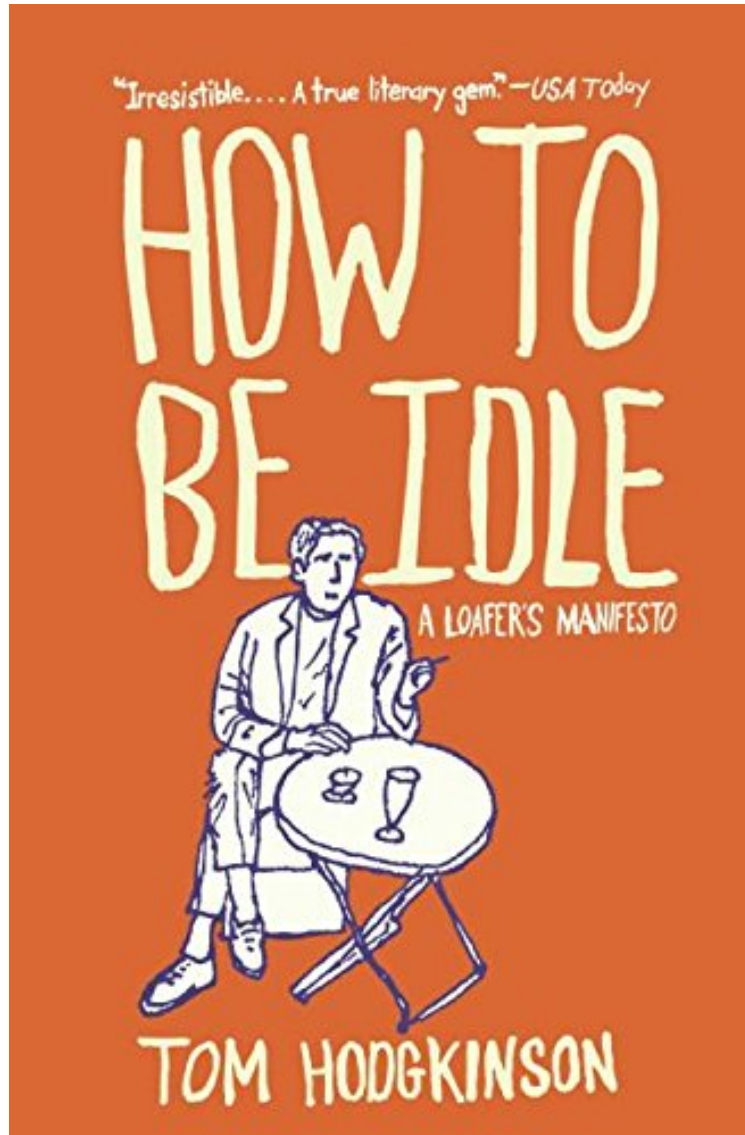


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How to Be Idle: A Loafer's Manifesto

Tom Hodgkinson

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Tom Hodgkinson : How to Be Idle: A Loafer's Manifesto before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Be Idle: A Loafer's Manifesto:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Be IdleBy Young FranBeing a 20 something now, the thing you hear most often is "get a job". That was easy enough in my grandfather's day; work your way up the corporate ladder, pop out some kids, work a little more, get a good pension, feel some good old-fashioned pride. Things were good. Now it's like, work for 8-10 hours, pop in a microwaved meal, think about paying off some student loan debt, stare at

the computer, get 4 hours of sleep and do it all the next day. How To Be Idle is exactly what it sounds like: it's a run through of a possible alternative to the work 'til you drop ideology. For starters, the idea that a person doesn't have to wake up by 8 o'clock to be productive could be an eye opening concept for some. Think of how much time you waste just 'thinking' about doing work. Could it be that your procrastination is actually helping you in the long run? Thinking of procrastination as strategy that could propel ones work is a strange and yet perfect idea. When you're ready to work, you'll know it. How is it a good idea to drink an extra large coffee, that gives you the shakes and gut rot and only the illusion of productivity. Fear not- Idling doesn't mean sitting around like a new age bum, although that would be perfectly acceptable should you choose that option. It means taking control of your day, and not letting work (especially the bureaucratic busy work) run your life. Take time to drink a cup of tea. It's ritualistic and more conscious than a gallon of coffee. We learned this already, slow and steady wins the race, I read this in Florida visiting my grandparents and they, and all the other seniors by the pool seemed to look at the cover as some sort of communist manifesto. I think for them, working was a profitable, well respected and attainable prospect. It seems today that the precarity of existing in a society that constantly puts up obstacles, leaving a person in a constant state of anxiety makes any alternative of thinking a helpful or even life saving option. If you're sick and tired of being sick and tired, this is really the book. Sleep in, have a cup of tea, a smoke, sex, drink, and a good conversation all while getting your work done. Imagine that.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed it and unlike my other kindle books which I ...By DianeEveryone who is too busy at times needs to read this book, just as a way of NOT feeling guilty for taking things down a few notches when and if they need to. Well written and witty, I thoroughly enjoyed it and unlike my other kindle books which I usually remove from my device after completing, I'm keeping this one around to remind me to take things more easy and be a little kinder to myself. You may not agree with all sections of the book (such as recommending staying up late or sleeping in until late morning, neither of which I do) but you will find things that resonate with you. At least I did. Fantastic section about how the Industrial Revolution stole our free time from us and, combined with the Puritan Work Ethic, helped turn us into the stress and overwork monsters we are today.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A New PerspectiveBy seagypsyBeing an idler is not that easy. It requires letting go of the need for security and achievement and lots of other things we think we need to get by. Just being receptive and letting the world spin on its own. A lot of people just can't handle the stillness. It's ironic, but an idler can actually get a lot accomplished. Taoism--the Asian traditions have a lot to say about that. In Japanese art, the concept of negative space--leaving parts of the canvas empty so that the viewer can rest--is important. In the Bible, Jesus spoke to Martha and Mary about stopping the constant busyness. It seems like the Old Testament encourages people to work really hard--especially the Proverbs--but the New Testament is more about laying your burdens down.

From the founding editor of *The Idler*, the celebrated magazine about the freedom and fine art of doing nothing, comes not simply a book, but an antidote to our work-obsessed culture. In *How to Be Idle*, Tom Hodgkinson presents his learned yet whimsical argument for a new universal standard of living: being happy doing nothing. He covers a whole spectrum of issues affecting the modern idler—sleep, work, pleasure, relationships—while reflecting on the writing of such famous apologists for it as Oscar Wilde, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Nietzsche—all of whom have admitted to doing their very best work in bed.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen your alarm clock jolts you awake in the morning, do you wish you could just lie in bed, read a book, sip a cup of tea and be idle all day? Hodgkinson, founder of the *Idler* magazine, does. And in this book he presents 24 essays defending life's idle pleasures, which are, he says, vilified by our modern society. He meditates on sleeping in, fishing, smoking and drinking, and even waxes poetic about the hangover. The whole book is soaked with nostalgia for the turn-of-the-century English gentleman's lifestyle; Hodgkinson defends his arguments by quoting Jerome K. Jerome, G.K. Chesterton and, of course, that icon of British foppery, Oscar Wilde. Although billed as tongue-in-cheek witticisms about the idle life, the book fails to maintain the comic tone. In his chapter on the evils of the 9-to-5 job ("wage slavery," as the author calls it), Hodgkinson cites Heinrich Himmler as a spokesperson for the defense of work [...] The book gives tantalizing anthropological insights into society's views on those lazy habits that the author so enjoys, but the viewpoint is so antiquated and condescending toward the poor slob who must actually go to work every day that readers will often find themselves staring aghast at the page. Bw line illus. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "In these stress-filled times . . . we should all give ourselves the gift of reading this debut." (Library Journal) "A true literary gem... irresistible" (USA Today) About the AuthorTom Hodgkinson is still doing what he's always done, which is a mixture of editing magazines, writing articles, and putting on parties. He was born in 1968, founded *The Idler* in 1993, and now lives in Devon, England. He is also the author of *The Freedom Manifesto*.