

Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity

By David Whyte

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Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity By David Whyte

Crossing the Unknown Sea is about reuniting the imagination with our day to day lives. It shows how poetry and practicality, far from being mutually exclusive, reinforce each other to give every aspect of our lives meaning and direction. For anyone who wants to deepen their connection to their life's work—or find out what their life's work is—this book can help navigate the way.

Whyte encourages readers to take risks at work that will enhance their personal growth, and shows how burnout can actually be beneficial and used to renew professional interest. He asserts that too many people blindly trudge through a mediocre work life because so many "busy" tasks prevent significant reflection and analysis of job satisfaction. People often turn to spiritual practice or religion to nurture their souls, but overlook how work can actually be our greatest opportunity for discovery and growth. **Crossing the Unknown Sea** combines poetry, gifted storytelling and Whyte's personal experience to reveal work's potential to fulfill us and bring us closer to ultimate freedom and happiness.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Readers who accept poet and Fortune 500 consultant Whyte's invitation to enter into "an imaginative conversation about life and work" are likely to be challenged as well as delighted by the beauty of his writing and the expansiveness of his views. Gracefully using the metaphor of a sea voyage to depict the journey through the world of work, Whyte views work not only as a means of support, but as a means for interacting with the world and developing self-expression and identity. While he draws on the philosophical underpinnings of the self-help movement aimed at finding one's "inner compass," Whyte doesn't offer the step-by-step pragmatism of other books. Instead, his approach is subtler and more organic, presenting an abundance of provocative ideas, especially on one's relationship with time and daily ritual, on the importance of dignity and ethics and on honoring the labor of one's ancestors. Interwoven with and undergirding Whyte's philosophy are passages of memoir, detailing his unique experiences as a naturalist in the Gal pagos Islands, for example, together with poetic references from Whitman, Spender, Dickinson, Rilke, Wordsworth and Whyte's own works. Even Whyte's friends are wise, as evidenced by a monk who tells him that the antidote to exhaustion is not rest but "wholeheartedness." Thoughtful readers will wholeheartedly savor this book. Agent, Ned Leavitt. (Apr. 2)Forecast: Whyte established a core audience with the much-praised The Heart Aroused: Poetry and the Preservation of the Soul in Corporate America and through his business seminars on creativity. A six-city author tour, selection by the One Spirit Book Club and a recent excerpt in Oprah's magazine mark this as a title to watch.

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From Library Journal
In the midst of all the arid, bullet point-ridden business books, Whyte's stands out with its languid I'll-get-to-the-point-when-I'm-damned-good-and-ready approach. A poet, corporate trainer, and author of The Heart Aroused: Poetry and the Preservation of the Soul in Corporate America, Whyte challenges readers to remember their childhood interests and enthusiasms. He claims that this is necessary in order to escape the deadening influences of adult "musts" and "shoulds" and to recapture the passion that one needs to do good work. Whyte discusses his own career changes, from naturalist to nonprofit executive to writer/presenter/coacher. Echoing Fortgang, his main point is the popular "Do what you love and the money will follow," but he personalizes it by telling his own story and by including snippets of focused poetry (his own and others'), so that it's not as hackneyed as it may sound. Because an excerpt appeared in the March 2001 issue of O: The Oprah Magazine, there's sure to be demand in public libraries.
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Review
“Readers who accept poet and Fortune 500 consultant Whyte’s invitation to enter into ‘an imaginative conversation about life and work’ are likely to be challenged as well as delighted by the beauty of his writing and the expansiveness of his views. Gracefully using the metaphor of a sea voyage to depict the journey through the world of work, Whyte views work not only as a means of support, but as a means for interacting with the world and developing self-expression and identity… An abundance of provocative ideas…thoughtful readers will wholeheartedly savor this book.”**—Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

“**Crossing the Unknown Sea** is like a grail that reconfers dignity to what has been demeaned by our

preoccupation with monetary wealth."**—Paul Hawken, author of The Ecology of Commerce**

"Managers might do well to ditch wishy-washy motivational speakers and instead hire the fiery David Whyte to stir creativity and imagination in their employees."**—USA Today**

"Keep this beautiful book with you and you will discover, as I have, a still point amid our slightly mad world."**—Peter Senge, author of the The Fifth Discipline and coauthor of Schools That Learn**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Casey:

Here thing why this specific Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity are different and reliable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good but it depends in the content than it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no e-book that similar with Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your technique home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity in e-book can be your alternate.

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