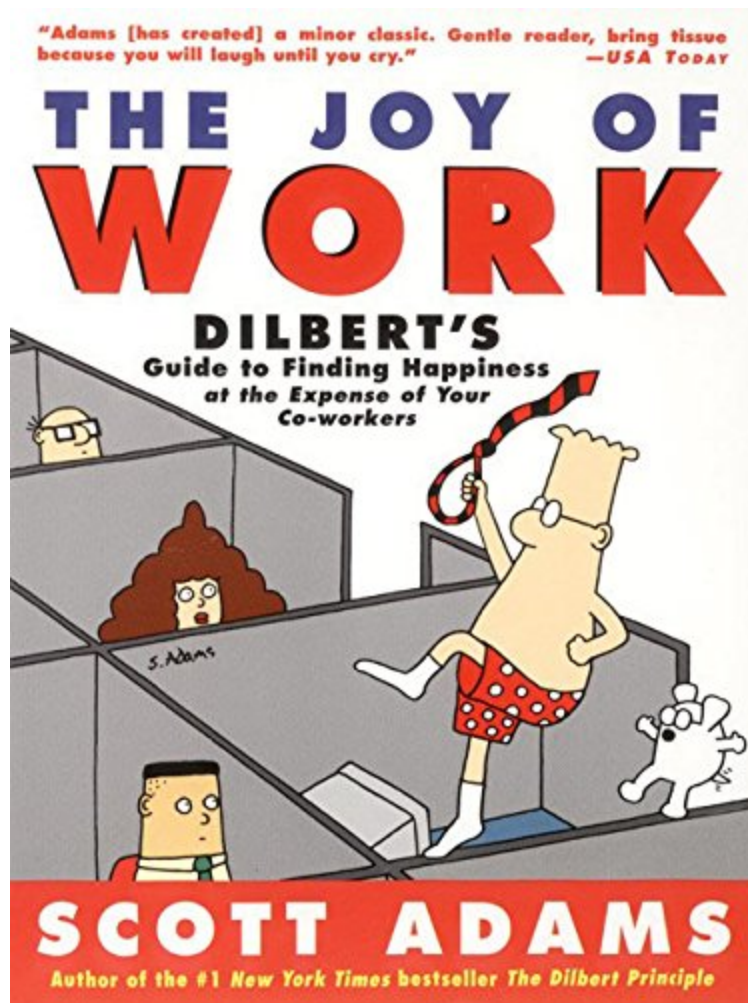


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The Joy of Work: Dilbert's Guide to Finding Happiness at the Expense of Your Co-Workers

Scott Adams

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Scott Adams : The Joy of Work: Dilbert's Guide to Finding Happiness at the Expense of Your Co-Workers before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Joy of Work: Dilbert's Guide to Finding Happiness at the Expense of Your Co-Workers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lot on his mind By Ellis Goodson Adams is a thinker. And he thinks about making things work. Half the humor in Dilbert is based on being thwarted from pursuing the best and obvious way to do things. Good notes about the social aspects of work and why people behave the way they do and some good ideas about standing out and doing well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. awesome By

Neal I love Dilbert, Scott Adams writing is great. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you work in an office environment, then much ...By James Natale If you work in an office environment, then much needed humor to forget about the insanity you must stave off.

'I cried because I did not have an office with a door, until I met a man who had no cubicle.' Dilbert A message from Scott Adams: I think the next wave of office design will focus on eliminating the only remaining obstacle to office productivity: your happiness. Happiness isn't a physical thing, like walls and doors. But it's closely related. Managers know that if they can eliminate all traces of happiness, the employees won't be so picky about their physical surroundings. Once you're hopelessly unhappy, you won't bother to complain if your boss rolls you up in a tight ball and crams you into a cardboard box. As soon as I noticed this disturbing threat to workplace happiness, I did some investigative work and discovered it wasn't confined to the issue of office design. Companies were making a direct frontal assault on employee happiness in every possible way! I knew there was only one thing that could stop the horror. It was time for another Dilbert book. It might sound corny, but I felt an obligation to society. People told me it was time for me to 'give something back to the community.' This scared me, until I realized that no one knows I furnished my house with street signs and park benches. So I interpreted the 'give something back to the community' message as a plea for me to write this book and then charge the community to read it. In the first part of this book I will tell you how to find happiness at the expense of your co-workers, managers, customers, and – best of all – those lazy stockholders. The second part of the book teaches you my top-secret methods for mining humour out of ordinary situations, thus making it easier to mock the people around you. The third part of the book is made entirely of invisible pages. If the book seems heavier than it looks, that's why. Office Prank #44: Sounds That Drive Co-workers Crazy. You can produce sounds in the office that will drive your co-workers insane. That can be very entertaining. Every co-worker is different, so you might have to experiment to find the sounds that are most annoying to your cubicle neighbour. It's worth the effort.

.com Scott Adams's latest work is not a collection of Dilbert cartoons (though recycled strips are liberally sprinkled throughout); it's a dialogue between the man and his fans disguised as a tongue-in-cheek guide to surviving the corporate life. There are chapters on "Office Pranks," "Surviving Meetings," and "Managing Your Co-Workers," with enough weird stories and practical jokes to make any middle manager nervous, especially as many of the tricks and tips come from e-mails sent to Adams by his fans (one tip: never let anyone else use your computer). If these messages are any indication, the creative tide has turned, and now the corporate world is following Dilbert's lead. In the office blocks of America, life is imitating art imitating life, creating a pleasantly postmodern working environment. The final chapter of *The Joy of Work*, "Handling Criticism," includes a response to Norman Solomon's *The Trouble with Dilbert*, which accuses Adams of selling out and supporting the corporate hierarchy that he claims to satirize. Adams's response is thorough and convincing, with just enough nastiness (jokes about Solomon's hair, for example) to demonstrate that although Dilbert may not have a mouth, he certainly has teeth. --Simon Leake From Publishers Weekly Dilbert devotees should enjoy Adams's compendium of advice on office life, subterfuge and pranks. Take his grid that identifies boss types along the axes of capable/incompetent and harmless/evil: with a boss who is both capable and harmless, be sure to delegate upward. Other handy tips: don't return phone calls (if you do, you'll seem accessible and underworked); present overly complicated diagrams with made-up letters (explain when asked: "Some ideas are too big for the alphabet"). Loyal readers have contributed some Adams's suggested office pranks, as well as choice bits like the coinage of the term "multishirking," or doing two nonwork activities at once. Sure, some bits are too silly to be funny (start a phone-sex biz from your cubicle?), and others could use some Dave Barry-style zing. But this book shines with Adams's real advice on creating humor and his hilarious tale of appearing as an expert consultant (aka Mebert) who convinced his clients to put their mission statement to music. As usual, this fourth Dilbert book?timed to arrive with the UPN animated series this fall?is punctuated throughout by hilarious and apropos Dilbert strips. Author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Adams is obviously unconcerned about the possibility that Dilbert, his cartoon creation, is at great risk of becoming overexposed; this is his fourth book in the Dilbert series. And besides the Dilbert dolls and computer games, an animated television program is in the works, Dilbert will have his own Ben and Jerry's ice-cream flavor ("World--Totally Nuts!"), and he is now the "spokesperson" for Office Depot. The cartoon that gave rise to all of this remains (along with "Garfield") the most popular comic strip in the country's major newspapers. After taking a look at the world outside in *The Dilbert Future* (1997), Adams and Dilbert redirect their cynicism back to the workplace. Relying on cartoon strip "re-runs" and e-mailed tips from fans, Adams offers advice on managing your boss, reverse telecommuting (bringing personal work to the office), pranks and humor in the workplace ("laughter at the expense of others"), and surviving meetings. His suggestions run the gamut from the very funny to the just plain mean-spirited. Adams concludes with a section on handling criticism. Here he includes a response to Norman Solomon's *Trouble with Dilbert: How Corporate Culture Gets the Last Laugh* (1997). He effectively deflates much of Solomon's critique, but Adams cannot seem to resist getting in a personal dig or two. It seems Solomon's real flaw, much like that of Dilbert's boss, is his funny-looking

