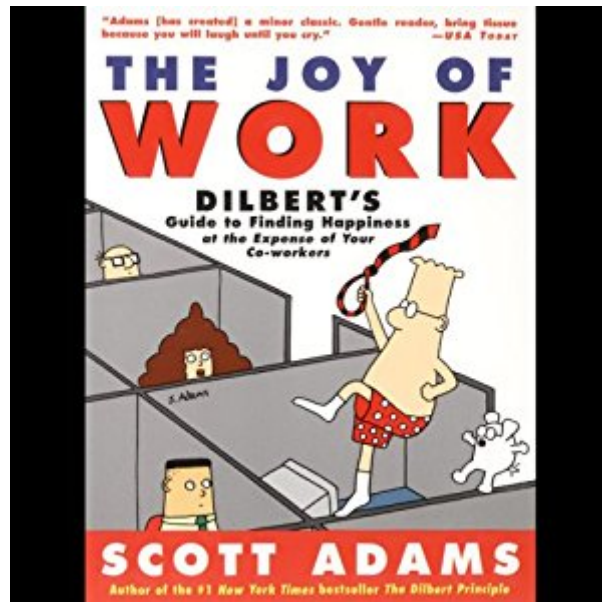


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# The Joy Of Work



## Synopsis

“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 realised 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I do not read Dilbert books for the humor, that part is simply a plus. I read them because of the serious business strategies in them. I highly recommend this book for any low level office workers. Having personally done most of the things in this book, I can say the "tricks" are for real. If you are one of those employees who gets your work done in 2 hours when your boss allotted you 40, then what are you going to do with the other 38 hours? The book follows the flow of Serious, Joking, Serious. It starts with paradigm-shifting philosophy, then it morphs into humor and finally it ends with a nice section on "how humor works". Nicely Done.

Dilbert follows an established line of business cynics. Parkinson wrote that "work expands to fill the time available". Peter wrote "Managers in an organization rise until they reach their level of incompetence". And Robert Townsend, ex CEO of Avis, wrote that "consultants borrow your watch to tell you the time". Adams is aware of this and in his book, *The Dilbert Principle*, he refers to the Peter Principle as "those Golden Years when you had a boss who was once good at something". If Dilbert is not the first, he is the best. Unlike the others, he has achieved mass circulation and adorns t-shirts, coffee mugs and cubicle walls. The key to success, says Adams, is segmentation. "If you can sell enough units to the Stupid Rich... then you can lower your prices and sell to the Stupid Poor, (which is) where the real volume is." The Dilbert principle states that people are idiots. We are just idiots about different things at different times. "No matter how smart you are, you spend much of your day being an idiot." Big corporations encourage idiocy to thrive. They reward the symptoms of competence, above competence itself. Scott Adams himself had a brief foray as the super consultant, Ray Mebert. He dressed up, put on a wig (never forget the emotional intelligence of good hair), and helped a group of executives at an international company create "the longest, most useless, buzzword-heavy mission statement on earth". It was when they were putting it to music (since "there is a wealth of evidence that people can remember words more easily if they are put to music"), that he finally came clean. With the advent of Mebert, we are looking at a new age in consulting. One day we will look back to the Golden Days when consultants borrowed your watch and at least told you the time. The new Mebert consultants will take your watch and at most will ask you to describe it.

This is one of the first Dilbert books I have read. I enjoyed the book and thought it was outright hilarious. It is a nice easy read to relax and you will be laughing out loud. I usually do not laugh out loud when I am reading books, but this book did it for me. There were two sections of the book that stood out to me. I especially liked the section on office pranks written in by readers of Dilbert to Scott Adams. Also particularly amusing is the instance where Adams pretends to be a consultant at Logitech. Read the book to see what happens. Not too surprising, but funny. Whether you are a longtime Dilbert fan or a newcomer to the Dilbert series, I would recommend this book for a quick and funny read. I have also read *The Dilbert Principle*, but I found this book much funnier.

This book is probably the funniest thing you will read in a long, long time. It is absolutely, incredibly, painfully funny, and it has some real tips thrown in for good measure. Any one who calls themselves a Dilbert Fan and/or has any sense of humor should get this book. As a DNRC member and a fan who has all Scott Adams' books, I can truly recommend this as one of his best to date.

I enjoyed the book in paper form quite a lot. When I tried the Kindle version I found it was a scan of each page from the book rather than a true Kindle book. There is no way to change the font size and none of the other change options improved the image at all. Basically each page is very small and they are grayish rather than white. Quite hard on the eyes and very disappointing.

I bought this book as a teenager in 1998... I couldn't tell you what possessed me to do so but at the time I thought the book was hilarious in title, concept, and content. Fast forward to 2002 when I started working in an office and reflecting on how I've moved from office culture with an actual office to the currently trending travesty of collaboration in a cubicle farm... this book was spookily prescient. The book itself is well written and Scott Adams himself is quite an interesting character. I wouldn't mind reading more of his work as I find Scott's comic strips everywhere; most are mockingly accurate. :)

Although at times I thought I had slipped into a parallel universe where Dave Barry draws Dilbert cartoons, (and would that be a bad thing?) the first part of the book is very very funny. It also continues to show how Mr. Adams really does know the dangers and humor that are an integral part of the modern corporate environment. Suddenly, (maybe to make the whole thing book length) the book swerves to cover territory like "How to be funny." Proving a time honored truism, "The analysis

of humor is usually not funny." Supposedly the goal is to teach someone how to add humor to the work environment but that would be like my posting of a Dilbert cartoon on my wall making me a cartoonist. And the chapter on handling criticism is only there to give Mr. Adams to attack a book that no one I know gave any credibility to begin with. It does come across as mean and petty, but mostly just as unnecessary.

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