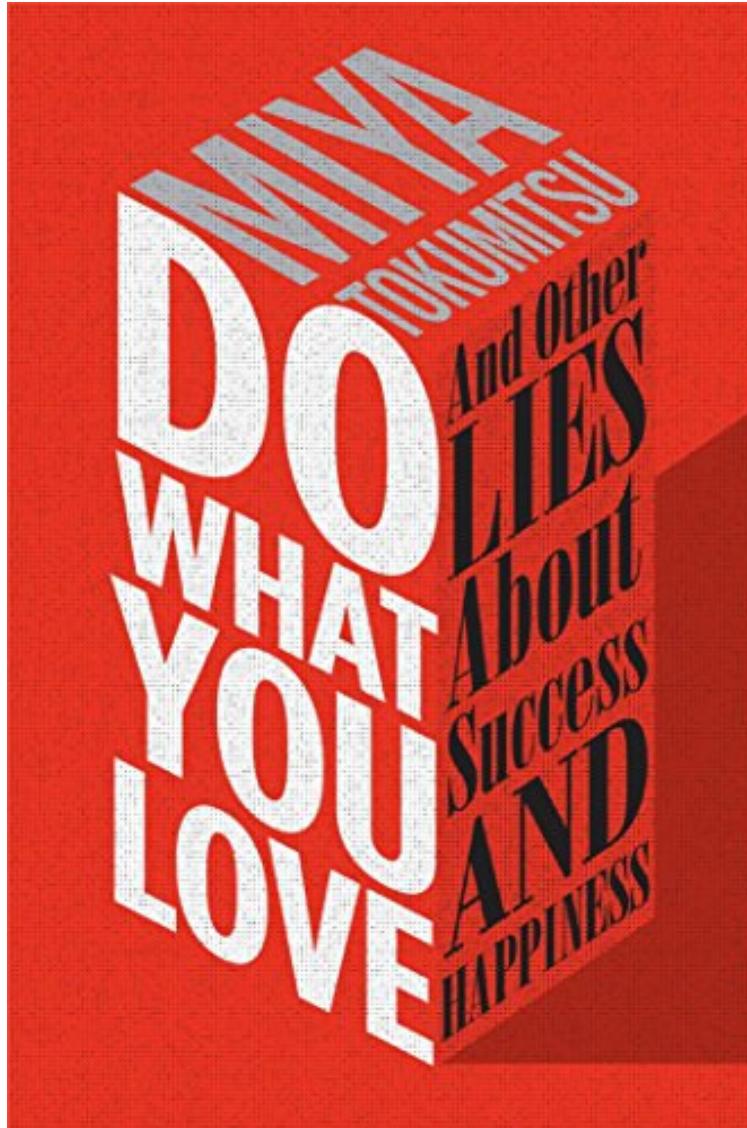


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Do What You Love: And Other Lies About Success Happiness

Miya Tokumitsu

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Miya Tokumitsu : Do What You Love: And Other Lies About Success Happiness before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Do What You Love: And Other Lies About Success Happiness:

27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Strong medicine and maybe not what you thinkBy voraciousFor want of time I don't review much on , but this book deserves a wide audience, especially among the young. Every high school senior should read it as an antidote to the poison they've already taken from the wider culture, which stands ready to give them more, vigorously, and soon. Tokomitsu's is the commencement speech they will otherwise not hear.DWYL refutes the worthless follow-your-bliss counsel. Such an "approach" only works for people whose bliss

already follows them everywhere, thanks to family money or to the labor of lower-class workers. Most employees understand this and prefer to distract themselves from the knowledge, usually by trying to get promoted, buying something, or both. But neither does the book, as its packaging might suggest, offer Oprah-style advice on how to *really* find success and happiness on the job. Instead, readers get a well-researched understanding of why labor as structured now -- hierarchical, exploitative, fundamentally dishonest -- cannot offer such rewards. It may never, although Tokumitsu offers ideas for change.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An explanation for the exploitative workplace
By Joshua F. This book is actually not about taking the belief of "Following your passion" and how that is a personal misnomer. What this book is however, is a look into is how the "Follow your passion" mantra has been co-opted as a way for companies to exploit workers into poorer and poorer conditions. This is by no means a screed and I think lends a perspective into how certain personal attitudes have infected the workplace.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Read!
By MF Brown This is a thoughtful examination of the American working place. Following your bliss is the new religion for American workers who want to escape the neoliberal corporatist establishment. This book examines all of that in detail a provides an intelligent rebuke for that mindset. This book is like intellectual candy! I like the accessibility, pacing of the book, and its short length. If you want even more details, the book contains a lengthy list of citations for further personal research.

The American claim that we should love and be passionate about our job may sound uplifting, or at least, harmless, but *What You Love* exposes the tangible damages such rhetoric has leveled upon contemporary society. Virtue and capital have always been twins in the capitalist, industrialized West. Our ideas of what the "virtues" of pursuing success in capitalism have changed dramatically over time. In the past, we believed that work undertaken with an ethos of industriousness promised financial stability and basic comfort and security for our families. Now, our working life is conflated with the pursuit of pleasure. Fantastically successful and popular entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs and Oprah Winfrey command us. "You've got to love what you do," Jobs tells an audience of college grads about to enter the workforce, while Winfrey exhorts her audience to "live your best life." The promises made to today's workers seem so much larger and nobler than those of previous generations. Why settle for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage and a perfectly functional eight-year-old car when you can get rich becoming your "best" self and have a blast along the way? But workers today are doing more and more for less and less. This reality is frighteningly palpable in eroding paychecks and benefits, the rapid concentration of wealth in the hands of a tiny few, and workers' loss of control over their labor conditions. But where is the protest and anger from workers against a system that tells them to love their work and asks them to do it for less? While winner-take-all capitalism grows ever more ruthless, the rhetoric of passion for labor proliferates. In *What You Love*, Tokumitsu articulates and examines the sacrifices people make for a chance at loveable, self-actualizing, and, of course, wealth-generating work and the conditions facilitated by this pursuit. This book continues the conversation sparked by the author's earlier Slate article and provides a devastating look at the state of modern America's labor and workforce.

"Miya Tokumitsu's short, sharp and timely new book, stabs plenty of pins into today's increasingly freelance economy." (Joanna Scutts Monterey County Now)

"Tokumitsu's book is dangerous to the establishment...her critique of *Do What You Love* gives workers the language to talk back." (Amien Essif ALTERNET)

About the Author A former Fulbright scholar, Miya Tokumitsu holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a contributing editor at Jacobin.