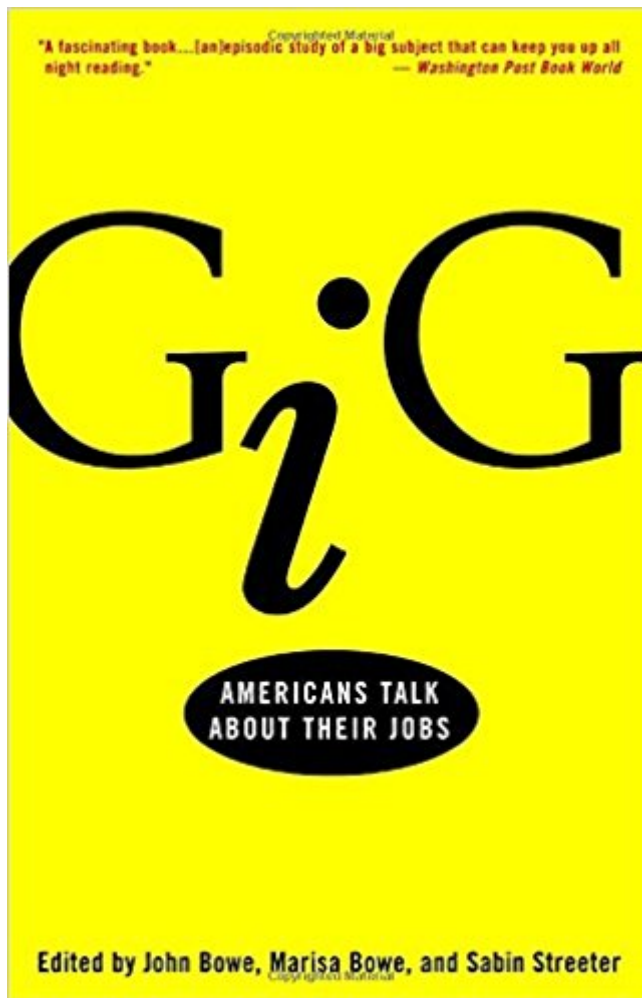


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# Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs



## Synopsis

“An engaging, humorous, revealing, and refreshingly human look at the bizarre, life-threatening, and delightfully humdrum exploits of everyone from sports heroes to sex workers.” -- Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Coercion*, *Ecstasy Club*, and *Media Virus*

This wide-ranging survey of the American economy at the turn of the millennium is stunning, surprising, and always entertaining. It gives us an unflinching view of the fabric of this country from the point of view of the people who keep it all moving. The more than 120 roughly textured monologues that make up *Gig* beautifully capture the voices of our fast-paced and diverse economy. The selections demonstrate how much our world has changed--and stayed the same--in the three decades prior to the turn of the millennium. If you think things have speeded up, become more complicated and more technological, you're right. But people's attitudes about their jobs, their hopes and goals and disappointments, endure. *Gig's* soul isn't sociological--it's emotional. The wholehearted diligence that people bring to their work is deeply, inexplicably moving. People speak in these pages of the constant and complex stresses nearly all of them confront on the job, but, nearly universally, they throw themselves without reservation into coping with them. Instead of resisting work, we seem to adapt to it. Some of us love our jobs, some of us don't, but almost all of us are not quite sure what we would do without one. With all the hallmarks of another classic on this subject, *Gig* is a fabulous read, filled with indelible voices from coast to coast. After hearing them, you'll never again feel quite the same about how we work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Amazing . . . a gem of a book that uses only the strength of the human voice to tell an American story -- sometimes dark, always fascinating.” -- USA Today “The accounts are wonderfully revealing, with gritty and almost shockingly honest detail. For all their variety, they weave a cohesive, passion-filled story of what people bring to their work. It’s an addictive read.” -- Harvard Business Review’s Best Business Books of 2000 “Keen, disturbing, and deeply felt . . . the stories in Gig deliver a more rousing political wallop than those in Working . . . remarkable and strangely moving.” -- Susan Faludi, *The Village Voice* “I love this book! It’s surprising and entertaining and makes the world seem like a bigger and more interesting place. Gig manages to document everyday life and give pure narrative pleasure at the same time. One feels proud to live in the same country as the people in this book.” -- Ira Glass, host of *This American Life* “A fascinating compilation of what the American workforce has to say about itself.” -- George Plimpton “Eye-opening . . . more revealing than any theories a sociologist could concoct.” -- *The Industry Standard* “Entertaining, sobering, validating . . . Ordinary people discuss their jobs with extraordinary candor.” -- *US Weekly* “In the age of advanced spin, this book accomplishes a very rare thing. It actually lets workers speak for themselves. . . . The result makes for a fascinating read.” -- Andrew Ross, director, American Studies Program at New York University “Emotional and eye-opening, each compelling description offers insight about the job itself and, more important, an intimate view of a single human life.” -- *Austin Chronicle* “An engaging, humorous, revealing, and refreshingly human look at the bizarre, life-threatening, and delightfully humdrum exploits of everyone from sports heroes to sex workers.” -- Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Coercion*, *Ecstasy Club*, and *Media Virus*

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It's interesting to hear what others have to say about their jobs. It reinforces information I've read by Gallup on 'State of the American Workplace'. With advances in AI and robotics, simple workflows from other sources, and changing demographics makes 'gig' type low-engagement jobs a dangerous option for most. A few owners will benefit greatly, many workers will fall behind their parent's level, and most will have less job satisfaction than ever before.

Bought this book for school and I really dreaded buying it because i thought it would be stupid. This is a great book told by real people about how they feel about their careers it's a huge eye opener. I hope to have an updated version one day, I'd be the first to buy it!

This book is AMAZING, I got it for school. At first I got scared because the book was big, I love reading books... of my choice no matter How large it is, however when it comes to class book assignment that's when I'll panic (especially when you're in college if you don't read and do your homework based on the reading, say goodbye to graduating early as planned) Any way the book is based on America jobs all kinds of jobs you can think of is in this book. Sometimes I'll catch myself reading this book on my bed instead of watching "The Real and Wendy William show" that's how good it is. P.S. If you are considering applying for a job you don't know about, there's always pros and cons of all kinds of jobs and what job is best for you in this book.

Picked this up because it was a required reading for a class. I ended up finishing the book in my own free time. Really good insight on many different jobs--some of which I did not know existed! I recommended this book to friends who also agreed that it is a good read.

I really love this book I finished it in about four days. Its really good once you start reading it you cant stop. The book is very blunt and hardcore when it comes to talking about people jobs. Be ready to read some Crazy, Weird and interesting stories told from people first person.

good read

interesting read good book

An engrossing and insightful book, with first-person accounts of what it's like to work in more than a hundred different job categories - from ambulance chaser to street walker, from psychiatrist to mortician, from lobbyist to commercial fisherman, from CEO to clutter consultant, and more. Not only is it fascinating, sometimes eye-opening personal reading, but because it provides such rich detail about what the job entails, what it's like to do it every day, what it took to get the job, whether people want to quit or stay and why, it should also be in every high school library, every vocational guidance center, every public library! There is no better way to learn what a job involves than hearing it directly from someone on the job, and "Gig" offers an enjoyable, accessible, easy way to find out.

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