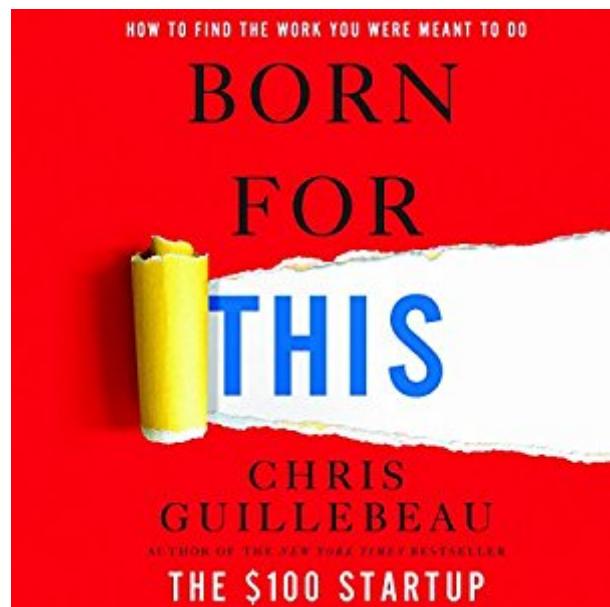


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# Born For This: How To Find The Work You Were Meant To Do



## Synopsis

Have you ever met someone with the perfect job? To the outside observer, it seems like they've won the career lottery - that by some stroke of luck or circumstance, they've found the one thing they love so much that it doesn't even feel like work, and yet they're getting paid well to do it. In reality, their good fortune has nothing to do with chance. There's a method for finding your perfect job, and Chris Guillebeau, the best-selling author of *The \$100 Start Up*, has created a practical, actionable guide that can help you turn your passion into paychecks - whether within a traditional company or business, or by striking out on your own. But finding the work you were "born to do" isn't just about finding your passion. Doing what you love is great, but if you aren't earning a pay check, it's a hobby, not a career. Those who jump out of bed excited to go to work every morning don't just have jobs that tap into their passions. They have jobs where they can lose themselves in the flow of meaningful work for hours at a time. This intersection of joy, money, and flow is key to what Guillebeau will help you find in this book: work perfectly suited to your unique interests, skills, and experiences. Whether by launching a side hustle that turns into a profitable business, "hacking" your dream position within a traditional job or organization, becoming a "DIY rock star" by fashioning an entirely new profession around your varied interests, or building your own mini empire as an entrepreneur, this book will show you how to find that one job or career that feels so right, it's like you were born to do it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For most of my career, I wrestled with the question of what do I want to be when I grow up. I always looked with longing toward the non conforming options: consultant, seminar leader, entrepreneur, bike shop owner, solopreneur in some form or other (I don't like taking orders). But the rational options seemed to be climb the corporate ladder, then join an established university faculty. And I never mustered the courage to go much beyond the rational. There have always been books which made the non conforming seem plausible and even attractive: Barbara Sher with *Wishcraft: How to Get What You Really Want* and later *I Could Do Anything, If Only I Knew What It Was*; Marsha Sinetar with *Do What You Love, The Money Will Follow* followed by *To Build the Life You Want, Create the Work You Love*; Tama Kieves with *This Time I Dance*; Corey Ciocchetti with *Real Rabbits: Chasing an Authentic Life*; and more. This is the milieu in which Chris Guillebeau caught my attention many years ago first with *The Art of Nonconformity* followed by *The \$100 Startup* and *The Happiness of Pursuit*. Now (April 5, 2016) Chris is back with another entry: *Born For This*. This is the book I have been waiting for. It not only provides guidance to answer the question "What do I want to do?", but also gives real down to earth advice on HOW to do it, and more importantly WHY to do it. Chris has already proven himself to be an accomplished writer with his previous books and his blog entries. This book contains the same easy to read style. It is not abstract. Again like his other writing, it is full of real life examples. And it recognizes that the only real way to get where you want to go, or even know where that might be, is to try things, then try again.

Hobbies are as different as day and night and one of mine is reading self-help (or simply helpful?) books on the topic of finding the right work - the work I was meant to do. Of the many I read thus far, I liked Chris Guillebeau's "Born for this" the most. Here's why:<sup>\*</sup> It is a good read. Don't underestimate the importance of this point! I hate authors whose tone is condescending or patronizing, who make ambitious claims but provide only platitudes, who tell you that you're doing things wrong unless you do them their way. This book will not make you feel bad or stupid and will not try to sell you a magic formula without which you can't possibly be successful. It's written in a down-to-earth straightforward manner, it feels honest, and it doesn't overpromise and underdeliver.\* It provides practical advice without flooding the reader with tons of case studies (stories), half of which usually seem made-up anyway. If you're looking to read about how "Robert" or "Stella" found the work they were born to do, this isn't the book for you. The author uses a few people's journeys (including his own) to illustrate his most important points, but within measure and only where it makes sense.\* It allows for introspection without asking you to spend hours on end carrying out in-depth self-analysis exercises. There's a very useful self-evaluation exercise that is meant to help

the reader figure out whether the focus at this point in time is/should be on joy, money, or flow, but that's one of the few I actually had to use a pen for.

Born for This is a book that talks about finding the work you were meant to do. It's written by Chris Guillebeau, who also wrote the \$100 Startup. I really enjoyed reading this book, and found that I could relate to it more than the \$100 Startup. I am an electrical engineer, and have been in my current job for 13 years! (I still can't believe that). As with any book like this, the important part is not just reading the book, but following through with the ideas. This book was very applicable to my life, and I enjoyed hearing the stories from different people. The book was a little bit dry, so not as relaxing as reading People magazine, but it has the potential to be very useful for me in figuring out my next career steps. I felt that this book was more suitable for people in traditional jobs than the \$100 Startup. I'm the primary breadwinner, and have a mortgage and a kid to support, so starting my own business is not that appealing. This book is very good for figuring out how to have a fulfilling career without quitting your job and starting your own business. Here's a breakdown on the chapters.

**Chapter 1: Flip the Script.** This chapter talks about how to choose the winning ticket to your career lottery. There is a traditional career trajectory that we're all supposed to follow, but Chris points out that it is possible to flip the script, and have some non-traditional ways to get your dream career.

**Chapter 2: Your Money and Your Life** This chapter helps you understand about your preferred work style using the Joy-Money-Flow model. To win the career lottery, you need to have a job you love, that makes enough money to support your family, and lets you do what you're really good at.

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