
Plan A. Work hard at school, secure a good job, set your sights on promotion, climb the corporate ladder, live happily ever after.

Reality check for Plan A. Work longer and longer hours just to make ends meet, being condemned to a life of wage slavery, drowning in a sea of debt, a poverty of mind and spirit, existing only to work.

Plan B. A simple yet revolutionary idea . . .

GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN

by George Marshall

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Oi! Oi! The title of this book was taken from the song, Get Out While You Can, by street punk legends, The Business.

**Get Out While You Can
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Introduction

“There’s no secret. You just press the accelerator to the floor and steer left.”

Bill Vukovich on how he won the Indianapolis 500

Let me begin this book by asking you something that you probably haven’t been asked before.

Why do you go to work?

It’s a strange question because most people think that the answer is as plain as the nose on their face. You go to work to earn money to pay your bills and to provide all the good things in life for you and your family.

That’s the obvious answer, but it’s not the real reason.

You go to work because that’s what is expected of you.

It’s as simple as that. It’s what has been expected of you and me since we were knee high to a grasshopper.

Your family expects you to go to work, your friends expect you to go to work, the people you work with expect you to go to

work, your neighbours expect you to go to work, society in general expects you to go to work. In today's society, we are conditioned - brainwashed even - into accepting a life of employment without question.

When you grow up you get a job. Everybody knows that.

I call this Plan A.

In theory it sounds great. If you work hard at school, secure a good job, set your sights on promotion, climb the corporate ladder, you will live happily ever after.

The reality unfortunately is often somewhat different.

For far too many people, Plan A means working longer and longer hours just to make ends meet, being condemned to a life of wage slavery, drowning in a sea of debt, blighted by poverty of mind and spirit, and existing merely to work.

Unfortunately, so ingrained is the work ethic in our belief system, that when Plan A starts to go wrong – as it inevitably does for the vast majority of us - we blame ourselves. We blame ourselves for being inadequate and we try to make amends by working harder, longer and faster. People would rather suffer sleepless nights, a nervous breakdown, even a heart attack, than stop working because, according to Plan A, work is what we do. In fact, as any doctor will tell you, some people would rather die than face the fact that their job is killing them.

Others run up massive debts so that they can maintain a standard of living that their wage packets simply cannot sustain without the help of loans, credit cards and overdrafts. UK consumer debt as of August, 2009, stood at a mind-numbing 1.457 trillion pounds. According to the money education charity, Credit Action, average household debt as of September, 2009, was £58,280, and, together, we pay £181 million in interest payments alone every single day.

The UK is one of the richest countries in the world. Why would we need to be in such collective debt if Plan A worked?

Let me ask you another question. Is Plan A really all that the miracle of creation had in store for you when you first entered this world? A life of drudgery and mediocrity? From cradle to school to work to bus pass to grave? Because from where I'm standing, it looks like a lot of very good people are giving their lives to wage slavery and getting very little back in return.

Plan A is simply not delivering the goods for an increasing number of people, not only in the UK, but throughout the world. And yet society continues to conveyor belt us towards accepting Plan A as if it is the only game in town. And I suppose it is if you want to play by the rules.

But why play by the rules in a game you cannot win?

If Plan A isn't working for you, I want you to urgently consider my Plan B. It's a simple and yet revolutionary idea. And it's this.

Get out while you can.

Get out of a system that values you less than the share price of any PLC you care to name. Get out of the rat race that sees you working longer hours and still unable to make ends meet. Get out of the debt that is like a yoke around your neck. Get out of the madness that has become our daily lives.

Job insecurity and rising unemployment, unsustainable levels of both consumer and government debt, an ageing population and the tsunami-like pension crisis that will inevitably accompany it, spiralling health care costs, turmoil on the world's financial markets, peak oil, global terrorism - these and other problems are creating cracks in a system that increasing numbers of people are falling through. In times like these Plan A should be shoved to the back of the queue and relabelled Plan Z.

As worrying to those who value freedom, the huge and increasing costs associated with our failing system mean that escaping the rat race is going to become increasingly difficult. Someone has to pay for the decades of mistakes and missed opportunity, and if you are not careful that someone will be you.

It might not be a bad idea to have an escape route ready should that day come and that means being able to earn money wherever you happen to be, whether that's Grimsby or Grenada.

The fact that all is not well is not telling you anything you don't already know. To paraphrase Warren Buffet, I don't just want to tell you that it's raining and that it's going to keep on raining. I want to show you how to build an ark. My hope is that this book will provide a blueprint for you to start doing just that. At its heart is my Plan B, my get out of jail card.

Probably like yourself, I have read more books and listened to more motivational speakers than I care to remember, all vowing to improve my life or income by one means or another. All promised so much, but few were really talking to me. In fact when I look along the bookshelves that now house this collection, it's easy to see why. Most are little more than unwitting tools of the wage slave system.

For the most part they aren't trying to set you and me free from a life of wage slavery. They simply want to make us better wage slaves. How to climb the corporate ladder, how to succeed in the stock market, how to get 25 hours out of every day, how to get a five star credit rating. Blah, blah, blah. Each and every one a temporary fix to mask the symptoms of the wage slave disease that is wrecking your life, leaving you out of pocket, breaking up families, and perhaps even sending you on your way to an early grave.

For the duration of this book, all I ask is that you open your mind and eyes to the possibilities it contains. This is far from your typical business book aimed at middle management or stock market investors, and it isn't your typical motivational book, promising immense riches in return for sitting in front of a lighted candle in a dark room for ten minutes every morning.

Neither does it even begin to provide all of the answers, but hopefully it will offer you at least a glimpse of a brave new world beyond wage slavery. The more you think about it, why would

anyone in their right mind actually want to work for a living anyway? Why would anyone want to go to work?

For wage slavery to survive, its backers have to ridicule any serious thought of an alternative. So I will be asking you, urging you, begging you, to challenge many of your deepest held beliefs about work, money, and life in general.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with working for someone else, but equally you should be fully aware of what economists call the opportunity cost of doing so. Put simply, what could you do if you weren't a slave to a wage packet that doesn't even begin to deliver the life you crave for yourself and your loved ones?

Imagine working less hours. A lot less hours.

Imagine working only those hours that fit in with what you really want to do every day - instead of your life having to fit around your work.

Imagine being able to work from anywhere you choose. Anywhere in the world.

And imagine making money whether you're working or not. Even while you're sleeping!

But then again why imagine anything when it can be reality.

There's only one thing to do when Plan A no longer makes sense. Urgently consider Plan B. And then get out while you can.

George Marshall

Costa Blanca, October, 2009