



## What Should I Do with My Life?: The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question

By Po Bronson

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In *What Should I Do with My Life?* Po Bronson tells the inspirational true stories of people who have found the most meaningful answers to that great question. With humor, empathy, and insight, Bronson writes of remarkable individuals—from young to old, from those just starting out to those in a second career—who have overcome fear and confusion to find a larger truth about their lives and, in doing so, have been transformed by the experience. *What Should I Do with My Life?* struck a powerful, resonant chord on publication, causing a multitude of people to rethink their vocations and priorities and start on the path to finding their true place in the world. For this edition, Bronson has added nine new profiles, to further reflect the range and diversity of those who broke away from the chorus to learn the sound of their own voice.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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**What Should I Do with My Life?: The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question** By Po Bronson **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #264226 in Books
- Brand: Ballantine Books
- Published on: 2005-11-29
- Released on: 2005-11-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.88" h x 1.06" w x 4.17" l, .49 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 464 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

In *What Should I Do with My Life?* Po Bronson manages to create a career book that is a page-turner. His 50 vivid profiles of people searching for "their soft spot--their true calling" will engage readers because Bronson is asking himself the same question. He explores his premise, that "nothing is braver than people facing up to their own identity," as an anthropologist and autobiographer. He tackles thorny, nuanced issues about self-determination. Among them: paradoxes of money and meaning, authorship and destiny, brain candy and novelty versus soul food. Bronson's stories, limited to professional people and complete with photos, are gems. They include a Los Angeles lawyer who became a priest, a Harvard MBA catfish farmer turned biotech executive, and a Silicon Valley real estate agent who opened a leather crafts factory in Costa Rica.

Bronson is a gifted intuitive writer, the bestselling author of *The Nudist on the Late Shift*, whose thoughtful, vulnerable voice emerges as the book's greatest strength and challenge. He describes his subject's lives along with the ways they annoy, puzzle, and worry him. He frets about meddling with his questions, yet once, memorably and appropriately, he offers a talented man a top post in his publishing company. While this creates the juiciness of his portraits, it also can make Bronson the book's most memorable character and the only one whose story is not resolved. Even so, this remarkable career chronicle sets the gold standard for the worth of the examined life. --*Barbara Mackoff*

#### From Publishers Weekly

In this elevated career guide, Bronson (*Bombardiers*; *The Nudist on the Late Shift*) poses the titular question to an eclectic mix of "real people in the real world," compiling their experiences and insights about callings, self-acceptance, moral guilt, greed and ambition, and emotional rejuvenation. Bronson crisscrosses the country seeking out remarkable examples of successful and not-so-successful people confronting tough issues, such as differentiating between a curiosity and a passion and deciding whether or not to make money first in order to fund one's dream. Bronson frames the edited responses with witty, down-to-earth commentaries, such as those of John, an engineer whose dream of building an electric car crumbled under his personal weaknesses; and Ashley, a do-gooder burdened by the unlikely combination of self-hatred and a love for humanity. Bronson wants to understand what makes these people--among them a timid college career counselor trapped in his job, a farmer bullish on risk-taking, a financial expert grabbing an opportunity to rebuild her brokerage firm devastated by the World Trade Center tragedy and a scientist who rethinks his lifelong work and becomes a lawyer-tick. He occasionally digresses, musing on his own life too much, and frequently hammers points home longer than necessary, but neither of these drawbacks undercuts the book's potency. The "ultimate question" is a topic always in season, worthy of Bronson's skillful probing and careful anecdote selection. Brimming with stories of sacrifice, courage, commitment and, sometimes, failure, the book will support anyone pondering a major life choice or risk without force-feeding them pat solutions. Photos.

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#### From School Library Journal

Adult/High School--Some of the individuals Bronson interviewed have not found the answer to the title question, some aren't sure there is one for them, while others think their answer may be only temporary. The 55 pieces range from a woman who had wanted to be a doctor since age six but changed her mind abruptly after realizing her dream, to a Native American who wrote a 20-year plan for his future that would enable him to devise and implement ways for his people to wean themselves from government handouts. Bronson has both bad and good jobs behind him, and his interviews include his own insightful reactions to and thoughts about his subjects' ideas and personalities. The discussions of mistakes, lessons, and hard-fought

decisions on the iffy road to occupational fulfillment will be valuable for teens.

*Judy McAloon, Potomac Library, Prince William County, VA*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Karen Taylor:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the *What Should I Do with My Life?: The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question* is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

#### **Marlin Peterson:**

The book untitled *What Should I Do with My Life?: The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question* contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

#### **Pablo Bussey:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually *What Should I Do with My Life?: The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question*. This book that is certainly qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

#### **Diane Wilson:**

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