Small Pleasures

So often, we exhaust ourselves and the planet in a search for very large pleasures - while all around us lies a wealth of small pleasures, which - if only we paid more attention - could daily bring us solace and joy at little cost and effort. But we need some encouragement to focus our gaze. This is a book to guide us to the best of life's small pleasures: everything from the distinctive delight of holding a child's hand to the enjoyment of disagreeing with someone to the joy of the evening sky: an intriguing, evocative mix of small pleasures that will beighten our senses and return us to the world with new found excitement and enthusiasm.



The School of Life

Small Pleasures (The School of Life Library)



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What is really going on here? This book offers a deeper look at fifty-two plausible small pleasures that one may avail oneself to in life. As stated in the preface "Every chapter puts one such moment of pleasure under a kind of magnifying glass to find out what's really going on..." The final sentence of the preface is definitely: "This reserve is a part of a wider cultural task - to go these small pleasures from the margins closer to the centre [SP] of our collective consciousness and our lives. Sadly, these little pleasures and consolations provided are still the product of the globe and embedded nowadays, but I assume it can't be any other way. The book about small pleasures is usually itself a little pleasure. Insightful A nice read. How come there this need to seek out the tiny pleasures and make them component of a wider consciousness rising cultural enterprise? How come this the case? Rather, the tiny pleasures are merely claimed to be required. Why are the small pleasures needed in the first place? The solution turns out to be no such thing, the tiny pleasures are just mere distractions from, or consolations for, dealing with some kind of vaguely determined and obliquely pointed to problem. What is missing may be the explanation as to why these little pleasures and their related consolations and distractions are therefore important and why the wider cultural task of the School of Life will probably be worth pursuing. Such an explanation would make the reserve more powerful. The School of Existence is presenting a remedy without offering a deeper explanation of the issue. Why? Again, the proceedings?We should not mistake small pleasures for enlightenment. Is certainly this not what The School of Existence is requesting us to do? To the level these consolations encourage such considering and philosophical reflection they are beneficial, to the level they only present distraction, they provide only banality. Small pleasures then are just the tiny consultations we get for a lifestyle of little fulfillment. Little pleasures is definitely an intellectual retreat from a lifestyle unfilled, a life of small merit or fulfillment. Why are we such as this, unfilled? It is reality itself of course that refutes all of our consolations, both the small and hard won. Little consolations are the easy consolations and herein is a trap. We are in fact in need of less consolation and little pleasure and more recognition and thinking. What's needed is much less self-absorption and even more self-reflection. Consolations when confronted with anxiety should not be a substitute for thinking. It really is only with convinced that we gain insight into our method of being in the world, into our connection with existence. That we must lower our conceit of attainable felicity as Herman Melville place it in Moby Dick? Enjoyable. The problem not discussed is that people are temporally dynamic beings thrown right into a world created during the past, never of our very own making or choosing; We are generally doing and seeking, chasing and attaining, it is in the idea and reflection that switches into the contemplation of philosophy that helps us get back to square so to speak; We are simply fallen into background and then projected beyond ourselves usually doing something to accomplish something. We are never clear of the tyranny of goals and treachery of programs. we are after that projected into a future whose only certainty is loss of life on a personal level. It's inspirational and gets you to stop and cherish the moment. The danger is that they become a personal and private retreat; The issue is that we do not mix well in to the big world, hence the necessity for consolations and small pleasures, perhaps, however, not self-absorption. The small pleasures cannot help us get a past our purely utilitarian bigness of existence. Technology may be the rendering material the power of God, hence technology is normally God. The small pleasures appear to be just mere distractions from the big problems accessible." Missing is the fifty-third small satisfaction, which is reading this book. I simply wonder how good a job they can perform in assisting us in obtaining us back to ourselves; These small pleasures, as presented in this book, seem to be designed to evoke a mood of great feeling, but this is simply not enough and by itself is really a fake consolation. In taking notice of the tiny pleasures, is the School of Lifestyle is telling us that we must lower our expectations in life, of lifestyle, of ourselves from others? I have found that there is no escape from the tight hold of the practical, utilitarian technological calculus and the insolence of a work-a-day world that frowns upon contemplation as a pernicious and needless eccentricity of the wandering mind or as an appendage of the absent brain, not realizing a wandering brain is a wondering mind and a wondering

brain is the mind ready to embrace philosophical idea. Describing pleasure in stuff I would never dream to end up being pleasurable. This would end up being an oversimplification of our living of our knowledge and trivializing the great issues and existential threats facing our civilization. to rediscovering ourselves. There is a utilitarian technical calculus which is currently the march of God through period and the globe. The problem with the small pleasures is that they are small, they offer just consolation and distraction and with them, the chance of self-absorption in the face of the fantastic existential threats. We are on the verge of the oblivion of our becoming and our identification as such - we are becoming subsumed in to the bigness of the global purchase and here the School of Lifestyle tries to provide us a lifeline but without identifying the issue. I fear that this is just how The School of Life offers them, as a personal sanctuary, as an escape from our complex, mechanized, over materialized, modernized, psychologized, homogenized lives. Even more is needed beyond consolation and distraction to greatly help us equipoise the present day oppression we are under and the threats to which we are subject, but this discussion is certainly beyond the scope of this review.Indeed though, what's really going on here? Philosophical refection, thinking, will not offer consolidation, it includes understanding but understanding is the foremost consolation actually though we may not like what we find. Insightful. It presents satisfaction in a varied and interesting type. We cannot desire to understand ourselves solely in terms of small pleasures and in the related consolation and distraction they offer. Excellent read Taking pleasure in this book. that helps us make contact with ourselves for ourselves. A greater appreciation of my surroundings and how I connect to things around me. A great gift This book finds a way to speak to me each chapter. A gem. Four Stars A book compiled by a person trying to get out of depression.



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