

“Crawford is eminently well placed to discuss the intellectual and practical aspects of work and indeed . . . there are serious nuggets of truth here. It is worth at least thinking about going on to acquire a manual skill instead of disappearing into some amorphous office job. It could lead to a richer, more financially secure, and more fulfilling way of life.” —George Whisstock, *The Christian Science Monitor*

“*Shop Class as Soulcraft* is a unique combination of memoir and philosophical inquiry that examines how we understand and give value to work. . . . [Crawford] levels the playing field, in a sense, by turning the stratification of the working world upside-down and provoking readers to reflect upon the value of the lives they live eight hours a day, five days a week.” —*Zoccolo*

“A clever book called *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, by philosopher (and motorcycle repairman) Matthew Crawford . . . makes some compelling arguments about the link between independent thinking, self-reliance, and working with one’s hands. . . . Perhaps it’s time to start relearning independent craft skills that integrate both the head and the hands.” —*Newsweek.com*

“A fascinating, important analysis of the value of hard work and manufacturing . . . Inspired social criticism and deep personal exploration . . . Crawford’s appreciation for various trades may intrigue readers with white-collar jobs who wonder at the end of each day what they really accomplished.” —*Library Journal*

“Philosopher and motorcycle repair shop owner Crawford extols the value of making and fixing things in this masterful paean to what he calls ‘manual competence,’ the ability to work with one’s hands. . . . With wit and humor, the author deftly mixes the details of his own experience as a tradesman and then proprietor of a motorcycle repair shop with more philosophical considerations.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Shop Class as Soulcraft

An Inquiry into the Value of Work

Matthew B. Crawford



Penguin Books

