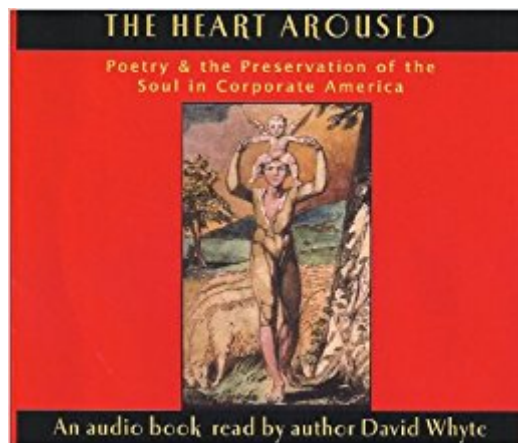




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# The Heart Aroused: Poetry & The Preservation Of The Soul In Corporate America



## Synopsis

Only a poet could produce such a provocative analysis of today's widespread disenchantment with business -- or such a daring prescription for using the classics of poetry to revitalize the soul of corporate America. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The call for increased creativity in the workplace brings with it a concomitant challenge: how will the world of cool professionalism stand up to the inevitable heat and volatility that accompanies people's emotional and spiritual lives? It is problematic to assume, poet David Whyte explains, that you can ask people to create and also to behave. *The Heart Aroused* explores these and related issues in an inspiring, grounded, thought-provoking way, and is the best nonverse book by a poet since Robert Bly's *Iron John*. Interwoven with carefully selected poems to illustrate Whyte's points, *The Heart Aroused* is necessary reading for any professional who secretly harbors a poet's soul. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A corporate analyst who quotes Dante, Yeats, and Blake? Whyte, a maverick business consultant, wends his way through office and board room finding occasions for poetic reflection. The reader who attends to his message may indeed discover that success in business is spiritual, not merely financial, and that time spent in meditating will count for more in the end than time spent tabulating profits and losses. This intuitive rather than rational line of reasoning will mystify--perhaps

infuriate--executives hardened to everything except career advancement. But readers willing to lay aside workaday preconceptions will learn ways to look for the hidden patterns of labor and creativity that can give new meaning to corporate employment. While some of Whyte's insights translate almost immediately into more effective office communication and management, many require the slow pondering that leads to fundamental reorientation of vision. Bryce Christensen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a nice book. I don't know much about the author's poetic abilities but his writing is sublime. I don't know how much of his book I should take to heart though. From what I've seen if you slow down long enough to stop and smell the roses you're going to wind up with footprints up your back. Even so, Thank You Mr. Whyte for a thought provoking read.

It's as if Whyte looked into my midlife midlevel manager inner world and wrote my story one million times better than I could. The incredible language and clear articulation of difficult ideas and feelings through the use of poetry indeed left me with no defenses. Amazing. Will need to read multiple times to digest.

David Whyte is a fine writer and this book is a noteworthy contribution to the literature on how to bring creativity and soul not only into the corporate world, but into each of our lives. He works hard at underscoring the symbolic importance of his literary references to Beowulf, Coleridge and Eliot, among others, and writes for readers who might not otherwise be poetically inclined. *A Heart Aroused* argues very simply that each of us owe it to ourselves to bring courage and passion into our work and into our lives. If we cannot embrace the job with passion, perhaps we are in the wrong job. He discusses the fear and voicelessness that so often dominate tough corporate environments, and the troubling compromises that each of us make as we struggle to balance many pressures and demands. When these compromises become too severe, he argues, we begin to slip into a comatose mode of life and lose our edge and our passion for quality and good service. But this is not an easy issue -- some will be tempted to counter that practical concerns are not easily set aside when family and career are at stake. Many a corporate person battens down the hatches and seeks to weather the storms below deck rather than experience the exhilaration of being fully engaged in overcoming crises and challenges, when failure can lead to such devastating results. Quite frankly, there are times and situations when we are not welcomed by those in power to engage these challenges. The goal of all good managers and CEOs, Whyte is saying, is to turn their companies

into soul friendly environments, for only then will their employees and their products reach their full potential. To not heed the soul, Whyte argues, is even more dangerous than risking the ire of power, because then, rather than being killed despite our best efforts, we kill ourselves and become passive victims rather than actors in the drama. A beginning to an important discussion, but not as concrete as it could be on managing such abstract ideas in our every day world. What he is saying, in an eloquent way, is that we must each be true to our souls, to ourselves, if we are ever to experience true joy in our work and our lives. Not a new idea, but one thoughtfully put forward here.

One thing about the writing of a poet is that engages the heart as well as the intellect. When we have lost touch with our feelings, we bring only part of ourselves to any endeavor. We bring this lack of feelings - passion, anticipation, excitement, as well as fear, discontent, and boredom to our occupation. To be vibrant, every corporation needs an awareness and way to deal with all these feelings which can inform, enrich and guide development. This book is a call to bring all of ourselves to our work.

David Whyte touches the soul of the human journey in the modern work environment. This book has forever transformed how I will think about my work.

I chose this audio book because I admire the writing of David Whyte. This book would be interesting to the audience for which it was written: corporations. Would like to exchange it for something more pertinent. LOved A Certain Faith in Uncertain Times, Mid-life Crisis, and Pilgrim. Will continue to watch for more David Whyte audio books.

Whyte has a unique capacity to make powerful connections between the inner core that fills us with emotion and caring and the places we do our work, sometimes even at the place where our job is located, though not often. His observation that we leave as much as 55% of our true self "in the car" each day when we go in our office to work is so powerfully true. I dare say there are few among us who cannot relate to that feeling. And yet, it is the 55% of ourselves that the company we work for really wants and needs but rarely gets. Unfortunately because of the patriarchal environments that many organizations (not always corporations or even private sector businesses) create we all too often find no real fulfillment in the workplace. That is sad because I never have read any mission statements that pronounce "We ABSOLUTELY are not going to have fun or like one another around here." That makes me think that the realized, oppressive outcome are not intentional. However, we

often find ourselves working in and hating very dysfunctional cultures, even if not by design. Whyte introduces the concept of hope in an effort to replace the all-too-present doubt and hegemony of the workplace. We may not be able to express ourselves freely at work but Whyte allows us some freedom to dream of that possibility during our reading of this book.

This is a very interesting book, written by a thoughtful and insightful poet. The book invited me to understand and consider ways of communicating with adversaries, which will broaden my ability to find peace in every relationship I encounter. The book comes highly recommended by this reader.

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