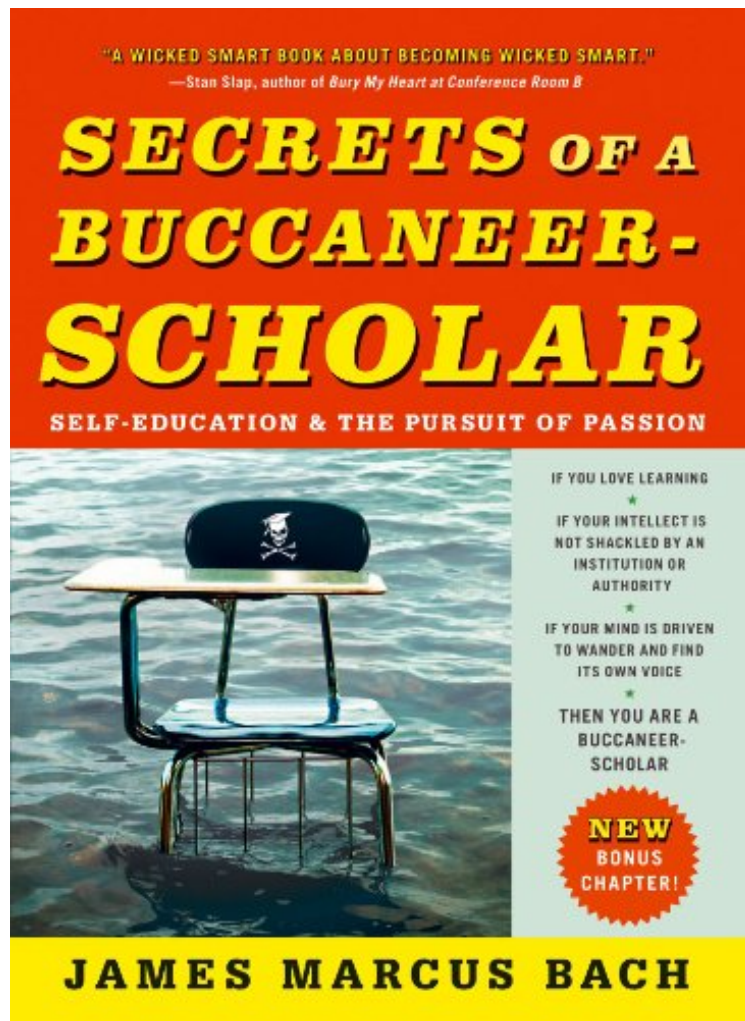


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## Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success

*James Marcus Bach*

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**James Marcus Bach : Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Profoundly entertaining and thought-provoking By Randall Alford The times they are a-changing ... And James Marcus Bach offers his personal experiences, reflections, insights and revelations in a way that encourages us to remain open and attuned to all the changes in this (and any) life, so that we can stop talking about "lifelong learning," and actually prepare ourselves for the adventure. Somehow, "learning"

has become a tepid and stale topic in most circles. James injects it with a fervor and energy that we'll all recognize from when we were young, curious and uninhibited in our quest for growth and understanding. It is enlivening just to read his words. And inductive to sit with the implications of his suggestions. Highly recommended for anyone who has kids they want to keep connected to their innate hunger for learning, and for anyone who still has their own "inner kid" to affirm, spark and energize with new intentionality. In short: a great book for just about anyone who remains enamored of life.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. James Bach shares his personal journey - moving and inspiring.

By J. Lockhart

After meaning to for a long time I finally read this book - James is a hard man to ignore in my profession. I really enjoyed the book, finishing it in a few days which is very rare for me these days. It's not often a testing booking moves me to laughter, tears and reflection. This is NOT a book about testing, and doesn't claim to be, but it is probably mostly testers who will come across it due to Jame's reputation in the software testing community. This book is subtitled self-education and the pursuit of passion and James does a great job of presenting his philosophy and techniques for this. The writing style is very Tony Robbins-ish and I found the mix of practical advise, philosophical musings and stories extremely readable. James has, with his typical courage, shared his life story in a very personal way and I appreciate that. I am certainly going to recommend this to people in our software testing company, and particularly to young people and even more so if they lack formal qualifications, but I will probably also recommend it to non-testers I know. I wish I had read this book when I was nine years old and if you have or are a child who struggles to fit into the school system or a bit older and struggling to find your place in the world it is a must read!

Those interested in the learning and schools discussion might appreciate some ground-breaking research done here in New Zealand last century(!) Learning in Science or Learning in Science which certainly showed the education system did not teach with any degree of effectiveness. I tried applying the lessons from this research during my brief time as a secondary school science teacher and believe it was useful. James presents the material using a variety of approaches e.g. around a) 15 "Great secrets" which are similar to what Tony Robbins would call "Profound knowledge" and which encapsulate his learning and philosophy b) an acrostic SACKED SCOWS! to assist in remembering his keys to learning and then a number of heuristics covering most of these that chunk down to the next level providing some practical principles such as different approaches to cyclic learning including Cyclic learning - obsess and forget, plunge in and quit or procrastinate and push. I found his discussion of aspirations and expectations, how they differ and how to set them up to help rather than hinder you interesting and practical. Similarly his marketing approach of "Few people out that want exactly what I'm offering, but a few is all I need" encouraging people to stand for something in what they do.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very inspiring.

By Daniel Lemire

This is not a self-help book. This is not a book proposing a reform of the school system. This is not a book about unschooling. Simply put, this book is an autobiography. It is a personal story. And for those of us who can relate to the author, it is very inspiring. Bach is unusual, and maybe disturbing at times, but that is why he is so interesting (as long as you have an open mind). Even though I have a Ph.D., and I am a tenured university professor, I found this book a great match for my own experience through life. I have always been an autodidact. Most of what I have learned, I have learned on my own. I routinely admit that as an undergraduate student, I chose not to show up for class because I did not find "lectures" satisfying. I much prefer to work out through problems rather than having to listen to someone tell me how to solve them. And of course, I try to teach my own students to work out the problem for themselves, to cultivate their autonomy. I have always had an uneasy relation with credentials. Like Bach, I find it much more satisfying to be valued for the quality of my work, rather than for my credentials. I also find it much more satisfying to stand on my own, rather than be valued for the organization (University) I work for. Even with a Ph.D., I have lived through experiences very similar to the ones described by Bach. I am sure that most people who have pursued true scholarship will enjoy this book. If you liked this book, you might like Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work and Made by Hand: Searching for Meaning in a Throwaway World

"A Buccaneer-Scholar is anyone whose love of learning is not muzzled or shackled by any institution or authority; whose mind is driven to wander and find its own place in the world." The volatility of the job market and the limitless opportunities afforded by the internet have forever changed people's attitudes about schooling. In this world of rapid technological development, people are becoming successful, making money and finding personal satisfaction through non-traditional means. Ideas have become more important than training; innovation is more important than credentials. The ability to educate oneself -- to learn how to learn -- is crucial. James Bach, the son of bestselling author Richard Bach (Jonathan Livingston Seagull,) understands that. Like so many young people, James struggled in school, eventually dropping out at age sixteen. A few years later, he was leading a team at Apple Computer. Now an internationally recognized expert in the field of computer software testing, James has written Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: a groundbreaking book that shows how anyone can create their own education on their own terms. It is nurturing our individual curiosities and relishing the learning process that will lead anyone -- from children struggling in school to professionals looking to jumpstart their careers -- to success. In his unique pithy and anecdotal style, and combining his personal story with proven methodologies, James describes the relentless, whimsical, low-intensity learning process he calls "buccaneering." Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar demonstrates that it is the people who chart

their own course, who never stop learning, who will come to dominate this new world.

From Publishers Weekly This is an informative and entertaining account of how to acquire a great education and a good job without classroom instruction or, as Bach puts it, how to become a buccaneer scholar. At 20, he became the youngest technical manager at Apple Computer and probably the only one whose highest academic credential was—and still is—an eighth-grade diploma. Now in his 40s, Bach runs a successful consulting business, and his work has been assigned reading for students at Stanford and MIT. As this book makes clear, Bach is also a gifted teacher. The steps along his road to achievement are detailed in clear chunks. Anyone looking for an instruction manual on how to get a high-quality education without having to show up for classes will find all they need here. The book may also be a healing balm to parents whose children are struggling in school, providing both with helpful tools. (Sept.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. With remarkable insight, James Bach describes the tools, skills and mindset necessary to create your own education. If the millions of students currently sitting in class took Bach's simple advice and began creating products, projects, and organizations in the real world, unemployment could be solved practically overnight. --Dale J. Stephens, Founder of UnCollege.com Bach's book is a wake-up call. I recommend it to just about anyone who wants to hear a different take on learning from what they've heard from parents and teachers. --Earnthis.net James Bach has demonstrated that there are opportunities for each one of us to expand the innate capacity of our mind to learn and be creative without surrendering to the dictates of an academic establishment. --TheRadicalHumanist.com About the Author James Bach is an expert in the field of computer software testing who has taught critical thinking and software testing to rocket and nuclear scientists at such places as the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He lives in Eastsound, Washington with his wife and son.