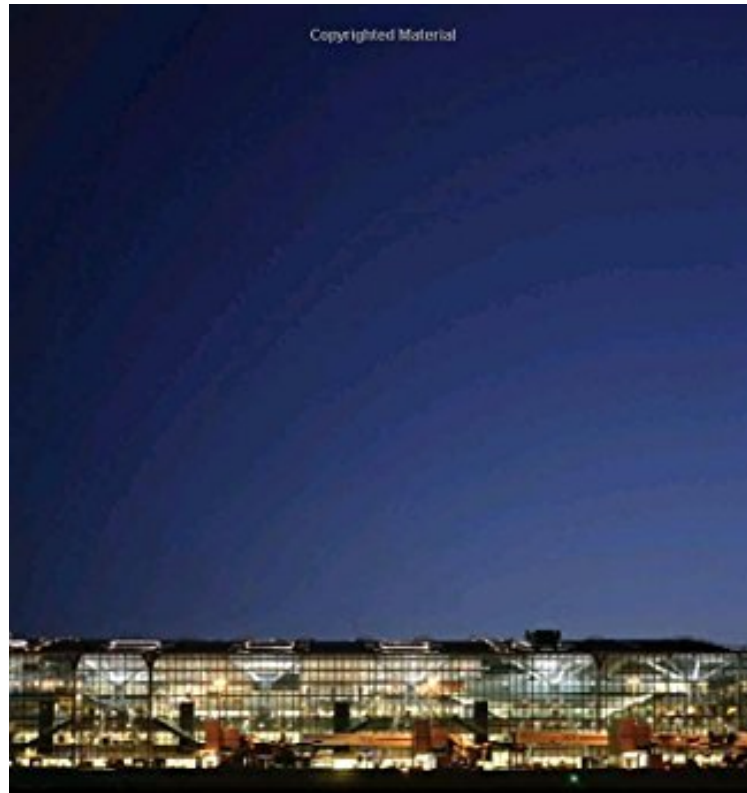


[Ebook pdf] A Week at the Airport

A Week at the Airport

Alain De Botton

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at the
Airport

Alain
de
Botton

Author of
The Art of Travel

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"Simultaneously
poignant and
terribly funny. . . .
De Botton's most
imaginative
work yet."
- The Spectator

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Alain De Botton : A Week at the Airport before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Week at the Airport:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and entertaining with more content than most books three times its lengthBy Anders MartinsonThe behavioral economist Dan Ariely posted a story on his blog about a locksmith whose tips dropped once he mastered his craft and could perform his tasks in less time than he could as a novice. His customers equated the speed with which he accomplished his work with a lack of effort or complexity. So

it is with some readers who dismiss de Botton's brilliant and economical style with as lacking depth or substance. With sly humor and a keen sense of observation, de Botton offers up well-written essays whose setting is Heathrow Airport but whose subjects range from classical literature to modern relationships to our quest to satisfy psychological needs through consumerism. As he has done earlier de Botton pairs his work with well-chosen photographs to enhance the mood and setting. Although this book is short, it's evident that a great deal of effort went into writing it. A certain amount of effort or at least calm attention is required to appreciate its depth, and the reader who offers up the attention this book deserves will not be disappointed. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but It Could Be Deeper By Ray I heard about this book on an NPR interview a long while back, and it sounded interesting. I only wish there was more here. It was much shorter than I expected, and didn't really go into the detail that I remember the interview seemed to promise. It only skimmed the surface of the interviewees' lives, careers, and tales of travel. I'm glad I got it used for \$0.01, because I would not have paid full price. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. terrific behind-the-scenes look at an airport's inner workings By lindapanzo When I was a kid (in those simpler, less security conscious days), I used to pester any adult I could find to take me to visit the airport. I loved to hang out at the observation deck at O'Hare and watch the planes take off and land and also wander around and watch the people at the airport. I rarely fly now (more car and Amtrak trips) but I would have LOVED the chance to experience what the author of this book did: spend a week at the airport. In this wonderful little book, the author spent a week wandering around the new terminal at London's Heathrow Airport, talking to passengers and employees alike and observing everything going on. He talks to everyone, from the head of British Airways to someone who cleans the restrooms. This is a terrific behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of an airport. You might think it sounds dull but it's not that at all.

From the bestselling author of *The Art of Travel* comes a wittily intriguing exploration of the strange "non-place" that he believes is the imaginative center of our civilization. Given unprecedented access to one of the world's busiest airports as a writer-in-residence, Alain de Botton found it to be a showcase for many of the major crosscurrents of the modern world from our faith in technology to our destruction of nature, from our global interconnectedness to our romanticizing of the exotic. He met travelers from all over and spoke with everyone from baggage handlers to pilots to the airport chaplain. Weaving together these conversations and his own observations of everything from the poetry of room service menus to the eerie silence in the middle of the runway at midnight de Botton has produced an extraordinary meditation on a place that most of us never slow down enough to see clearly. Lavishly illustrated in color by renowned photographer Richard Baker, *A Week at the Airport* reveals the airport in all its turbulence and soullessness and yet beauty.

From Booklist Travel writer de Botton sees the airport as the nexus of all that plagues and fascinates us about modern life: environmental destruction, high technology, constant movement, glittering distractions, consumerist temptations, and social interaction and isolation. Having accepted an invitation from British Airways to spend a week at its home, Terminal 5 of Heathrow, he is given unprecedented access to all the parts of the airport that travelers don't generally see. So, along with the shopping areas and arrival and departure and baggage-claim areas, he wanders into the huge stations for airplane repairs, the vast storage areas for rejected samples for cabin paraphernalia, the behind-the-scene offices, and the massive food-preparation areas. From a desk announcing his position as writer in residence, de Botton engages in conversations with business travelers, parting lovers, vacationing families, and the myriad workers stationary and passing through for whom the airport is workplace. Author of the best-selling *The Art of Travel* (2002), de Botton is amusing and lyrical in his observations of our modern comings and goings. Photographs add to the allure of this engaging look at air travel. --Vanessa Bush "Simultaneously poignant and terribly funny . . . De Botton's most imaginative work yet." *Spectator* "Funny, charming, and slender enough to pack in your carry-on." *Daily Mail* "Surprising. . . . His observations on airport life are wry and thought-provoking." *Telegraph* "Shrewd, perceptive and gently ironic." *Independent* About the Author Alain de Botton is the author of three works of fiction and eight works of nonfiction, including *How Proust Can Change Your Life*, *The Consolations of Philosophy*, and *The Art of Travel*. He lives in London, where he founded *The School of Life* (www.theschooloflife.com).