WHAT'S ACTUALLY WORTH CHASING

Ten Guides to Help You
Spend Your Life on What Counts

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Introduction

There is an old warning that not everything that glitters is gold. It is a simple line, but it carries a lifetime of experience inside it, because most of what pulls any of us off course does not arrive looking dangerous. It arrives looking bright. It looks like the fastest way to money, the easiest route around hard work, the crowd that seems to be having more fun, the shortcut that promises the same result as years of discipline. Telling the difference between what glitters and what is actually worth having is not something anyone is born knowing. It has to be learned, usually the hard way, unless someone hands you a map first.

This book is that map, gathered into one place from ten guides written over the years for people trying to build something real, and above all for the young people the author cared about most: a working life, an education worth having, a character worth trusting, a country worth investing in. Each part stands on its own and can be read in any order, but together they follow a rough shape. The book is for every reader, whatever your age or stage: a young person starting out, a working adult, a parent, a mentor, or someone looking back on a long life. The first parts are about building, the middle parts are about who else has a stake in that building, and the final parts are about what to watch out for and what to be grateful for once the building has begun.

None of this is theoretical. It is written plainly, sometimes bluntly, because readers deserve directness more than

comfortable vagueness. It draws often on proverbs, on faith, and on lessons the author has watched play out in real lives, both the ones that went well and the ones that did not. Where a part of this book feels like advice from someone who has been paying close attention for a long time, that is exactly what it is.

A word of guidance before you begin: you do not need to fix everything about your life to start, whether you are starting out or looking back. Pick the part that speaks most urgently to where you are right now, and start there. The rest will still be here.

END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

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