



Work Clean: The life-changing power of mise-en-place to organize your life, work, and mind

By Dan Charnas

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Work Clean: The life-changing power of mise-en-place to organize your life, work, and mind By Dan Charnas

The first organizational book inspired by the culinary world, taking mise-en-place outside the kitchen.

Every day, chefs across the globe churn out enormous amounts of high-quality work with efficiency using a system called *mise-en-place*?a French culinary term that means “putting in place” and signifies an entire lifestyle of readiness and engagement. In *Work Clean*, Dan Charnas reveals how to apply mise-en-place outside the kitchen, in any kind of work.

Culled from dozens of interviews with culinary professionals and executives, including world-renowned chefs like Thomas Keller and Alfred Portale, this essential guide offers a simple system to focus your actions and accomplish your work. Charnas spells out the 10 major principles of mise-en-place for chefs and non chefs alike: (1) planning is prime; (2) arranging spaces and perfecting movements; (3) cleaning as you go; (4) making first moves; (5) finishing actions; (6) slowing down to speed up; (7) call and callback; (8) open ears and eyes; (9) inspect and correct; (10) total utilization.

This journey into the world of chefs and cooks shows you how each principle works in the kitchen, office, home, and virtually any other setting.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Finally a book that shows the rest of the world that a chef's meticulous need for order isn't about obsession-- it's a way to set them up for success."

--Chef Marcus Samuelsson

"A distinctive and fascinating read! *Work Clean* shares the skills used by chefs to help you manage your time and resources to effectively get the most out of life."

--Chef Alfred Portale

"The concept of *mise-en-place* can seem stoic or robotic even, but Dan Charnas has revealed otherwise in *Work Clean*. It is a means to completing successfully what is right in front of us - whether in or out of the kitchen - through consideration and action."

--Chef Sam Henderson

"Systems and organization have always been a key to my success in the food service industry. *Work Clean* uses excellent examples to explain the necessity of structure as the foundation for not only restaurants but everyday life as well."

--Chef Marc D'Amico

"Dan Charnas writes informatively about the sometimes unglamorous, yet undeniably crucial role of organization in our kitchens and our lives, with clever wit and eloquence. *Work Clean* should be required reading for all aspiring chefs."--Chef Rob Halpern

"In *Work Clean*, Dan Charnas outlines a valuable parallel between the systems used to organize a busy kitchen and the ways we organize our everyday lives. As a chef, I know all too well the importance of preparation, planning, and working clean. Charnas describes how applying these principles of *mise-en-place* to tasks outside of the kitchen can improve efficiency and quality of work, and ultimately, quality of life."

--Chef Eric Ripert

About the Author

Dan Charnas is an award-winning culture, lifestyle, and business writer. Recipient of the 2007 Pulitzer Fellowship for Arts Journalism, his first book, *The Big Payback: The History of the Business of Hip-Hop*, was called "a classic of music-business dirt digging as well as a kind of pulp epic" by *Rolling Stone*. He lives in New York City.

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