



# **Thief of Time: Philosophical Essays on Procrastination**

*Chrisoula Andreou (Editor) , Mark White (Editor)*

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When we fail to achieve our goals, procrastination is often the culprit. But how exactly is procrastination to be understood? It has been described as imprudent, irrational, inconsistent, and even immoral, but there has been no sustained philosophical debate concerning the topic.

## **Thief of Time: Philosophical Essays on Procrastination Details**

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# From Reader Review Thief of Time: Philosophical Essays on Procrastination for online ebook

## Emma says

it's hilarious that 69 people have marked this book 'to read' and not one has yet read and reviewed it.

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## Angela Randall says

Mentioned in an article on procrastination called later.

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## Mary says

Much too technical, with lots of jargon. I had read an excellent review in the New Yorker last winter, which contained everything useful to me. Sorry I can't recall the date.

I read only a few pages.

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## Damon Young says

Procrastination is not simply “putting something off”. Nor is it just failing to do something: to write a masterpiece or knock out a Karate opponent. Lack of talent or bad luck is enough to frustrate these endeavours. And procrastination can’t simply be weakness of will, as this requires an unrealised judgement or intention, and sometimes we procrastinate by never really judging or intending at all. After a cringe-worthy party, we say we’re going to tell our friend her lover’s a pretentious whiner, but we don’t really mean to tell her. The plan was vague, weak or just no plan at all. Procrastination is hard to define, despite its familiarity. What is this chronic bugbear? How can we to avoid it?

These are the central questions of *The Thief of Time: Philosophical Essays on Procrastination*, edited by Chrisoula Andreou and Mark D. White. Divided into three parts – the nature and causes of procrastination; its relationship to vice; and ways of overcoming it – the volume is the first to give a dedicated philosophical treatment of the problem. The contributors are chiefly philosophers, though essays like George Ainslie’s “Procrastination: The Basic Impulse” and Don Ross’ “Economic Models of Procrastination” give economic analyses.

What does *The Thief of Time* offer the general reader? A few essays are highly technical, and general readers may be unfamiliar with the terminology and scholarly background. When Don Ross writes of modelling “picoeconomic accounts of molar-scale intertemporal preference,” I admit to bafflement – but my ignorance is to blame, not his vocabulary.

Nonetheless, *The Thief of Time* is an interesting and important book. It deals in fresh ways with well-known philosophical problems: will and rationality and their weaknesses, vice and virtue, identity, the nature of

lived time. And more importantly, Andreou and White's collection often weds these questions to ordinary struggles and anxieties – lucidly and sometimes enjoyably.

- from The Philosopher's Magazine #51

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### **Matúš Mikuš says**

a good read, even practical if you skim through a lot of the chapters in the middle. The philosophy is, well, full of jargon and models which are not necessarily all that interesting

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### **Sam says**

This collection of essays, while dense material, tackles some exceptionally fascinating material. Exactly what is procrastination? You might think that the answer to that question is simple, but it won't take more than a couple of essays for you to see that it's anything but.

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### **MM says**

Some interesting approaches to thinking about procrastination -- it's a collection of essays from economics, psychology, philosophy/logic. Fun to think about something that's so pervasive, unavoidable, sometimes even central, in this way.

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### **Petra CigareX says**

[I am supposed to be getting ready for work now. I have a lunch to go to and then rare books to unpack. But here I am with a cup of coffee, playing on GR because I can't be bothered to shift myself. I will soon. Probably. I don't wa

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