

# Chapter 13: Learn to Love to Read

The Almanack of Naval Ravikant • Executive Breakdown

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## 1 Read What You Love Until You Love to Read

- ✓ Reading should never be treated as a moral duty, homework assignment, or performative exercise in intellectual virtue signaling.
- ✓ Start by devouring whatever captivates your raw fascination—comic books, sci-fi, gossip, or history—until the habit becomes second nature.
- ✓ Once the biological neural pathways of deep reading are entrenched, you will naturally graduate to foundational classics and technical treatises.

## 2 Ruthless Quitting and Nonlinear Absorption

- ✓ Never feel compelled to finish a book simply because you bought it or started reading the first chapter.
- ✓ Treat books like software or conversations: skim aggressively, jump chapters, extract the central high-signal thesis, and discard the rest.
- ✓ Naval rarely finishes books; reading the first fifty pages of 200 extraordinary books generates far more insight than slogging through 20 mediocre ones.

## 3 Returning to Original Sources Over Secondary Summaries

- ✓ Modern non-fiction books often take a single insightful blog post and stretch it across 300 pages of repetitive case studies.
- ✓ Seek out original masters—Adam Smith, Charles Darwin, Richard Feynman, Marcus Aurelius—rather than diluted secondary commentaries.
- ✓ Reading foundational texts anchors your understanding in raw, unmediated primary principles that outlast decades of cultural fads.

## Chapter Summary

- ✓ Develop an unshakeable reading habit by indulging your genuine curiosity without guilt or intellectual pretension.
- ✓ Quit books ruthlessly the moment they lose signal; treat literature as an open mining field rather than a linear obligation.
- ✓ Read original primary sources (the foundational architects of science and philosophy) rather than diluted modern adaptations.
- ✓ Treat reading as the ultimate superpower: it provides instant, low-cost access to the greatest minds in civilization.