



Tokyo Uber Blues

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Constance Zack of the School Library Association of Rhode Island, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Tokyo Uber Blues*.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Cant, Callum. *Riding for Deliveroo: Resistance in the New Economy*, 2019.

What is life like for workers in the gig economy? Is it a paradise of flexibility and individual freedom? Or is it a world of exploitation and conflict? Callum Cant took a job with one of the most prominent platforms, Deliveroo, to find out.

His vivid account of the reality is grim. Workers are being tyrannised by algorithms and exploited for the profit of the few – but they are not taking it lying down. Cant reveals a transnational network of encrypted chats and informal groups which have given birth to a wave of strikes and protests. Far from being atomised individuals helpless in the face of massive tech companies, workers are tearing up the rulebook and taking back control. New developments in the workplace are combining to produce an explosive subterranean class struggle – where the stakes are high, and the risks are higher.

Riding for Deliveroo is the first portrait of a new generation of working class militants. Its mixture of compelling first-hand testimony and engaging analysis is essential for anyone wishing to understand class struggle in platform capitalism.

Design, Moodi. *The Ultimate Guide to Making Money with Uber Eat Delivery*. Prime, 2023.

This is a comprehensive guide based on personal experiences of successful Uber Eats delivery partners. This book covers all the key strategies and tips you need to know in order to succeed on the platform, including how to increase your earnings by making more deliveries, providing excellent customer service, and taking advantage of promotions and incentives offered by Uber Eats. Whether you are just starting out as an Uber Eats delivery partner or are looking to take your earnings to the next level, this book provides the tools and guidance you need to achieve your goals.

Dinteman, Walter. *Uber and Out: Tales from the World of an Uber Driver*. Prime, 2018.

This is a compilation of outlandish, extraordinary, and informative stories gathered from experience over five years of driving for Uber. Also see *Uber and Out 2: More Tales from the World of an Uber Driver*, 2019.

Doughty, Daniel. *Tokyo to Tokyo: A Cycling Adventure around Japan*. Prime, 2016.

A small-town farm hand and part-time adventurer cycles through all 47 of Japan's prefectures, starting and ending in Tokyo.

Fowler, Susan. *Whistleblower: My Journey to the Silicon Valley and Fight for Justice at Uber*. Viking, 2020.

The true story of the young woman who faced down one of the most valuable startups in Silicon Valley history--and what came after. In 2017, twenty-five-year-old Susan Fowler published a blog post detailing the sexual harassment and retaliation she'd experienced as an entry-level engineer at Uber. The post went viral, leading not only to the ouster of Uber's CEO and twenty other employees but "starting a bonfire on creepy sexual behavior".

Isaac, Mike. *Super Pumped: The Battle for Uber*. Norton, 2019.

A New York Times technology correspondent presents the dramatic story of Uber, the Silicon Valley startup at the center of one of the great venture capital power struggles of our time. In June 2017, Travis Kalanick, the hard-charging CEO of Uber, was ousted in a boardroom coup that capped a brutal year for the transportation giant. Uber had catapulted to the top of the tech world, yet for many came to symbolize everything wrong with Silicon Valley. Based on hundreds of interviews with current and former Uber employees, along with previously unpublished documents, *Super Pumped* is a page-turning story of ambition and deception, obscene wealth, and bad behavior that explores how blistering technological and financial innovation culminated in one of the most catastrophic twelve-month periods in American corporate history.

Matsuda, Shigeki. *Changes in Work and Family Life in Japan under Covid-19*. Springer, 2023. (ebook)

This book describes how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way of work, the division of household labor, and family formation in Japan. One of the characteristics of Japanese employment practices is a stable employer/employment relationship and seniority-based wage system. In return, long working hours, especially for men who are called salarymen (salaried workers, or company men), are required. The pandemic has led to an expansion of telework and has reduced their working hours, which has made them return to their homes to work. In contrast, non-regular employees, who are mostly women, have become more unstable in employment and their incomes have fallen. This tendency has become even stronger under the pandemic. Compared with conditions in Western countries, in Japan wives have a greater responsibility for domestic chores. In the pandemic, as children's classes shifted to online and childcare support facilities were temporarily closed, the burden of housework and child-rearing increased for wives. However, husbands who worked from home shared a part of the housework, and popular home delivery services helped to reduce the burdens on wives. Japan is one of the developed countries with low fertility rates. During the pandemic, many Japanese postponed starting a family, which further shrank the country's birthrate. There was a remarkably significant tendency to postpone having children among economically disadvantaged and socially isolated families. This book provides a portrait of Japan's experience regarding the notable impacts of the pandemic on work and family life.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. *The New Work Place in Japan*. OECD 2022. (ebook)

This report examines how skill requirements have been evolving in Japan prior to and during the COVID-19 crisis. It examines changes in the skills composition of Japan's workforce as well as policy efforts to improve the accessibility of career guidance, broaden training participation, and foster the adoption of teleworking practices.

Paulson, Scott. *Food Delivery Tales: True Stories about Delivering Restaurant Food*. Prime, 2019.

True stories from an experienced Uber Eats delivery man in Chicago and the suburbs. Subsequent chapters detail the delivery person's expenses related to the job and reveal the possible income a driver can expect to receive. A concluding chapter includes a great many true delivery stories that inform and entertain. This book informs potential delivery employees with helpful and needed information, assists current delivery people with many helpful and creative ideas as well as delivery facts, and entertains the reader who is curious about what a food delivery person encounters on the job. As of December 2021, this book is in its 3rd edition, which is necessary to keep the information current with the many changes that have occurred in the food delivery industry following the 2020 pandemic.

Perera, B. Yasanthi. *Uber*. Greenwood Press, 2020.

This book traces Uber's origin and evolution in the face of competitive pressures, discusses the company leadership and corporate culture, addresses such controversies as rider and driver safety and sexual harassment of female employees, and explores how the company is addressing these challenges. Students of business, entrepreneurs, and anyone interested in the development and exponential growth of the sharing economy will benefit from reading this book.

Rigsby, Jonathan. *Drive: Scraping By in Uber's America, One Ride at a Time*. Beacon Press, 2024.

Jonathan Rigsby spends his days as a crime intelligence analyst and his nights as an Uber driver. Reeling from his divorce and struggling to pay rent while caring for his autistic son, Rigsby became a rideshare driver, joining the millions of people with a side hustle just to make ends meet. Rigsby invites readers into his car to reveal the harsh reality of gig work for so many: grueling hours, living paycheck to paycheck, and hoping to avoid disaster long enough to prepare for the next bill. *Drive* exposes an ugly truth that hides in the gaudy background of the American dream: you can do everything right and still fail.

Stone, Brad. *The Upstarts: How Uber, Airbnb, and the Killer Companies of the New Silicon Valley Are Changing the World*. Little, Brown, 2017.

Ten years ago, the idea of getting into a stranger's car, or walking into a stranger's home, would have seemed bizarre and dangerous, but today it's as common as ordering a book online. Uber and Airbnb have ushered in a new era: redefining neighborhoods, challenging the way governments regulate business, and changing the way we travel. In the spirit of iconic Silicon Valley renegades like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, another technology to upend convention and disrupt entire industries. These are the upstarts, idiosyncratic founders with limitless drive and an abundance of self-generation of entrepreneurs is using confidence. Led by such visionaries as Travis Kalanick of Uber and Brian Chesky

of Airbnb, they are rewriting the rules of business and often sidestepping serious ethical and legal obstacles in the process. *The Upstarts* is the definitive story of two new titans of business and a dawning age of tenacity, conflict, and wealth. In this riveting account of the most radical companies of the new Silicon Valley, we discover how it all happened and what it took to change the world.

Yuji, Genda. *How the Pandemic Changed Work in Japan*. Keio University Press, 2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic that swept the globe in 2019 had a major impact on the way people lived and worked. People refrained from going out and, inevitably, the way people worked underwent drastic changes. Scholars and researchers examined the pandemic's impact on working styles and analyzed the data from various perspectives to identify changes in the labor market in Japan, including telework, work-childcare relations, and disparities in employment status, which makes the book a valuable historical testimony of a distinct turning point in Japan's work culture.

ADULT FICTION

Dertien, Andrew. *Uber Dick: Down and Out in San Francisco*. Prime, 2018.

Nick Freeman is down on his luck. Recently divorced, he drives for Uber and sleeps in a homeless shelter in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco, while his ex-wife remains with their two young children in her Victorian house in Lower Pacific Heights. As a youth, he gave up sports for drugs and soon became a heroin addict. When we meet Nick in *Uber Dick*, he's clean but often has to fight the urge to use when faced with dire circumstances. His love for his children keeps him going and drives his pursuit toward building a secure home space to share with them. A portrait of a single father struggling below the poverty line in the most exorbitantly expensive city in America, Dertien also reflects the contemporary zeitgeist of a once very cool city that, having been invaded by the tech industry, now mirrors the hypocrisy of social injustice, economic disparity, and political absurdity that shatters artistic communities and the individual spirit in our country today.

Guns, Priya. *Your Driver is Waiting*. Doubleday, 2023.

Damani barely makes a living driving for a ride-share company which takes all her time and energy. Her grinding daily toil satirizes the exploitation and indignity that come with her work. She takes multiple humorous but desperate shots at the gig economy, but the real target is capitalism itself. An explosive look at the culture of alienation brought on by the changing job market.

Murata, Sayaka. *Convenience Store Woman*. Grove Press, 2019.

Tokyo sales clerk Keiko Furukura is an unusual person. She's someone who has never fit in—but when she takes a job at Smile Mart, she finally finds peace and purpose in the repetition and monotony of her daily tasks. But there is huge pressure on Keiko to pursue a "real" career, to find a husband and she feels forced to take desperate action in order to please the people around her but she is not happy.

Tsumura, KiKuKo. *There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job*. Bloomsbury, 2021.

While recovering from a nervous breakdown caused by her previous employment, the unnamed heroine embarks on a series of diverting temp jobs for which she willy-nilly aspires to be a Goldilocks among the salarymen: surveilling a recipient of smuggled goods, writing ads for a bus company, creating trivia and self-help content for rice cracker packages, installing public service posters, and punching exhibition tickets in a hut at a city park. The novel, originally written in 2016, uncannily captures our job landscape during COVID — when we have jobs that sit "on the borderline between a job and not.

YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Anonymous. *Uber: Stories Behind Closed Car Doors*. Wake Up, Inc., 2016.

A collection of stories about the events of “Johnny's” life as a ride-sharing Driver. Straight out of high school, Johnny embarks on a journey of a lifetime to Hollywood seeking success and fame as a film star. To keep money coming in and to support himself, he becomes a Driver. This book is for all the Drivers worldwide, all colors and all languages—the moms and dads that are driving for a second job to support their families, and the college students that are driving to pay their tuition. The drivers that are in between jobs and for those that are driving for cash flow to support their own dream. Will Johnny do what he needs to do to become the next Brad Pitt or George Clooney in Hollywood? Driving for a ridesharing company seems a perfect job to keep the cash flow coming in while pursuing an acting career.

Garcia, Hector. *A Geek in Japan: Discovering the Land of Manga, Anime, Zen and the Tea Ceremony*. Turtle, 2010.

This is a hip, smart, and concise guide to the land that is their source. Comprehensive and well-informed, it covers a wide array of topics in short articles accompanied by sidebars and numerous photographs, providing a lively digest of the society and culture of Japan. Designed to appeal to the generations of Westerners who grew up on Pokemon, manga, and video games, this book reinvents the culture guide for readers in the Internet age.

Herrick, Steven. *Bento, Bicycles and Bathhouses: A Cycling Adventure in Japan*. Prime, 2018.

Away from the cafes, convenience stores, and restaurants, the author tries to make sense of a society addicted to overwork while enjoying a long soak in a public bath; an industrial powerhouse who re-energized the motor vehicle while remaining devoted to the bicycle and country of progress and change that still values the kimono and sumo. *Bento, Bicycles and Bathhouses* is a bicycle adventure, a gastronomic safari, and an entertaining ramble through the culture and landscape of Japan.

Norbury, Paul. *Culture Smart: Japan: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture*. Kuperard, 2021.

This book will guide the reader through modern Japan’s shifting social and cultural maze, providing invaluable insights into people’s attitudes and behavior, and practical tips. Today, Japan is at a crossroads. The postwar economic miracle is over and the balance of power in Asia is shifting as new players enter the field. The bedrock of traditional Japanese culture—its remarkable resilience, coherence, and consensus-based philosophy, underpinned by many protocols—until recently regarded by some as a hindrance, is starting to look like a virtue in a world of accelerating change.

Phillips, Ben. *Diary of an Uber Driver*. Impulse, 2016. (ebook)

Welcome to Uber driving - and this hilarious and poignant account of driving Sydneysiders to and from locations wild, famous, and infamous. Uber drivers get an intimate glimpse into people's lives - from their morning routines to their despair after being ditched at the pub. They act as sounding boards, take the rap for loud music, see people at their finest and weakest, and most importantly get to observe a cast of thoroughly extraordinary characters that make a big metropolis. From Jacob, the rent boy to Lydia, the neglectful, the modern Uber driver sees it all. And when people ask our driver why doesn't he get a real job, he thinks of the fantastic stories he gets each day, and says, "No thanks."

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Bacera, Mami. *Ame Goes to Japan: a Book about One Cool Cat's Travels in Japan*. Prime, 2020.

Ame the cat visits many fun places in Japan and learns about the culture and history. Children who follow Ame's adventures will learn many different facts and tidbits about the Land of the Rising Sun.

DK Travel. *Be More Japan: the Art of Japanese Living*. DK Publishing, 2024.

Be More Japan is a celebration of all things Japanese. Whether you use it as a travel guide or to help you understand the unique Japanese culture, Be More Japan helps you understand and experience the best of Japan, both at home and abroad. For those who can't make the trip to Japan, or who want to carry on the experience when they return, this book offers useful tips and suggestions for how to bring Japanese culture to you.

Manica, C. *Konnichiwa from Japan*. Prime, 2024.

Konnichiwa from Japan is a children's information book about Japan. From its location and history to its culture, traditions, foods, sports, and interesting places to visit, this up-to-date book covers it all and helps children understand Japan's unique culture.