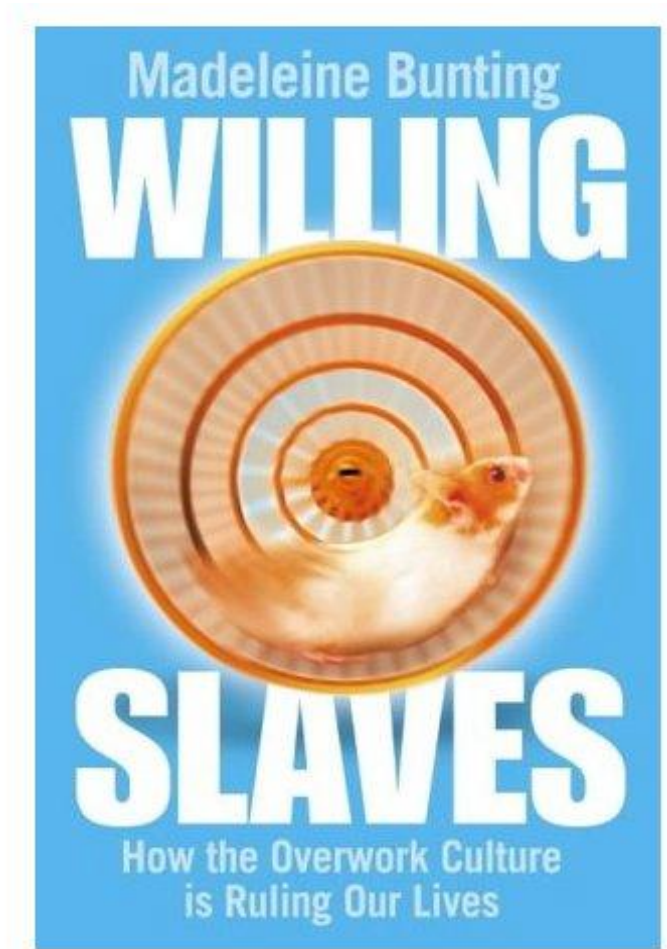


## *'Willing Slaves' by Madeleine Hunting*



I bought the book *'Willing Slaves'* by accident during a trip in London. I was just looking for a book about the increasing flexibility in employee work systems when the shop assistant showed me the book by Madeleine Hunting. He told me he recognized a lot of his own life in the book and told me that this book just saved him from becoming crazy.

This book is a fine example of modern critical analysis of today's working life. You will recognize a lot of the pressures and stressors of your own work system. In the first chapter the author makes clear that the book is not about a minor part of the working population. She states that overwork culture is present in the life of 93% of all employees. In some cases (22%) it is even more than twenty hours a week!

In a very profound way the author outlines the historical background of the overwork culture. With the shift from production lines, with its standardised work systems, to organizations based on services made to measure, the flexibility of the process was moved to the employee. The consequences of this movement are described utterly moving in this book.

I think *Willing slaves* is a hugely impressive document and a milestone in the literature about transformations in employee work systems. The way Madeleine Hunting describes the effects on employees' working life is completely stunning. If you don't read this you will stay ignorant or even become crazy.

Arnoud van de Ven  
Nijmegen, 22/10/06