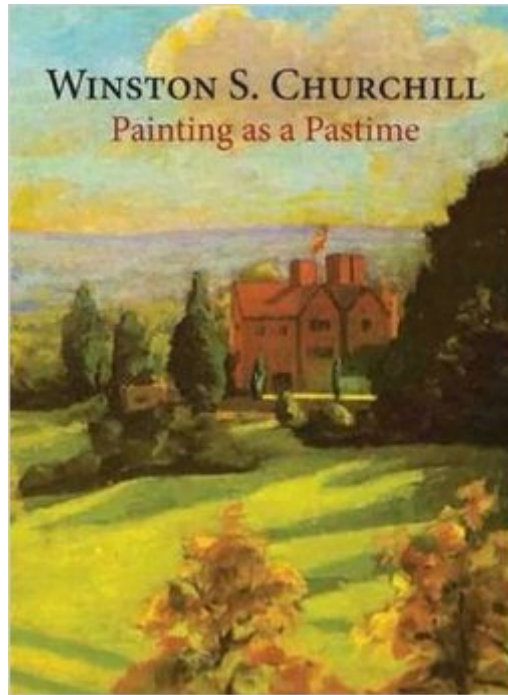


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# Painting As A Pastime



## Synopsis

The perfect antidote to his 'Black Dog', a depression that blighted his working life, Churchill took to painting with gusto. Picking up a paintbrush for the first time at the age of forty, Winston Churchill found in painting a passion that was to remain his constant companion. This glorious essay exudes his compulsion for a hobby that allowed him peace during his dark days, and richly rewarded a nation with a treasure trove of work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book because someone recommended it to me. I am glad I followed his advice, because this little essay offers a wonderful new interest for anyone who wants to rest and refresh their analytical mentality on occasion. (Also, you can find very inexpensive copies if you just look a few times.) Churchill writes in this essay that he took up the hobby of oil painting because he wearied himself in more serious matters on the world stage and needed a restorative means of relaxing. He discovered that the art of oil painting 1) is relatively easy for a hobbyist to cultivate and 2) enriches the painter by giving him new eyes, letting him see even everyday things in a new way, and presents challenges to be studied carefully and then painted. He describes how he was unsure of the first stroke until a friend walked up, grabbed his brush, and slathered a large blob of paint on the blank canvas. That move freed him. Churchill writes that once you start painting, things like the light on water in different temperatures, the changing cloud strata, and the hidden tones in rocks can preoccupy you for hours as you try to get exactly the right variations of pigment and brush stroke. He concludes as he began, by commenting how refreshing this hobby is, and he recommends oil as the most forgiving medium for beginners. It really is a surprising discovery of a little book for anyone

interested in personal development. As Churchill writes, "Whether you feel that your soul is pleased by the conception of contemplation of harmonies, or that your mind is stimulated by the aspect of magnificent problems, or whether you are content to find fun in trying to observe and depict the jolly things you see, the vistas of possibility are limited only by the shortness of life.

I have had this book in my collection for quite a number of years now and give it a periodic read. It is a very short book; a small essay really, of only 32 pages. It can be, if the reader so desires, read in a very short time. Let me say right now though that this is not the sort of work that you want to rip through. No, it is a book that is best read in a slow and contemplative manner with each sentence; indeed, each word and word combination read and savored and then reread again and again. My reasons for delighting in this work and reading it many times are rather personal. I love art and I love painting. I am not good at it, am not very skilled despite years of work, and all of my paintings are stashed in various closets and cubby holes around the house. This does not matter though.

Secondly, I am of the strong and personal opinion that Sir Winston S. Churchill, whose talents in so many areas are legendary, is one of the true masters of the English Language. More about this later. This little essay is about so much more than painting as a pastime though. In the 32 pages that Churchill had to work with, he not only addresses his primary subject, but also that of reading, art appreciation, travel, the French, and adds in scads of good advice as to how to be a happier and more productive person. Hidden in this little gem, the author discusses read and makes some surprising remarks such as that it his belief that young men and women should not read all that many good books when they are young, but rather wait until they have more experience in life and have lived a bit. Churchill advises that a man, or woman, should have at least three hobbies they participate in, each having absolutely nothing to do with what they do to earn their bread.

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