



Johnson County Library

Job Loss:

Stories and Advice for Coping with Unemployment and Career Changes

FICTION:

FICTION Cobb William 2006

Cobb, William J. **Goodnight, Texas**

A lyrical story about people struggling to survive job loss, over-fishing, and a looming hurricane.

FICTION Cramer W. 2007

Cramer, W. Dale. **Summer of Light: A Novel**

After an accident, a construction worker dives into his new role as stay-at-home father, managing the kids, the house, a goat and their diabolical dog while his wife returns to work at a law firm.

FICTION Crichton Michael 2002

Crichton, Michael. **Prey**

After begin fired from his technology company for discovering illegal activities, a stay-at-home dad whose successful wife works for a biotech firm uncovers a threat in his wife's lab that hunts humans.

Audiotape, CD audio, and large print versions also available.

FICTION Farrington Tim 2002

Farrington, Tim. **The Monk Downstairs**

A single mother rents her basement apartment to a former monk who is currently employed by McDonald's as he searches for what he really wants to do with his life. **Large print also available.**

FICTION Ferris Joshua 02/2007

Ferris, Joshua. **Then We Came To the End: A Novel**

The remaining employees at an office affected by a business downturn spend their time enjoying secret romances, elaborate pranks, coffee breaks, and occasional work on an odd pro-bono ad campaign.

FICTION Horn Ariel 2004

Horn, Ariel. **Help Wanted, Desperately**

A 21-year-old searches for "respectful employment" while she participates in a clinical sleep study for cash and attempts to become the voice of a cartoon cat.

FICTION Lancaster Jen 2006

Lancaster, Jen. **Bitter is the New Black**

Chronicles the misadventures of a woman whose perfect life, perfect job, and perfect man vanish when she goes from a six-figure career to unemployment.

FICTION Lott Bret 1996

Lott, Bret. **How to Get Home: A Novella and Stories**

Includes a poignant short story about a character who loses his self-esteem after losing his job.

FICTION Minot Eliza 2006

Minot, Eliza. **The Brambles**

Max, newly unemployed but hiding the fact from his wife by “going to work” everyday, struggles along with his two sisters to deal with the complexities and challenges of life.

FICTION Naipaul V.S. 1963

Naipaul, V. S. **Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion**

Shortly before retirement as a librarian for a large commercial firm, a 62 year old man marries, becomes inspired and turns his creative idea into fact.

FICTION Ojikutu Bayo 2006

Ojikutu, Bayo. **Free Burning: A Novel**

After being laid off from his corporate job, a South Side Chicago man turns to selling marijuana for his cousin to provide for his wife and baby girl.

FICTION O’Nan Stewart 12/2007

O’Nan, Stewart. **Last Night at the Lobster**

As a Red Lobster manager works his last shift before the restaurant closes due to poor sales, he realizes all he’ll miss about the tacky place, including a waitress with whom he once had an affair.

FICTION Porter Jane 04/2008

Porter, Jane. **Mrs. Perfect**

Having achieved her dream of a family that includes a successful husband and three children, a mom is horrified when her bohemian rival rises above her as a school activities coordinator, a situation that is further complicated by the discovery of her husband’s secret unemployment.

FICTION Yan Geling 2006

Yan, Geling. **The Banquet Bug**

An unemployed Chinese factory worker poses as a journalist to infiltrate state-sponsored banquets and becomes drawn into a government conspiracy.

NONFICTION:

158.7 Stearns 1995

Stearns, Ann Kaiser. **Living through Job Loss: Coping with the Emotional Effects of Job Loss and Rebuilding Your Future**

Shows how to cope with the doubts, depression, and diminished self-esteem that often accompanies job loss, as well as how to resolve conflicts with your spouse over money.

305.562 Levison 2002

Levison, Iain. **A Working Stiff's Manifesto: A Memoir**

A humorous memoir of a college graduate with an English degree who recounts his job search woes after having forty-two jobs in ten years, working as everything from a fish cutter to a film set assistant.

331.137 Hakim 1993

Hakim, Cliff. **When You Lose Your Job: Laid Off, Fired, Early Retired, Relocated, Demoted, Unchallenged**

Offers advice for dealing with the emotional and financial aspects of being laid off, looking for a new job, and how to identify career goals and key skills.

331.137 Moody 2003

Moody, Bruce. **Will Work for Food or \$: A Memoir from the Roadside**

Just before turning 60, Mr. Moody is fired, becomes desperate, and makes a sign that begins his life on the roadside. Here he shares stories of the unexpected connection he makes with others.

331.137 Uchitell 2006

Uchitelle, Louis. **The Disposable American: Layoffs and their Consequences**

This critique of the American practice of corporate layoffs examines their questionable necessity, the overuse of the practice, and their repercussions for both individuals and the nation.

338.7684 Bamberge 1998

Bamberger, Bill. **Closing: The Life and Death of an American Factory**

A powerful collection of photos and an elegiac text that portray the workers and managers of a family furniture business that was forced to shut down after a century in business.

650.14 Ehrenrei 2005

Ehrenreich, Barbara. **Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream**

Focuses on the world of white-collar unemployment, describing the woes of the “surplus” employees who are forced to confront the realities of financial hardship with few social supports or security. **Audiotape and CD audio versions also available.**

650.14 Gurwitch 2006

Gurwitch, Annabelle. **Fired!: Tales of the Canned, Canceled, Downsized, and Dismissed**

Interviews celebrities and regular people who celebrate the lighter side of being terminated.

650.14 Laskoff 2004

Laskoff, Michael B. **Landing on the Right Side of Your Ass: A Survival Guide for the Recently Unemployed**

A Harvard Business School graduate offers a guide to the practical and emotional aspects of layoffs, with advice on how to attract prospective employers, networking, and interviewing.

650.14 Mackay 2004

Mackay, Harvey. **We Got Fired!: And It's the Best Thing That Ever Happened To Us**

Drawing on the experiences of celebrities, the author discusses how to cope with the trauma of being fired and how to use the dismissal as an opportunity for employment.

VIDEOS:

DVD Cinderella 7-DAY 2005

Cinderella Man

During the Depression, a scarcely-employed dock worker becomes one of the most surprising boxing legends in history, driven by the need to provide for his family.

DVD Elizabet 7-DAY 2005

Elizabethtown

A man who is fired from his job and subsequently dumped by his girlfriend flies back home to make sure his father's dying wishes are fulfilled, and in doing so gets his own life back on track.

DVD Employee 7-DAY 2004

Employee of the Month

A black comedy in which life is going well for a man until his fiancée dumps him and he gets caught in a robbery just as he's leaving a bank after being fired.

DVD Erin 7-DAY 2000

Erin Brockovich

After losing a personal injury lawsuit, an unemployed, feisty young mother convinces her attorney to hire her as a clerk to compensate for losing her lawsuit. The job boosts her self-esteem, and she promptly stumbles upon a monumental law case against a giant corporation.

DVD Jerry 7-DAY 1996

Jerry Maguire

A sports agent suddenly discovers his scruples and promptly loses his job. But with the help of one loyal colleague and one outrageous client, he learns that loving well is the best revenge.

DVD Legally 7-DAY 2003

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde

When she's fired from her job at an upscale law firm for voicing her stance against the testing of cosmetics on animals, a woman heads to Capitol Hill to fight for her cause before Congress.

YA DVD Major 7-DAY 1998

Major Payne

When peace breaks out in America, a Special Forces marine is given his marching orders, which leads him from the unemployment line to work as commander of the Madison Academy Junior ROTC.

DVD Modern 7-DAY 1936

Modern Times

Charlie Chaplin stars as an assembly line worker who battles it out with technology, unemployment, jail, burglars, demanding customers, and bosses, but eventually he meets the girl of his dreams.

DVD Office 7-DAY 1999

Office Space

Cult classic comedy about three friends at work who hate their jobs. When two of the friends are fired during downsizing, all three find a way to rebel against their annoying boss and greedy company.

DVD Roger 7-DAY 1989

Roger & Me

A documentary about Flint, Michigan native Michael Moore and his efforts to meet with General Motors' president Roger Smith in order to persuade the executive to visit Flint, a city which is economically depressed due to the closure of a General Motors plant. **VHS version also available.**

DVD Sorrell 7-DAY 1984

Sorrell and Son

A decorated British army officer returns home after World War I to face unemployment, poverty and his wife's desertion. He accepts exhausting, demeaning jobs to provide his son future opportunities.

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