



# Johnson County Library

## Job Loss:

Stories and Advice for Coping with Unemployment and Career Changes

### FICTION:

#### **FICTION Cobb William**

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

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

#### **FICTION Cramer W.**

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**

Crichton, Michael. **Prey**

After being 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.

#### **FICTION Farrington Tim**

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.

#### **FICTION Ferris Joshua**

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**

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 Lott Bret**

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**

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 Moriarty Laura**

Moriarty, Laura. **The Center of Everything**

Fending for herself in the wake of a chronically unemployed, stressed-out mother, ten-year-old Evelyn Bucknow experiences feelings of confinement in their small Midwestern town and suffers the heartache of a first love.

**FICTION Naipaul V.S.**

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**

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**

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**

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 Sedaris David**

Sedaris, David. **Holidays on Ice**

An acerbic, witty anthology of Christmas tales and essays featuring “Santaland Diaries” in which Sedaris recalls his time working a temp job as a Macy’s Christmas elf.

**FICTION Yan Geling**

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.

**GRAPHIC FICTION Bechdel Alison**

Bechdel, Alison. **The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For**

Brings together a collection of cartoons recounting the lives and loves of a diverse group of lesbian friends, including a character who undergoes frequent career changes.

**NON-FICTION:**

**158.1 Browning**

Browning, Dominique. **Slow Love: How I Lost My Job, Put on My Pajamas & Found Happiness**

Describes how the author lost her job as editor in chief of House & Garden magazine and discovered pleasures and surprises she hadn't realized she was missing in the sudden and unexpected absence of a purpose-driven life.

### **158.7 Stearns**

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**

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**

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**

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**

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.

### **650.14 Ehrenrei**

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.

### **650.14 Gurwitch**

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**

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**

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.

## **814.6 Lancaster**

### **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.

## **VIDEOS:**

### **DVD Cinderella 7-DAY**

#### **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**

#### **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**

#### **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**

#### **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 Graduate 7-DAY**

#### **The Graduate**

Directionless and living with his parents, recent college graduate Benjamin Braddock begins an affair with a married neighbor and then falls in love with her daughter.

### **DVD Jerry 7-DAY**

#### **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**

#### **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.

### **DVD Major 7-DAY**

#### **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****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****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****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.

**DVD Sorrell 7-DAY****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.

**DVD Up 7-DAY****Up in the Air**

After his company saddles him with a new trainee, a downsizing expert questions his empty, on-the-road lifestyle and begins a relationship with a fellow business traveler.

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