

Why You Need This Book

Welcome, and congratulations on either purchasing or stealing your very own copy of *How to Get Fired!* By choosing to open this book, you have made a conscious decision to avoid the soul-crushing existence that comes from having a full-time job. You've enjoyed your last six or twelve years in college - filled as I'm sure they have been with snowball fights, beer pong, late-night Waffle House runs, and the occasional, accidental moment of formal learning - and you're in no hurry to trade your current carefree life for one filled with stress and responsibility.

More importantly, you've seen your parents wither away, their smiles fading and their hair slowly falling out as they slog day after day after day through the soupy muck of the working world. Remember when they used to laugh instead of weeping for no apparent reason? Remember how spry they used to be, how easily they could lift you onto their shoulders and twirl you around the yard? When was the last time that happened - ten, fifteen years ago? The daily grind caught up to them, and there was nothing you could do.

Or perhaps you have friends who've graduated before you, and you've watched them transform into people you never thought they'd be - sad, pathetic wretches forced to comb their

hair every day and wear watches and who occasionally *choose* to go to bed before midnight in order to summon the strength they'll need to face another unspeakably productive day at the office. You've watched it happen, and I know you've sworn to yourself, in a moment of blinding clarity while others held your legs for a marathon keg stand: *That's not going to happen to me.* And so again, congratulations for finding this book.

In these pages you will acquire all the wisdom necessary to ensure that you never have to suffer the burden of stable employment for very long. Every piece of information in this book has been market-tested. Thousands of people – nay, *hundreds of thousands* – have used the techniques in this book to shortcut their way straight into the unemployment line. Most of what you'll read is not new. But until now no one had thought to compile this information. Imagine the countless workers forced to figure out how to get fired all on their own, stumbling blindly through the mazes until stubborn determination or dumb luck allowed them the sweet release you now seek for yourself. That's why I have taken it upon myself to write this book, to ensure that nobody has to struggle to get fired in the future, and it is the reason that I fully expect to see statues of myself erected in honor of me around the world before I die.

As you will already have noticed, this book assumes that you either have attended or are currently in college. However, you don't have to have gone to college to appreciate what this book has to offer. *How to Get Fired!* is intended for anybody new to the professional world, whether you're about to graduate from high school, trade school, college, or prison. In most cases, the ideal reader of this book is under 30. Those of you who are older or who have held stable jobs for the past several years will undoubtedly be familiar with most of the advice in this book,

because you'll have seen some of your coworkers use these concepts to secure their own successful terminations. Of course you're welcome to read this book too – after all, it might give you some pleasure by reminding you of your former, fallen colleagues. But for those of you about to embark into the wide world of resumes, benefits, power lunches, conference calls, teambuilding seminars, and everything else in the depressing world of adulthood, this book is indispensable.

Now I know some of you think you don't need this book. You've paid attention to the current recession and its deleterious effect on our employment rate. You've seen wave after wave of outsourcing remove thousands of jobs from the manufacturing, textile, technology, and information systems sectors. You've seen the parking lot at your local movie theater full on weekday afternoons. And you're thinking to yourself, "I don't need to do anything to get fired; it's so easy right now I should be perfectly fine."

Don't allow yourself to be persuaded by such slippery logic. There are two reasons you'll need this book. The first is that those issues mentioned above – downsizing, outsourcing, recessions, etc. – are things you can't control. They just happen; they're part of the nature of a market economy. *How to Get Fired!* focuses on the things you *can* control, the things you yourself can do to assure that you are never employed for very long. I want to put the power in your hands so that you won't be beholden to the whims of impersonal market forces.

Why should it matter? It matters because of the second reason you'll need this book, which is this: someday the economy is going to get better. Someday the unemployment level will taper off, then fall back to so-called 'healthier' levels. Someday there might even be, dare I say it, an *excess* of available jobs. And

if that terrible day ever comes, if we are ever unfortunate enough to have more jobs available than there are workers to fill them, it will be much, much harder to get fired than it is now. That's why you need *How to Get Fired!*, so that you'll know how to lose a job *in any economy*.

I also imagine that some of you are wondering what makes me qualified to write this book. That's a very good question for which I have a very good answer. To put it simply, I have been fired from more jobs than you are likely to ever have. Some of the best and not-so-best companies in America - from Google and Boeing to Enron and Steamy's Gentlemen's Club - have decided that I am not worth a paycheck. The longest job I've ever held lasted exactly 43 days, during which time my parents began to seriously worry that I might one day move out of the house. But true to form, it ended in spectacularly bad fashion, and I am still comfortably ensconced in my family's basement, feasting on box macaroni whenever I please and drowning in World of Warcraft megaquests. As of the writing of this preface, I have gone six days without a shower. I have achieved nirvana, my future acolyte, and I can guarantee that if you follow the lessons in this book you will find the same glory I have.

So, without further adieu, let's highlight the main points we'll be covering.

The following is the result of hours of Internet¹ research coupled with conversations with hundreds of business owners from dozens of industries across the United States. Together, they've helped me compile a Top Ten List of the reasons,

¹ The Internet itself is a fantastic tool to help get yourself fired, which I have used on several occasions with remarkable success. We'll cover how it can help you in more detail in the awesomely titled chapter *The Internet*.

excluding layoffs and recession-based cutbacks, that most commonly lead to employees getting fired.

Top Ten Reasons People Get Fired

(excluding layoffs, recessions, depressions, natural disasters, outsourcing, downsizing, or setting your building on fire)

Lying on your resume

Unreliable work and behaviors

Inability to do assigned job tasks

**Performing tasks slowly,
with numerous errors²**

High absenteeism

**Conducting personal business
at work**

Drug and/or alcohol abuse

Dishonesty on the job

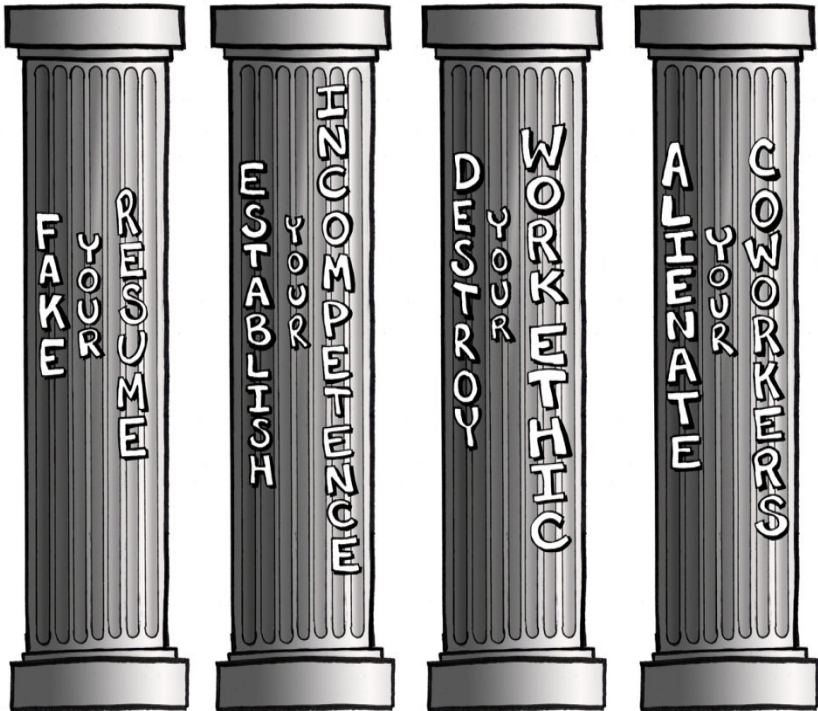
**Refusing to follow
directions and orders**

Inability to get along with others

² Anyone catch the misspelled word in the one about making mistakes? I am hilarious.

These are not listed in order of popularity; lying on your resume is not necessarily the most effective way to get fired. Rather, I have organized these behaviors in order to better discuss the major themes of getting fired – or as I like to call them, the Four Pillars of Poverty. The Pillars are, respectively:

- 1) Fake your resume
- 2) Establish your incompetence
- 3) Destroy your work ethic
- 4) Alienate your coworkers



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**ESTABLISH YOUR
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Performing tasks slowly,
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High absenteeism

Conducting personal business
at work

**DESTROY YOUR
WORK ETHIC!!!**

Drug and/or alcohol abuse

Dishonesty on the job

Refusing to follow
directions and orders

**ALIENATE
YOUR
COWORKERS!!!!**

Inability to get along with others

The first four sections of the book each deal with a separate Pillar. Section One will teach you how to manufacture a resume impressive enough to land a job to get fired from. Section Two will help you learn how to project a

complete lack of intelligence and ingenuity. Section Three will help you develop the work ethic that has helped make America one of the fattest countries in the world. And section Four will cover the various ways you can make your coworkers constantly compare you to Hitler, Stalin, Idi Amin, Pol Pot, and other of the world's most famous team players.

The book ends with a fifth section, perhaps the most important in the book, although I'm afraid most of you will probably not bother reading it. If you're a typical college student (or unhappily employed recent college grad), you'll probably assume you know everything you need to know halfway through and start using this book as a coaster for cheap beer, or perhaps as a way to level out that entertainment center you found sitting by the dumpster of your apartment building. Some of you will get irritated that this book has few pictures and none of them of naked people, and maybe you'll express your displeasure by attaching this book to a clothesline and blasting it to shreds with hollow-point bullets. To be perfectly honest, it doesn't matter to me. You already bought the book, or stole it from someone who did; I'm getting paid whether you get anything out of this or not. But on the off chance that you actually plan on reading this whole thing cover to cover, I can guarantee that it will be well worth your time.

So are you ready to begin? Are you ready to free yourself from the tyranny of a regular paycheck? Are you anxious to learn the techniques that will ensure you never miss another midmorning episode of *The Price is Right*? Then what are you waiting for? Your future awaits!