

IP Book Reviewers

How to Get Fired!

The New Employee's Guide to Perpetual Unemployment

Jeff Havens

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When I read *How to Get Fired! The New Employee's Guide to Perpetual Unemployment* by Jeff Havens, I was captivated by the satirical work of an author with a mission. Wit, intellect, and humor are used to present the material in a way that kept me turning the pages from the beginning to the end with few breaks in between. As someone who worked several years in Human Resources, as well as a former publisher and present-day book reviewer, I have read many books on how to achieve success in the workplace; but there were none that gave specific instructions on how to get fired and become a non-productive member of society. I must add that the author does this provocatively in an entertaining and educational way.

For those of you who purchase this title, I promise you that it is a one-of-a-kind publication that you will want to be part of your permanent library. Most of us have heard of reverse psychology, and if you do the opposite of what the first four parts of the book recommends, you will, in all likelihood, get what you want out of life as far as the job arena is concerned. If you ignore the writings of the last chapter, just the opposite is true. Be sure to read all the footnotes as they provide information that adds greatly to the book and gives more insight into the mind of the author.

After explaining why readers need this book, Mr. Havens defines the "Four Pillars of Society," and turns them into four sections or chapters in his book. They will teach you how to fake your resume, establish your incompetence, destroy your work ethic, and alienate your coworkers. He is a great teacher and offers examples on how to be proficient in each of these. I found myself laughing through tears of reality because within the confines of these pillars, as described by Mr. Havens, there is truth. Readers will learn everything they need to do wrong in order to achieve their goal of being fired. Sometimes it actually takes a little work and time before it happens. But, if they study the example of a fake resume, act like they are still in college, dress inappropriately, spend time using the Internet for personal reasons, and do as little work as possible, they will succeed.

As someone who has studied psychology, I must say that this book has many bonuses as the author delves into issues such as drug addiction, etc. Though the author speaks with humor, he offers advice for living that is right on target. Never subtle, you can picture him standing in front of you in a lecturing manner that is not annoying but intriguing and

interesting. All through the book, I kept asking myself, “What will he say next that will have me laughing and philosophizing?”

As previously mentioned, the last section is a serious one in which Jeff Havens emphasizes that you should do the opposite of what he tells you in preceding pages. Although this should be obvious to everyone, it was done to make his editors happy.

It is my hope to see *How to Get Fired* in every library throughout the country. It should be presented to college graduates, purchased by anyone who is looking for a job or wants to hold on to the one he or she has, and definitely needs to be passed out with employees' handbooks to new hires, regardless of company size. I give this book my highest recommendation.

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