

Great Books for Graduating Seniors

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Even though life after college doesn't come with an instruction book, here are some great books to get your graduate started with "life in the real world." If you're the parent or friend of a student about to graduate, you might want to consider giving one of these books as a graduation gift. Career counselors at schools nationwide recommend these books for the valuable advice they offer.

Delaying the Real World. A Twentysomething's Guide to Seeking Adventure.

Colleen Kinder. Running Press. www.runningpress.com. 2005. 240 pps.

"There will never be a better time to pick up and go," writes Kinder "You are young, curious, and have loads of energy to pour into the place of your choice. Not to mention the fact that you are kidless, jobless, and totally autonomous—you may never again be this portable. Kinder offers a wide range of possibilities for traveling the world and landing unique and creative jobs plus all the practical information needed to make it happen. *Delaying the Real World* shows new grads how to plan an adventure with information on how to finance it.

Twentysomething: Surviving and Thriving in the Real World.

Margaret Feinberg. W Publishing Group. www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/2004. 192 pp. \$12.99.

Margaret Feinberg—a twentysomething herself—offers advice to new graduates who have to relocate, find a place to live, find a job, pay the bills, and make new friends.

Connect College to Career: A Student's Guide to Work and Life Transitions.

Paul Hettich and Camille Helkowski. Wadsworth Publishing. www.wadsworth.com. 2004 192 pp. \$41.95.

This book, written by a professors from DePaul University (Hettich) and Loyola University Chicago

(Helkowski) offers new graduates advice on how to prepare for the future: expectations, corporate culture, young adult development, cognitive development, intelligence, motivation, relationships, satisfaction, and self-assessment.

Life After School Explained.

Cap and Compass. www.capandcompass.com. 2002. 168 pp. \$14.95.

Three recent grads offer advice to new grads on a variety of "adult" topics: using credit cards and HMOs, dining etiquette, buying mutual funds, investing in 401ks, buying versus leasing a car, paying student loans, dressing for work, paying taxes, and more.

Don't Wait Until You Graduate: How to "Jump-Start" Your Career While Still in School.

Keith Luscher. New Horizon Press Publishers. www.newhorizonpressbooks.com. 1998. 249 pp.

New grads without jobs will find advice on how to contact potential employers, how to build relationships with people who hire, where to get good experience, and more.

Love is the Killer App: How to Win Business and Influence Friends.

Tim Sanders. Three Rivers Press. www.randomhouse.com. 2003. 240 pp.

Tim Sanders, director of Yahoo's in-house think tank, says the key in the new grad's search for personal and professional success is to amass usable knowledge; take time out to read as many cutting-edge books; compile a super list of contacts and ensure that they are stored in an always-accessible format. Plus, the new grad/new worker should be compassionate: share knowledge and help anyone who may ultimately help you.

Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties.

Alexandra Robbins and Abby Wilner. Penguin Putnam. www.penguinputnam.com. 2001. 224pps.

At graduation, young adults leave two decades of schooling to step on the first landmine of adult development: the quarterlife crisis. It's a time of choices in career, finances, home, social networks, responsibility, and liberty. Options that may leave a new graduate feeling helpless, indecisive, and apprehensive. Based on stories from 100 20-somethings who describe their struggles, this book offers proof that the new grad isn't alone in feeling a little panicky at graduation.

Welcome to Your Financial Life: A Guide to Personal Finance in Your 20's and 30's.

Virginia B. Morris, Kenneth Morris, Kenneth M. Morris. www.diabetes.org/home.jsp. American Diabetes Association. 2003. 160 pps.

This practical guide for the new graduate offers tips on how to avoid debt and unnecessary fees and penalties, while starting an investment program. It also includes information on using credit, smart banking, buying a first car or home, investing in an IRA and/or 401(K), and paying off student loans.