

"So What Are You Going to Do with That?": Finding Careers Outside Academia, Third Edition



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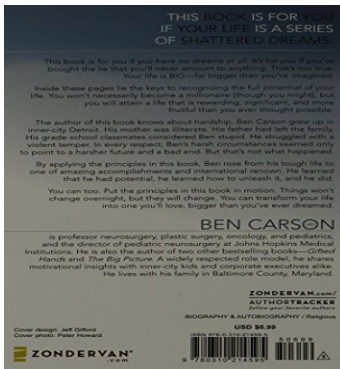
"So What Are You Going to Do with That?": Finding Careers Outside Academia, Third Edition

Graduate schools churn out tens of thousands of PhDs and MAs every year. Yet more than half of all college courses are taught by adjunct faculty, which means that the chances of an academic landing a tenure-track job seem only to shrink as student loan and credit card debts grow. What's a frustrated would-be scholar to do? Can she really leave academia? Can a job outside the academy really be rewarding? And could anyone want to hire a grad-school refugee? In this third edition of "So What Are You Going to Do with That?", thoroughly revised with new advice for students in the sciences, Susan Basalla and Maggie Debelius—PhDs themselves—answer all those que



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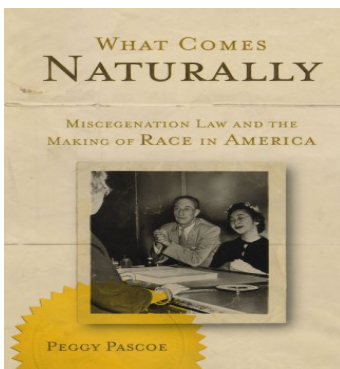
Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence

In this follow-up to his best-selling *Gifted Hands*, Dr. Ben Carson prescribes his personal formula for success. And who could better advise than a man who has transformed himself from a ghetto kid into the most celebrated pediatric neurosurgeon in the world? With an acrostic, Dr. Carson spells out



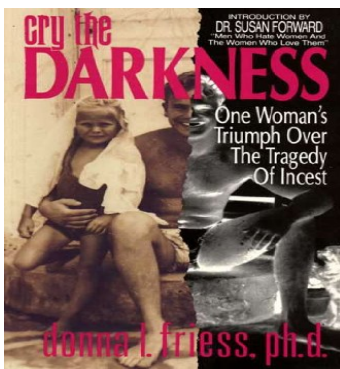
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What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America

A long-awaited history that promises to dramatically change our understanding of race in America, *What Comes Naturally* traces the origins, spread, and demise of miscegenation laws in the United States--laws that banned interracial marriage and sex, most often between whites and members of other rac



Cry the Darkness: One Woman's Triumph over the Tragedy of Incest

Recounts how the author was repeatedly sexually molested as a child by her seemingly respectable aerospace engineer father, her long and tortuous effort to come to terms with it, and her efforts on behalf of other women. Original.

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Excellent book for anyone considering non-academic careers. I found a lot of tips in making the transition from college to a career. some of the tips are well known but others are pretty helpful. Resume writing tips were very helpful to me.

Review 2:

Incredibly helpful. Highly recommend it.

Review 3:

Best book for PhDs in Humanities who need to realize that they can envisage a career out of academia. Teaching is a tremendous skill.

Review 4:

I have found this to be a fantastic resource for beginning a post-academic career search, both in terms of providing practical advice (i.e. how to effectively translate a CV into a resume) and comforting advice (i.e. the authors' anchoring message that it is not impossible, or even undesirable, to transition out of higher ed).

I've already recommended this to multiple colleagues and will continue to do so.

Review 5:

For the past few years, I have been a huge proponent of the second edition of this book -- I recommend it to my grad school colleagues almost every time career planning comes up -- and I am delighted that the newly released third edition is even better. This time around, Basalla and Debelius make a conscious effort to seamlessly weave in profiles of science PhDs who have gone on to successful careers outside academia. The advice is timely and relevant given the current job market realities for science PhDs, and I appreciated that they highlight scientists in education, tech start-ups, and public policy, in addition to some of the more obvious industry applications for scientific skill sets.

Broadly speaking, this slim volume is broken down into five essential categories for grad students gearing up to succeed in a post-academic job search: Part 1 talks about mentally preparing for leaving academia and thoughtfully appraising your attitudes about your future. Part 2 lays out some solid advice for career exploration. Part 3 describes researching careers and networking (and actually manages to make networking sound not terribly painful). Part 4 covers converting your CV into a resume and includes helpful example resumes and cover letters. Finally, Part 5 has suggestions for interviewing.

The best feature of this book is the frank, no-nonsense language. This is the kind of real-world advice you would get from a wise and caring friend, if any of those wise and caring friends had the time and knowledge to walk you through the entire career development process in one go. Basalla and Debelius have clearly talked with many people who are trying to transition to a non-academic career, and they have answers for all the common questions. (e.g., "How do I take time to explore careers when my dissertation project/principal investigator rules my life?" and "What practical skills could I possibly offer an employer?") Their approach to opening their readers up to the possibility of a non-academic career trajectory is gentle, supportive, and optimistic. They make a muddled pathway seem startlingly clear.

The only thing that struck me as odd and slightly off-putting is the authors' repeated assumption that my decision to turn away from the academic grist mill is a painful and slightly humiliating experience for me. In their repeated attempts to allay these concerns, I paradoxically got the sense that I ought not be as excited about the non-academic possibilities as I am. (It's like when parents who are divorcing repeatedly assure their children that it's not their fault -- for some kids, that assurance is going to be the first invitation to consider that the divorce might be their fault.) I may be privileged to be in a research group/department/university that is slowly but very clearly embracing the idea that there are all sorts of satisfying careers for all sorts of folks, but I think sentiment comes across as a bit outdated and will surely need to be toned down in the fourth edition.

Minor criticism aside, this book is an excellent resource for people wanting a practical approach to converting the experience of earning a graduate degree into a future of earning cold, hard cash doing something other than being an overburdened assistant professor. I will continue to recommend this book to my grad school friends with reckless abandon, and I encourage anybody who wants to see the potential practical utility of arcane research to read it from cover to cover. At a slim, trim 149 pages, it is guaranteed to be worth your time.

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