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Not Working: People Talk About Losing a Job and Finding Their Way in Today's Changing Economy

DW Gibson

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"Powerful and heartrending." —KEN BURNS

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DW Gibson : **Not Working: People Talk About Losing a Job and Finding Their Way in Today's Changing Economy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not Working: People Talk About Losing a Job and Finding Their Way in Today's Changing Economy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. He was a wonderful person and terrific professional as wellBy Cindy

WeberReading it right now as I'm not working and finding it very hard to find similar jobs to my 2008 leadership position. And I know one of the contributors in the book - who passed away earlier this year without ever replacing his HR leadership position. He was a wonderful person and terrific professional as well.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking readingBy M. HubbardThis book makes for interesting--if often depressing--reading. These first person accounts of job-loss and the ensuing personal and social upheaval should be required reading for all the decision-makers-- governmental and corporate-- whose whims so profoundly influence the lives of millions of Americans.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's okBy SquirrelgirlA bunch of first person interviews about losing their jobs. It was sad and somewhat interesting, but I have a couple of issues. It's loaded with grammatical errors. So many it gets annoying. Also, these people tell their stories, but the author never verifies them or interviews other people involved, with the exception of someone else that got fired. This makes me question the truth of the stories. Overall, it's just ok.

Poignant true stories of resilience, determination, and the search for fulfillment Inspired by Studs Terkel's *Working*; and by James Agee and Walker Evans' *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, DW Gibson sets off on a journey across the United States to interview Americans who have lost their jobs. Here is the mortgage broker who arrived at work to find the door to his office building padlocked, the human resources executive who laid off a couple hundred people before being laid off herself, the husband who was laid off two weeks after his wife learned she was pregnant, the wife who was forced to lay off her husband. In telling the stories of people who could be our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, *Not Working* holds up a mirror to our times, showing us the individuals behind the unemployment statistics--their fears and hopes--and offering a map for navigating our changing economy. With an extraordinary mix of pathos, anger, solidarity, and humor, it brings clarity--and humanity--to the national conversation. For information about the companion documentary film, *Not Working: The Pulse of the Great Recession*, please visit ffh.films.com/title/55494. From the Trade Paperback edition.

"A book with fascinating range [and] a fresh perspective [that shows] how powerful the genre of oral history can be."--*San Francisco Chronicle* "Wrenching . . . Wide-ranging . . . This book is so important."--*New York Daily News* "A touching and all-too-necessary text."--*Interview* "Comparable in heft and style to Studs Terkel's *Working*, *Not Working* is as timely as its predecessor. . . . [It] provides an in-depth look at a new type of American and reveals a new type of American story. . . . The storytellers in *Not Working*. . . show that, as a society, we're more than where we work."--*City Arts* (Seattle, WA) "Add[s] faces, personalities and pathos to the unemployment figures thrown around every month. Just as [Studs] Terkel showed how so many of us define ourselves with our work, Gibson's subjects demonstrate how, even beyond the financial havoc that ensues, losing a job unsettles a person's sense of self."--*The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland, OH) "Not Working reveals something Americans only talk about in numbers. Gibson gives . . . the big picture of America's temperature."--*Los Angeles of Books* "An intense, moving, ground-level history of our difficult times."--*Teju Cole, author of Open City* "Powerful and heartrending."--*Ken Burns, documentary filmmaker* About the Author DW Gibson is the author of *The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the Twenty-First Century*. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The New York Observer*, *The Daily Beast*, *BOMB*, and *Tin House*, and worked on documentaries for MSNBC and A&E. The executive director of the international writers residency *Writers Omi* at *Ledig House*, he lives in New York City with his wife and their daughter.