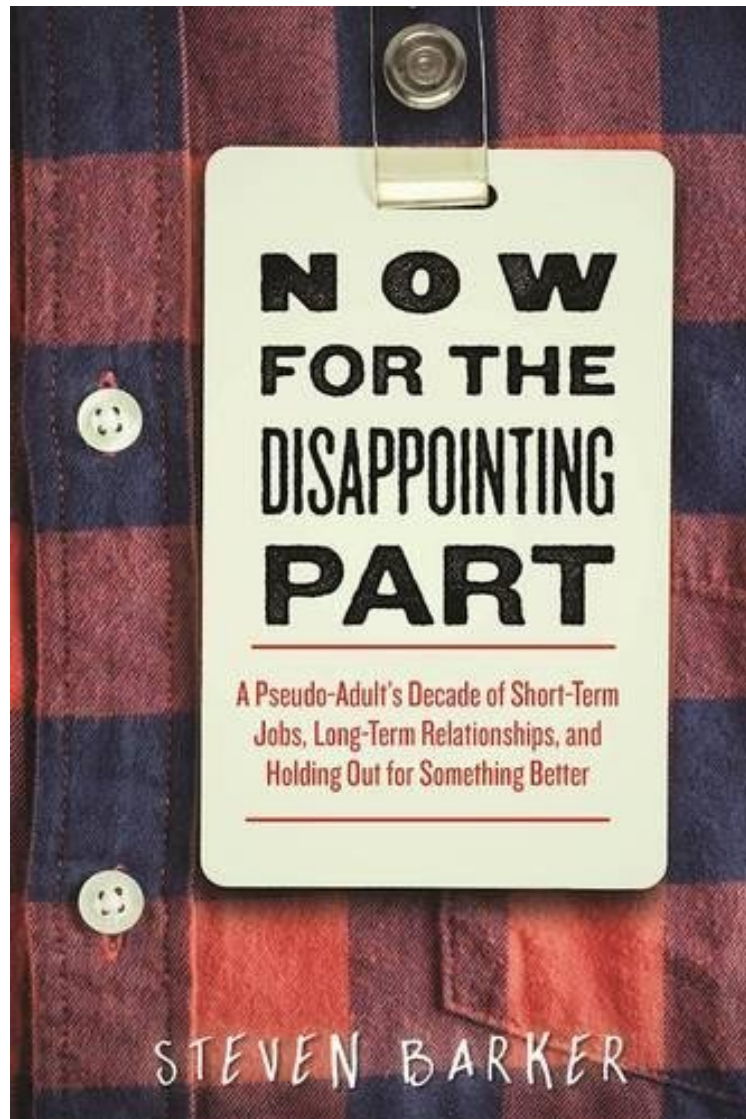


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Now for the Disappointing Part: A Pseudo-Adult's Decade of Short-Term Jobs, Long-Term Relationships, and Holding Out for Something Better

Steven Barker

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Steven Barker : Now for the Disappointing Part: A Pseudo-Adult's Decade of Short-Term Jobs, Long-Term Relationships, and Holding Out for Something Better before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would

be worth my time, and all praised *Now for the Disappointing Part: A Pseudo-Adult's Decade of Short-Term Jobs, Long-Term Relationships, and Holding Out for Something Better*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious Account of an Artist's Career Thus Far...By Plain Customer
This is a truly inspirational read for anyone who has ever wondered, "What is this all for?" when getting up early to go to a job simply for a paycheck. Steve Barker's transparency into his personal life and his sharp wittiness makes the story of his own experience easily relatable and hilarious, and gives hope to those as they attempt to make a living outside of the dull, mindless and just-like-everybody else 9 to 5. Having become a fan of the author's work through his contributions to *Salon Magazine* and other publications, I had an idea of what to expect but I was blown away by the cohesiveness and hilariousness of his most comprehensive work yet. The struggle college graduates face entering the workforce is different, if not more difficult, than it has ever been, with the ever-increasing student debt problem and companies moving more and more jobs overseas. As a result, struggling to find personally-fulfilling work is harder and harder. This is especially true if one is not 'ready' to succumb to the monotony and tedium of doing something you hate, for the sole sake of making money. As Steve tells his story from bouncing from his many contract jobs to temp jobs and back, he describes how his personal relationships are shaped by this professional insecurity. His honesty in these passages is admirable, and a risk I have seen very few other writers take. The struggles he faces are real and at times almost torturous for him, but Steve perseveres and refuses to give up on his dream instead of becoming just another cog in the corporate machine. Maybe most importantly, he makes the reader laugh out loud throughout with his nods to instances in popular culture and his distinctive brand of self-deprecating humor. Heavily recommend for anyone who has a job, entering the workforce for the first time, looking for something new or is unemployed! This work would also serve extremely well as material in a university course that focuses on the culture of work in America today. Great stuff!
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must Read!By Customer
Great book! There were moments where I laughed out loud and moments where I felt sad. This is a must read....you will not be disappointed.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy K. Wilder
A funny and thoughtful book. 5 stars - Would read again.

True stories from the world of temporary employment for anyone terrified of being stuck in a job they hate. When Steven Barker was twelve, his father, in pursuit of the American Dream, moved the family from Canada to Connecticut, having worked his way up from an IBM mailroom to landing a vice president position in a top computer factory. Steven, in contrast, has followed the philosophy of "quit everything until you find something you don't want to quit," and has spent over fifteen years as a contract employee, a demographic that has come to make up 2 percent of the nation's work force. *Now for the Disappointing Part* is the first collection of essays written for the temp workers of the millennial generation—those who, by choice or circumstance, delay or abandon plans for long-term careers for the variety (and anxiety) of contract work. Funny, insightful, and sometimes shocking, Barker details his life moving from job to job as his contracts expire. He faces abuse as an account manager at Amazon when callers assume he's in India. He learns about office politics at a nonprofit. And he attends an open call at UPS for holiday help. The chapters explore issues ranging from financial instability to how gender and race play into the workforce to the (often poor) treatment temporary employees receive compared to full-time employees performing the same job. Throughout Barker also reveals his parallel relationships with women, which, like the jobs he works, appear to have predetermined expiration dates. *Now for the Disappointing Part* is more than the stories of a man who thinks life is too short to spend forty hours a week doing something you hate. It will resonate with a generation of people who are struggling to find work, stability, and happiness, and are afraid of losing all of them.