



Snapshots From Hell: The Making of an MBA

By Peter Robinson

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Snapshots From Hell: The Making of an MBA By Peter Robinson

This work is an attempt to provide an answer to the paramount question every prospective student asks, "What is business school really like?"

During his first year at Stanford Business School, the author began keeping a journal of his day-to-day impressions which evolved into this book, the writing of which he came to see as a "simple act of decency, like going back to the last calm bend in the river and nailing up a sign that reads "Waterfall Ahead".

From his initial harrowing days at "maths camp" through the dizzying phalanx of core courses, the frenzy of the exam week, the pitfalls and triumphs of the interview process (including a surreal interview with Robert Maxwell) to being wine and dined by some of the most prestigious companies in the world, Robinson's account is an irreverent story peopled with a wide range of characters.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After six years as a White House speechwriter for Reagan and Bush, Robinson enrolled at Stanford Business School, wrestled for two years in perpetual exhaustion with often incomprehensible mathematical, organization and marketing concepts and, upon earning his MBA "union card for yuppies," interviewed in the communications world of Robert Maxwell, Steve Jobs and Rupert Murdoch (who hired him for a brief stint). In the tradition of Scott Turow's *One L* for potential students who are curious about Harvard Law School, the author sets out with humor and perception to answer the question that no business school catalogue does: What is business school like? Then Robinson dismisses the value of an MBA degree in the economic downturn after the fat '80s; for him the degree did not pay off as a "straight and easy road to riches." Robinson explains: "Today I'm back to being what I was before I went to business school, a writer." BOMC and Fortune Book Club alternates.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A funny and frenetic account of Robinson's crucial first year in Stanford's MBA program, offering an education in itself as well as a cautionary tale. Stanford's atypical MBA program combines Harvard's case-study approach and Chicago's business theory but has a much more diverse, laid-back student body. With graduate work at Oxford and a career as a White House speech writer behind him, Robinson was a "poet" - in Stanford lingo, accepted to add variety to the management consultants and number crunchers. Like most of his peers in 1988, his motive for getting an MBA (which one professor called a "yuppie union card") was to secure an insurance policy for a lucrative career as an investment banker, financial consultant, or the like. Robinson found himself struggling to understand not only supply-and-demand curves, but also decision trees and influence diagrams. He also discovered his classmates' appalling ignorance of economic philosophy, whether Adam Smith or Karl Marx, and the persistence of gender issues in the B-school's race-blind meritocracy. His book is an album of late-night studying, random "cold calls" by professors in class, impossible exams, competition, and camaraderie. Robinson got a job with media mogul Rupert Murdoch, from which he was fired less than a year later in the recession. His peers likewise graduated to diminished expectations, but all got the credentials and contacts to improve their careers or change their lives. Today's business schools, with enrollments declining, have begun to expand their programs' ties to real business experience and to balance professors' teaching responsibilities with their research, but these problems are beyond the scope of Robinson's own vivid experience. Not the ultimate B-school survival guide, but a genial description of everything about getting an MBA that you wanted to know but were afraid to find out. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"A refreshingly candid book ... required reading for ... anyone with an interest in the difference between advertising and reality." -- *Wess Roberts, author of Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun*

"Brilliant, funny, occasionally profound...the best book yet on the mazes of post-graduate American education. Don't matriculate without it!" -- *George Gilder, author of Wealth and Poverty*

"Devastatingly funny...I assume all MBA students have read it. All their professors certainly have." -- *Niall Ferguson, Stern School of Business, New York University*

"Fabulous...it's fun, it's wild, it's weird, I loved the book." -- *Tom Peters*

"The book is very good...it rings wonderfully true in its detail. The author strives for humorous effect and succeeds." -- *Michael Lewis, The New York Times Book Review*

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From reader reviews:

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As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This Snapshots From Hell: The Making of an MBA is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Mary West:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Typically the Snapshots From Hell: The Making of an MBA is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

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