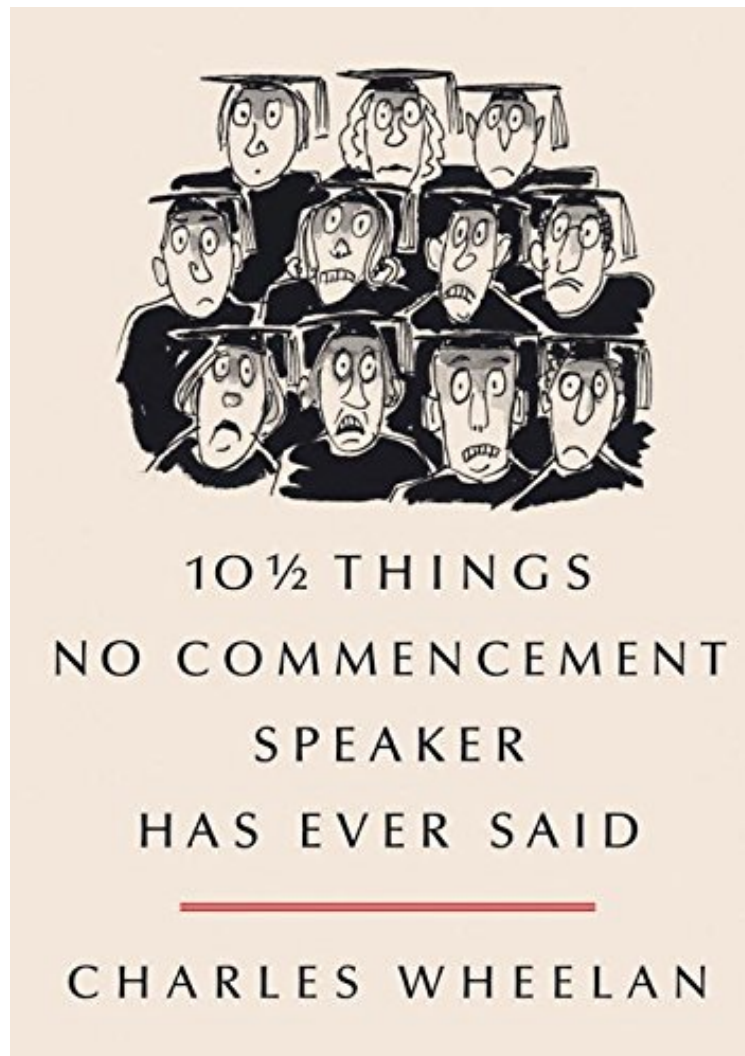


10 ½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said

Charles Wheelan

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Charles Wheelan : 10 ½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 10 ½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good adviceBy CamberThis book is well written, and I was able to finish it in one sitting, which is something I rarely do.As with any 'self-help' book, some judgment is needed to determine how to apply (or not apply) the advice in this book to the context of each person's life. That said, in my opinion, the author offers a lot of sound advice, some of which could be viewed as a bit unorthodox. The advice is targeted towards people graduating from college, but most of it applies to later stages of life as well, and some (not all) of it also applies to younger people.Here are the key points of the book from my vantage point, which roughly align with the chapter titles:(1) Happiness in life largely comes from our personal relationships, having a sense of purpose,

health, and enriching experiences. Money makes a difference also, but it provides a diminishing benefit once people get beyond say upper middle class (but I would qualify this by noting that the value and benefit of money depends highly on how it's used, and isn't simply a function of the amount of money).(2) Achieving anything significant requires sacrifices, delayed gratification, and going through periods of self-doubt and failure, so perseverance is essential. But also recognize that the journey is at least as important as the end goal, so be sure to smell the roses along the way, keeping in mind that none of us knows how long our life will be and some lives wind up being much shorter than average. The tradeoff between living in the moment and living for the future must be navigated every day, week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade.(3) Even if you don't aspire to greatness, at least aspire to being solid. And even if you do aspire to be great, when faced with the pressure of performing in the moment (eg, interviews, presentations, etc.), ease the pressure and allow your best self to come out by aiming to be solid rather than great in those situations. In other words, greatness is longer-term, solidness is shorter-term.(4) In addition to considering how you can make the world better, also take care to avoid making the world worse.(5) Choose your spouse extremely carefully - it's one of the most consequential decisions you'll ever make. Recognize that your spouse will be your partner in all the experiences the two of you will go through in life. A great partnership can enhance your life immeasurably. A bad partnership can drag you down into perpetual misery.(6) Live an interesting life - one that you can reflect back on with satisfaction - even if that means deviating somewhat from social norms. It's your life and there are no do-overs. And keep in mind that extraordinary results are usually achieved by doing things in non-ordinary ways.(7) If and when your circumstances allow, take time off to get away and perhaps travel. Time off will give you essential time to reflect on where you've been, where you are, and where you're going. Travel will teach you things that simply can't be learned through formal education.(8) Parents will naturally be risk averse and want to protect their children against harm and failure, and will therefore tend to advise a conservative approach to career and life. This may be all well and good for most children, but some children may need to deviate from this advice and take added risk if they want to do something atypical with their lives.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. I wish this book had been written 40 years agoBy Joe TyeI have purchased this book for both of my adult children - both now pursuing doctoral degrees. I wish it had been written 40 years ago, and that I had read it then, and taken it's advice to heart (especially the part about seeking life experience before seeking work experience in the first year after college). The advice Wheelan gives, though, isn't just for people graduating from college - it's for people graduating into life. Highly recommended for anyone.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it!By J. MelvinLoved this book. Bought multiple copies. Sorry, graduates, your gifts will no longer be a surprise. This is what you're getting.

“A book filled with so much wisdom that I have no choice but to recommend it.”?Craig Wilson, USA Today The antidote to those cotton-candy platitudes that are all too familiar to anyone who’s ever worn a mortarboard, Wheelan’s 101 head-turning aphorisms?backed up by a PhD in public policy and extensive social science research?set the record straight. Readers everywhere agreed, turning a Dartmouth Class Day speech that had gone viral into a best-selling book. Whether praising the time “wasted” in fraternity basements; mentioning that, frankly, the worst days of your life still lie ahead; or simply asking that graduates avoid wreaking the kind of havoc that others before them have, Wheelan softens his candid conclusions with good-natured charm and tales of unconventional success. With cartoons sprinkled throughout to keep things light, this volume makes a perfect gift for graduates of all ages. 15 illustrations

“Likely to be a primary source for many a commencement speaker for some time to come . . . well-stocked with valuable (and whimsical) insights.” - Boston GlobeAbout the AuthorCharles Wheelan is the author of the best-selling Naked Statistics and Naked Economics and is a former correspondent for The Economist. He teaches public policy and economics at Dartmouth College and lives in Hanover, New Hampshire, with his family.