

You Want Fries With That: A White-Collar Burnout Experiences Life at Minimum Wage

Prioleau Alexander

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"Prioleau Alexander's comic tales of quitting the rat race to find meaning have a deep lesson for all of us—get back in that race and run like hell!"

—STEPHEN COLBERT



YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?

A WHITE-COLLAR
BURNOUT EXPERIENCES
LIFE AT MINIMUM WAGE

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Prioleau Alexander : You Want Fries With That: A White-Collar Burnout Experiences Life at Minimum Wage before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised You Want Fries With That: A White-Collar Burnout Experiences Life at Minimum Wage:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. THIS GUY IS A MARINE ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE... THE BOOK IS FUNNY EVEN MORE SO IF YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MARINES THINK!By AUTISTIC WEREWOLFAnother reviewer said he did not like the author and I do not agree with him but I also understand where he is coming from. Marines have this hard edged attitude where they feel they are ALWAYS RIGHT and the heck with whatever anyone else thinks. Think about it Marines go in first and they must be sure of themselves the way surgeons must be sure of themselves. You don't want a timid Marine. A timid surgeon is useless. You see this guys Marine training in his opinions and how he experiences the world. It is not so much that he is looking down on everyone in the world. He is evaluating every situation as best he can and sharing it with us from his can do gung ho jarhead perspective. The guy never really put anyone down. The man spoke the truth about the American Dream and how one goes about accessing it. The author had a wild perspective on stoners. The author was at his most colorful and engaging when sharing about the working as a construction laborer. The people he described in that chapter of the book were so totally beyond real. The fast food job experience left his voice a bit more muted \ watered down. Getting the fast food job was very funny. The wild west experience suffered from too much repetition each day blending into the next with no real excitement. The Pizza delivery guy segment was a hoot perhaps the best in the book. I was shocked that you failed to get jobs in either big box store. Dang dude you are an Ex-Marine, I would have thought any big Box store would be glad to have you, However dude i think you encountered what I encountered when trying to find a job. If an employer looks at you and thinks you are over qualified they won't hire you no matter what the machine says. the test is meant to weed out pot heads, criminals and rabble rousers. Most good emplorers can smell a guy with upper class roots a mile away. Big Box stores want that ghetto barely socially literate individual that is hungry for that megar minimum wage pay check. Just reading your words told me that you are a man used to a higher station in life. The funniest segment by far is the visit to the hospital. I'd have felt that after a stink in the Corps you would have been used to the sights, sounds, smells and havoc of death and hospitals. I'm just a scrungy ugly little thing who used to work in patent services in a large Baltimore Hospital. I saw wnoh blood and gore for a lifetime and it never bothered me at all. I was surprised that what you saw in the hospital affected you so. My time working in the hospitals was some of the most fun I ever had. The event that finally made the author run from the hospital never to return was PRICELESS so much so that I will NOT reveal it here. What makes this so funny is that a former Marine is telling this tale and his time in the service gives the narative an odd flavor that on one hand sounds offical almost legal. Yet on the other hand this book at times appears to be written by a rougue BOY SCOUT who drinks beer, cusses and acts a darn fool with the best of us. Understanding the military take on life makes this guys book even more funny. You Want Fries With That: A White-Collar Burnout Experiences Life is awsome. Congratulations on your new venture Alexander Prioleau but when you can again afford it please take another stab at different minimum wage jobs again, you have a talent for it. Finally Alexander dude speak from your heart man whenever you do that your words hit home in ways both funny and profound. Thanks for sharing this part of your life in this book sir.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An extra-value meal of readingBy WDX2BBA few years ago, Barbara Ehrenreich wrote a book called "Nickel and Dimed." She tried to make ends meet on a minimum wage (or close to it) salary, and found it wasn't so easy. "You Want Fries With That?" is a similar book, only much funnier. Author Prioleau Alexander was tired of the grind of the advertising business, and needed a break badly. So at age 40 he took the biggest change of pace he could find -- entry level jobs in a variety of different professions. Good thing he did it for us. Reading the book probably will cure you of any thoughts you might have of taking any of these jobs, even if you are close to desperate. Take the pizza delivery business, for example. The pay is poor, the obstacles such as missing house numbers and/or bad directions are daunting, and the customers aren't exactly grateful. There's also the possibility of a holdup, which Alexander didn't experience -- perhaps because pizza places have the equivalent of "no fly" zones where they absolutely, positively will not deliver their products. Think the ice cream stand would be at least, um, tasty? Not if you've seen customers taste six different flavors on a busy day, pause endlessly, and order vanilla. You won't look at a home construction project the same way after reading what goes on during the process. Two of the final chapters are the best and the worst of the book. In preparation for a possible job on the bottom of a hospital's ladder, Alexander spent a day with a doctor friend in emergency room duty. You won't read a better accounting of what the business actually entails anywhere. The doctor not only has to figure out what's wrong, but must maintain the correct attitude whether the patient is a drug addict, an illegal alien, or a drama queen who thinks a swollen, but not broken, finger represents an emergency that requires immediate attention. That doctor is definitely the co-star of this story. Alexander gets called away from a hamburger stand to spend a week as a cowboy in the Rockies, "guiding" a family along with the help of two assistants. It's a long way from an advertising meeting to a home on the range, but the job doesn't fit in with the others. The author has a nice touch when it comes to keeping track of the personalities and events he encounters along the way, either as co-worker, boss or customer. In other words, there are plenty of laughs to be found here. "You Want Fries With That?" won't make you run to lobby Congress to petition for a raise in the minimum wage. It will, however, make you appreciate your own supposedly dull job a little more, and give you some giggles along the way. That makes the book work quite nicely.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I felt guilty for laughing...but laugh out loud I did!By ClaireWhile this book is laugh-out-loud funny, in reality it is a pretty depressing

topic. While Prioleau Alexander had the financial freedom to approach this mission of working low-level, low-paying jobs for personal interest, there are scores of people out there in the real world who don't have the luxury to work these jobs just for fun as an experiment, if you will. That is a sad fact that our capitalist country means the rich get richer at the expense of the poor getting poorer. Having said that, I did find this book's content wildly entertaining and humorous beyond belief. As a nurse, I was all too familiar with some of the goings-on in an E.R. This book is funny and though I did feel guilty for laughing since for some people this is their livelihood, I know we are all a product of our country- good ole U.S. of A. So even if the people at the bottom of the food chain are not happy there, I guess it beats living in Iraq where you have to worry about getting blown up instead of how much to tip your pizza guy (whom I now tip AT LEAST five bucks.)

Ever fantasized about quitting your job and starting over? Prioleau Alexander did just that. Here is his laugh-out-loud funny, endearing, and humbling exploration of life at minimum wage. Alexander walked away from a lucrative career as an advertising executive, seeking a life "like that dude on Kung Fu." Over the next year, he worked minimum-wage jobs as a pizza deliveryman, ice cream scooper, construction worker, ER tech, fast food jockey, and even cowboy on a Montana dude ranch. He reveals a side of America that is rarely seen and questions the stale white-collar notions of a deeper, more meaningful life beyond the cubicle. In *You Want Fries With That?* Prioleau explores life at minimum wage and proves unequivocally that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

About the Author Prioleau Alexander, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and a graduate of Auburn University, is a former Marine officer, an advertising veteran, and a conservative-libertarian, gun-nut, religious wacko with anarchist leanings. His wife, Heidi, and their three dogs are okay with that. He lives in Huger, South Carolina.