

Bleeding Heart
PUBLICATIONS

THE
JOB PIRATE

BRANDON CHRISTOPHER

MEDIA KIT



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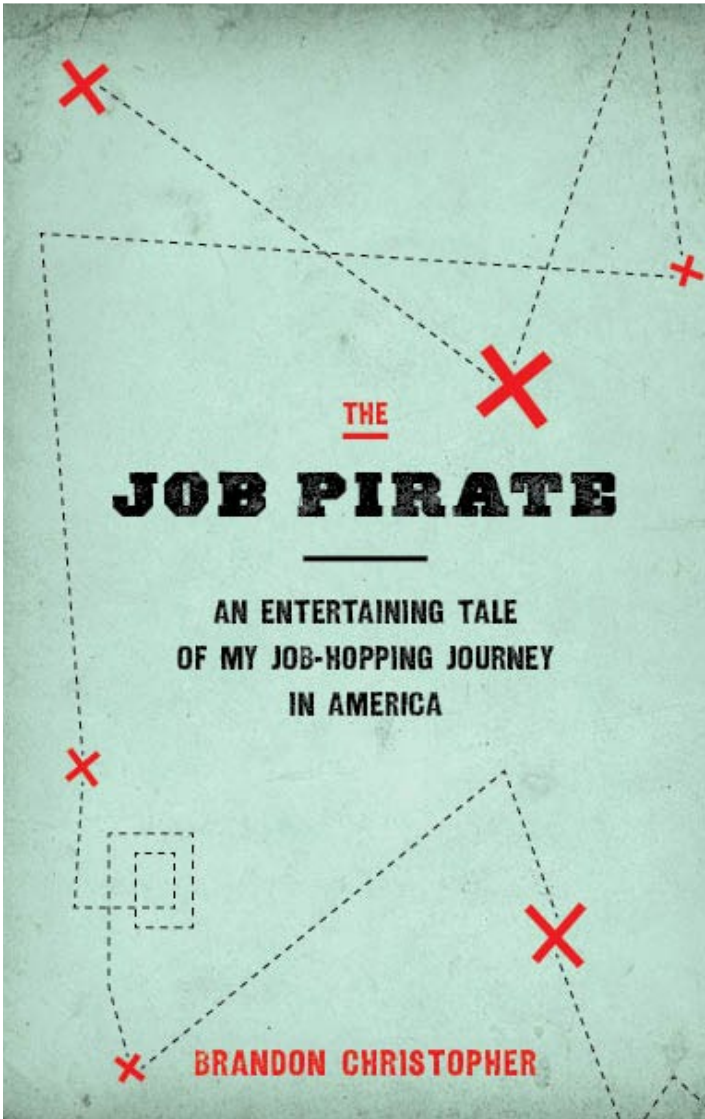
From the porn magazine to the moving truck to the dark sewers of California, Brandon Christopher's journey in the American job market is not only absurd, but also full of wit and profound observations. He steps out from behind the driver's wheel, the cash register, and the office desk to record the lighter and darker sides of humanity in the workplace. Christopher's tale makes even the most mundane job seem fascinating and the most exciting career appear humdrum and hollow.

"That new employee that you see hanging his vintage blazer onto the backrest of his swivel chair is me. My cubicle is right next to yours. I don't say much, I dine alone, I drink a lot of coffee, and I know my legal right to two cigarettes in an eight-hour workday. And yes, you were right, I'm not really the Marketing Strategist that I told the boss I was. But I'm sitting here in this cubicle, and the resume that got me this job is in my attaché case right beside me. It clearly states that I have more than enough experience to run this company's entire advertising department and I'll be here between three weeks and a year, so you better get used to the idea."

Often hilarious and constantly thought-provoking, Christopher's stories take us through the corporate offices, department stores and kiosks of the West Coast. We ride along with him as he chauffeurs the famous, the dead and sometimes just their furniture. *The Job Pirate* strips off the façade of the American Dream and gives us a raw, funny, ruthlessly honest and ultimately compassionate look into the work lives of everyday Americans who are just trying to survive, and whom we encounter anonymously every day.

TALKING POINTS

- Christopher has worked more than 82 jobs over 20 years. That averages out to a job every three months.
- The author views the book as a "survival guide" for Gen-Xers and Millennials - who he believes will never experience the job security of their parents' generation.
- Ninety percent of the jobs Christopher writes about in *The Job Pirate* were located in Los Angeles, where he grew up.



ABOUT BRANDON

Brandon Christopher is an artist, novelist and journalist. He has published more than a dozen short stories and essays in magazines, literary journals, websites and anthologies. He published his first book, *Dirty Little Altar Boy*, through Ghost Pants Press in 2007. He also has written and produced several documentaries and TV biographies, including: *Just for the Record -- The Rolling Stones*, the highly acclaimed, 16-hour documentary *The Definitive Elvis*, and *The 50 Worst Movies Ever Made*.



***"I am the man** who took your dead grandfather to **the morgue**. **I am the man** who showed up at your door and tried **to sell you** that expensive water purifier. **I am the man** who rewrote the dialogue for that **porno** you just watched. **I am the man** who served you that peculiar bowl of chili. **I am the man** who answered the phone when you called the **rehab hotline**. **I am the man** who wrote the **tantalizing** description on the package of **glazed salmon filets** you just bought. And I probably drove you to the airport in a limousine. **I am Brandon Christopher**, and **collecting careers** is what I do for a living. **I sail the Seven Seas of shitty jobs** while hoisting the flag of **The Job Pirate**. I have survived 82 jobs at last count, **but writing is the only occupation that has ever mattered.**"*

BRANDON CHRISTOPHER Q & A

When did you start writing and when did you know you wanted to become a writer?

I knew I wanted to be a writer at the age of 15 after reading Hemingway and Salinger in school. Writers seemed to be the patron saints of outsiders and outcasts, and I was definitely a pariah in high school. The first thing I attempted to write was a script for the short-lived TV show "Sledgehammer," then some terrible fiction stories followed. But then I discovered Charles Bukowski a year or so later, and I found a whole new literary world to explore—a world where the writer was the protagonist of his own stories, and the plot is simply life itself.

In *The Job Pirate*, you mention that your father said something to you when you were a teenager about living your life so you would have something to write about? Of course he also wanted you to get a job. Was this the genesis of the *The Job Pirate* - or did that come later? Explain how your concept for *The Job Pirate* came about, and how it has evolved.

My dad actually did come up with the concept for *The Job Pirate*, but it was a few years later. I had already been fired from over a dozen jobs by the time I was 25, so my dad said I should write a book about it. He was being sarcastic, of course. But I thought it was a great idea. So I did. But the real genesis of the book came after I read *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. I loved the idea of a journalist invading a workplace and exposing the hidden secrets of it to the world. I like to approach each job the way Sinclair did, as a muckraker. I research the position, adjust my resume to the job, then go undercover for whatever role I'm playing. Then a few weeks or months later, I either get fired or quit, and then I write all about it.

Do you consider *The Job Pirate* a "persona" - a role you're playing - or is *The Job Pirate* truly you? As a literary device, what advantages does it give you? Do you plan to publish sequels to *The Job Pirate* in the future?

That's a good one, I'm not too sure these days. I still loathe the idea of having a job as much as I did when I was 22, but I'm 42 now. There's a whole different set of rules to play by when you reach your 40s. Things like health insurance, retirement, owning a home—these topics become much more significant as you grow older. I suppose even pirates leave the sea and settle on shore eventually. But I have over 80 odd jobs to draw from, so there will probably be some more Job Pirate stories in the near future.

But I've got a few other projects in the works first.

Who are your key literary influences - fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry? Why do you prefer to write first-person creative non-fiction?

Kurt Vonnegut, Ernest Hemingway, and Raymond Carver are my favorite fiction authors, but I love David Sedaris, Denis Johnson, Charles Bukowski and Chuck Klosterman for their nonfiction. I suppose I love reading and writing first-person nonfiction because of my journalism roots. I love feeling like I'm inside the story, right there in the trenches with the author. And it's also probably a bit of narcissism, too. It's easier going through life with yourself as your own hero, your own protagonist. It can be dangerous sometimes, but it usually leads to a very colorful life – whether you write about it or not.



If you could sum up it in one or two sentences, what would be the "philosophy" or "creed" of *The Job Pirate*?

This isn't the same America your parents had. You've got to become a Job Pirate just to survive it now. You have to reinvent your employment past in order to survive your employment future.

Most of the chapters in your book are set in Los Angeles, where you grew up, and many of the jobs you worked and write about are related in some way to the entertainment or adult entertainment business. How does that skew things for a young person looking for work? What can you tell us - good and bad - about the soul of this entertainment-oriented city?

Oh, Los Angeles. It's teeming with the best and most beautiful applicants from around the country, and they all want the same job you want. Whether you're trying to be an actor, a writer, an accountant, or a lawyer, there will always be 100 more qualified and better looking people vying for the same position. It can really break you when you're younger. I spent many years playing that game in Hollywood, with nothing to show for it but fast-food and liquor store jobs. Then I got wise and discovered that a few white lies, a fake college degree, and a confident smile can put you back in the game.

There are moments in the book when you display great compassion toward your fellow workers and clients or customers. There are other times when you take offense at something a boss or a coworker says or does and react with swift, personal and creative retribution. Or, you get yourself fired or quit or just disappear and never come back. *The Job Pirate* seems to have a unique moral compass, and a finely calibrated sense of justice. How do you define and explain this? Where does this come from in you?

I think in most cases I'm like a mirror of whatever job I'm working at. If the boss and coworkers are assholes, then I become an asshole. If they're cool, then I'm cool. I'm usually a very mellow guy, but if someone crosses me, I'll never let it go. I'm a big fan of retribution. I suppose it's a case-by-case situation.

What is your perspective on the American job market today? Unlike many Americans, you've been able to find employment during the recent economic downturn and, prior to that, in many different industries. Your jobs may not have lasted very long, but you found them. What's your secret? Creative resume writing?

Knowing the score is half the battle. Once you realize that this is no longer your dad's America, it becomes easier to survive it. My own Generation X plus the Millennials that are soon to follow have to understand that the rules have changed—a 30-year career, job security, pensions, retirement funds, social security, and 401(k)s are quickly becoming a thing of the past. You can no longer have one job for the rest of your life, so you have to be prepared to reinvent yourself with every new occupation. That, to me, is the key: researching any new occupation beforehand, altering your resume for the job, then diving into the role. I have about 10 different resumes that I keep in my attaché case—from florist to limo driver to a creative director of an advertising company, and everything in between.

What are the two or three most important ideas you'd like your readers to take away from reading *The Job Pirate*? Or is it just pure entertainment, which has its own value?

The Job Pirate is definitely intended to be a collection of humorous stories, but it's also meant to be a handbook for surviving in this changed job market of today's America. My book is like an instructional manual, but instead of assembling an Ikea bookshelf, it'll help you assemble a new career path. And I want readers to know that these are all true stories, minus a few changed names. I've proven that it's totally doable to go from steaming cappuccinos at Starbucks on a Thursday to being in charge of a company's entire shipping and receiving department by that following Monday. All it requires are a few alterations to your resume, a pinch of dishonesty, and the fine art of bullshitting. Companies and corporations do it for better profits, so why can't us workers do it, too? That's my belief.

In the Afterword of the book, you offer 10 simple rules to "help ease you comfortably through those first two awkward weeks at a new job . . . and guide you past the pitfalls and snares that will undoubtedly arise. Because coworkers are savages and the 9-to-5 is a goddamned jungle, and every new employee is a just a defenseless cub out there all alone." Do you feel *The Job Pirate* is, in part, a cautionary tale? Do you feel a responsibility to protect innocent young Americans from the harsh realities of full-time employment?

You know, when I first started writing *The Job Pirate*, it was simply a way for me to document little snippets of my life at shitty jobs. It was strictly humor. But as the years went on, and I saw how screwed up this country has become, and how banks and oil companies started running everything, I realized there was a lot more to talk about. *The Job Pirate* then became like a worker's survival guide for scoring a decent job with health insurance in this strange, new 21st Century. My own Generation X may be screwed, but the Millennial Generation is absolutely fucked. You have to acclimate or it's adios time, friends. Be whatever you want to be, as many times as you want. That's what being a Job Pirate is all about.



PRESS RELEASE

Brandon Christopher's *The Job Pirate* to Lead Off Bleeding Heart Publications' Slate of Books by New Authors in February 2015

Funny, Irreverent Account of Christopher's Rebellious Journey through the American Job Market Also Seen As "Survival Guide" for Gen-X and Millennials

BANGKOK – Nov. 20, 2014 – *The Job Pirate* by Brandon Christopher will be the first book published by [Bleeding Heart Publications](#), a new literary publishing house based in Southeast Asia that specializes in full-length and short creative non-fiction and fiction for the U.S. market. The book will be released in all formats on Feb. 19, 2015, and be available online and in bookstores. Christopher, who currently lives in Portland, Oregon, but grew up in Los Angeles, writes with wit, panache and ruthless honesty about two dozen of the more than 82 "crappy" jobs he has worked over the last 20 years, primarily in LA. These include stints as a mortuary driver, a florist, a mover, a door-to-door water purifier salesman, an entertainment industry chauffeur, a plumber, a sales clerk, a rehab hotline operator, and the only straight writer at a gay porn magazine publisher.

Watch [The Job Pirate video](#) and Q&A with Brandon Christopher.

Often hilarious and sometimes absurd, *The Job Pirate* also possesses a muckraking, journalistic edge as Christopher steps out from behind the driver's wheel, the cash register and the office desk to report on the lighter and darker sides of humanity in the workplace. At the end of the day, Christopher strips off the façade of the American Dream and gives us a penetrating and ultimately compassionate look into the work lives of everyday Americans who are just trying to survive, and whom we encounter anonymously every day.



Christopher views his book as a "survival guide" for his own Gen-X and the upcoming Millennials. "Knowing the score is half the battle," he explains. "Once you realize that this is no longer your Dad's America, it becomes easier to survive it. My own Generation X plus the Millennials that are soon to follow have to understand that the rules have changed - a 30-year career, job security, pensions, retirement funds, social security, and 401ks are quickly becoming things of the past. You can no longer have one job for the rest of your life, so you have to be prepared to reinvent yourself with every new occupation. You've got to become a Job Pirate just to survive now."

Cali Dawson, managing director and co-founder of [Bleeding Heart Publications](#), is thrilled that *The Job Pirate* will be the independent press' first offering. "Brandon writes with such a distinctive and engaging voice," she says. "He's a serious and gifted writer, but he also has a lot of 'bad boy' charisma and attitude. We're honored to be publishing *The Job Pirate* and will do everything we can to make it a success. We are committed to publishing high-quality creative non-fiction, and happy that Brandon and *The Job Pirate* are leading the way."

Christopher has published more than a dozen short stories and essays in magazines, literary journals, websites and anthologies. In 2007, he published his first autobiographical book, *Dirty Little Altar Boy*, through Ghost Pants Press. He also is a writer and producer of several documentaries and TV biographies, including: *Just for the Record - The Rolling Stones*, the highly acclaimed 16-hour documentary *The Definitive Elvis*, and *The 50 Worst Movies Ever Made*.

[Bleeding Heart Publications](#) was created in 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, by a small, dedicated group of British and American ex-patriots – led by co-founders Gordon Ross, director, and Dawson. The independent press has four books scheduled for publication in all formats in 2015 and is aggressively seeking manuscripts and short stories from new and previously published authors. Bleeding Heart Publications also will publish *Transfusion*, a twice-yearly literary journal featuring short stories of 5,000 words or less and poetry. The company is registered in Singapore with editorial offices in Bangkok, Thailand.

[Bleeding Heart Publications](#) is launching with a comprehensive advertising and social marketing campaign, including a full-page ad that will run in the *New York Times Book Review* on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. It also has allocated six-figure USD budgets for marketing each of its first two books.

[Bleeding Heart Publications](#) is partnering with Greenleaf Books in Austin, Texas, to provide book and cover design, production and distribution services, and marketing across all formats and platforms in the U.S.

For more information about Brandon Christopher and [The Job Pirate](#), visit his author's [website](#). For more information about Bleeding Heart Publications, its authors and submission policies, visit the BHP [website](#). For media inquiries or to arrange an interview with BHP's principals or authors, contact Scott Busby at The Busby Group at scottb@thebusbygroup.com or 310.475.2914.

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