**Great Read: Losing Your Job & FINDING YOURSELF**

I just read [Losing Your Job & FINDING YOURSELF](https://www.createspace.com/6429623) by Nancy Brout, M.S.Ed. (Order at this Create Space Link or on Amazon if you have Prime.)

This book is unlike other books on career advice I have read. It is part memoir and then goes on to explain what worked during her transition. Nancy challenges the 5-20-70 (online job postings-recruiters-networking) statistics on what works for finding positions. She advances the theory that a combination of online job posting plus networking is the way to go.

The memoir portion is fascinating as Nancy details her difficulties after losing a job of 20 years (minus seven days). Nancy is very forthcoming about the personal struggles that ensued.

She advances two concepts that I believe are unique:

* Hard-to-Define Professionals
* The Sweet Spot Job Search Method

**Hard-to-Define Professionals**

I sometimes call myself a square peg. Nancy uses the term “Swiss Army Knife.” I identified with the characteristics she uses to describe such people. Rather than cribbing her observations word-for-word, if you define yourself as somebody who has had trouble describing your previous jobs, aren’t sure what you want to do next, and struggle to define your value proposition, this book will be of interest.

**The Sweet Spot Job Search Method**

Here, I must quote from Nancy.

**The more fully a job meets my three sweet spot criteria, the sweeter it is:**

1. Work I can do in my Capability Zone …
2. Work I want to do …
3. Work in a purpose- and value-driven organization …

Nancy then goes on to detail the method. One aspect of the method I find especially helpful is the **25 Activities: Most and Least Helpful for Job Searching and Networking**. In this section, she describes standard job search tools in the order she used them, and provides practical guidance on specific aspects that did and didn't work for her. If you are struggling to address the elements of your job search toolkit, this information is invaluable. Spend your time where it matters most for your search.

**Conclusion**

Fortunately, Nancy’s sweet spot includes writing and editing. This book is exceptionally well written and compelling. Unlike the tech books I wade through, it lacks the usual typos and missing words. If you need a fresh way of looking at things and a book you can’t put down, this is the one.

**About Nancy**

Click [here](https://www.authorsguild.net/services/members/1570) to learn more about Nancy. Click [here](https://www.meetup.com/Philadelphia-Area-Great-Careers-Group/events/236629961) for information about a presentation Nancy is giving on March 8.

**Thanks for reading**

If there is anything I can do to help, please contact me.

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If you like this information, please share it with others.

Of the books I have read in this category, this just shot to #1!

This book is a compelling look at job seeking and self-reinvention. The memoir portion will resonate with anyone who has ever lost a position. Though I elected to leave, much of the turmoil Nance describes is present for me.