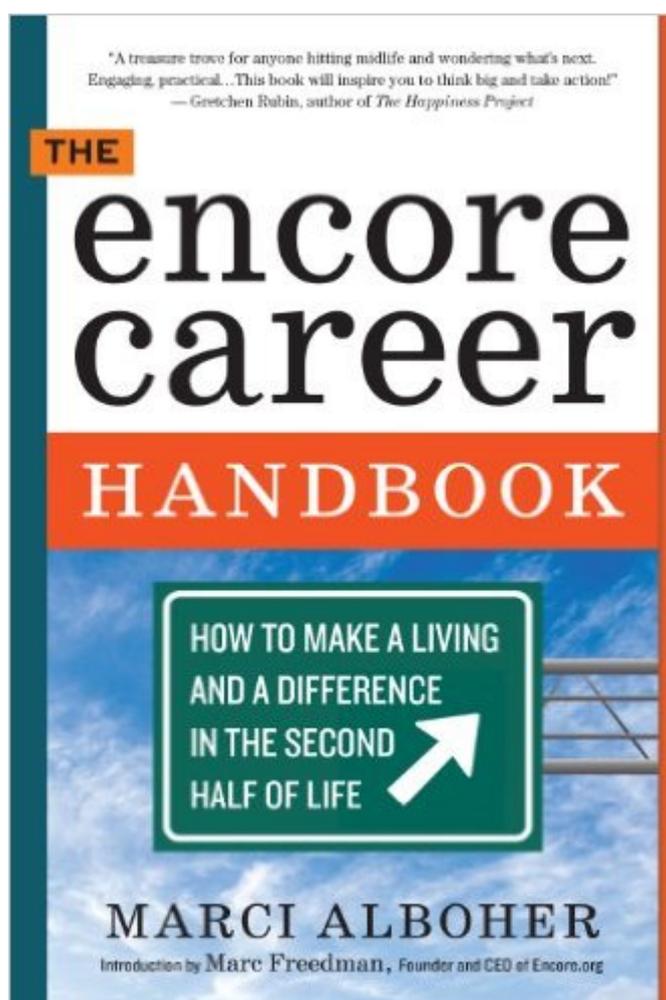


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# The Encore Career Handbook: How To Make A Living And A Difference In The Second Half Of Life



## Synopsis

Until recently, most Americans equated the end of a successful career with the beginning of retirement. No more. Now they want to stay in the game (or better, change the game). They want to leave a mark. Make a difference—and continue to make money. From Encore.org, the leading organization in the field, comes a road map to every step of the encore career journey. Here's how to plan the transition. How much you need to make. The pros and cons of going back to school. When to volunteer, and when to intern. How to network effectively and harness the power of social media. Who's hiring and for what jobs? (Check out the Encore Hot List of 35 viable careers). A comprehensive, nuts-and-bolts guide, filled with inspiring stories and answering in extensive FAQ sections the concerns of its readers, this book is everything you need to help you strike a balance between doing good and doing well—in a way that will sustain you through this new stage of life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author, Marci Alboher, is a VP of encore.org, an organization devoted to helping people find meaning and purpose in their work, in the second half of their lives. However, career changers in general should include this book in their toolkit if they want to move forward with greater ease and confidence. Alboher serves as both encouraging guide and detailed map maker in what can feel like foreign, and even hostile, territory for the reader. Well-written by a seasoned journalist (Alboher is a former NYT career columnist), the book covers a lot of ground and excels in two areas: 1)

Inspiration, and 2) Practical nuts and bolts. Inspiration: Alboher tells the stories of dozens of people

who have successfully transitioned to encore careers, as well as her own career twists and turns. Through these tales, she shows multiple paths for getting to the end destination, as well as side trips that are inevitable in any meaningful journey. Changing careers is not for the faint of heart. While most professionals want a buttoned-up project plan, life doesn't follow an "up and to the right" trajectory on a graph. Alboher has seen it all and she reassures the reader that "mistakes" are just stepping stones to your end goal.

**Nuts and Bolts:** The book is chock full of resources, exercises and great advice that will save you hours of research and move you forward, one step at a time. As a career coach, I noted several resources for current clients that I was not aware of--from a social media site for government job seekers (Govloop.com) to a federal site for assessing health care options (healthcare.gov) to recruiting firms that fill part-time, flex-time, and telecommuting roles (on-ramp.com) Two chapters that I found particularly useful:

- \* **Finances.** This is where many career changers get stopped cold. Alboher is careful to note that she is not providing financial planning. What she does provide are things to consider when making a career change that impacts your current finances. She takes a no nonsense approach by asking the reader to reflect on values, identify priorities, assess trade-offs, and consider options for funding their encore career, among other things. The FAQ section at the end of the chapter is especially useful. By the time you finish this chapter, you will have a clearer idea of the balance between your desired lifestyle and the revenue that an encore career will bring in, and how to get there from where you are today.\*
- \* **Networking.** This is the other area that make people cringe, even seasoned professionals. Alboher does a great job of busting the negative stereotypes of networking and showing what great networking looks like (hint: it's more about giving than getting). The book also gives clear advice on the practice of networking (e.g, informational interviews, introducing yourself, staying in touch, using LinkedIn). Finally, most competent professionals think they can make a career change on their own, if they just take the time to "figure it out". They're wrong. Be sure to check out the Encore Group Transitions Guide, at [encore.org/handbook](http://encore.org/handbook). It's a comprehensive guide to forming a transition group of like-minded fellow travelers, including weekly agendas and format for meetings. This book is truly a handbook that you'll come back to again and again, as you encounter challenges on the road to a new career.

I found it very limited. It was especially narrow in potential 2nd career choices. Career choices were mostly in health care field. what about the rest of us?

Very general information and really didn't address the concern I have....exactly what to do with in

encore career. I was hoping for some leads to different pathways but this book was mostly about...oh yeah, you can do it...go for it. Not much on the "it"

I saw this book reviewed in both the Wall Street Journal and USA Today. It is an inspirational career guide and the equivalent of *What Color Is Your Parachute?* for the 50+ generation. The author writes very well, there are plenty of resources, and there are lots of real-life examples. No matter if you are looking for your encore career or looking to find more joy in your current work, this is a must-read book. Highly recommended! Thanks to the author for making the point that "you are not alone" no matter where you are in your career.

This book would be appropriate for any age group. I especially found the worksheets helpful. Really sitting down and doing some reflective thinking (soul-searching) is usually the missing part in most career and especially job searches. I, and I'm sure others, have just flung out resumes or applied for jobs without giving much thought to finding work that truly takes advantage of their passions and skills. Examples and web links throughout the book are extremely helpful. Great job Marci!

This book is a terrific blend of practical advice and inspiration. There are tons of useful resources, including sample resumes and cover letters, organizations and websites, and a list of "hot" encore careers. Equally important, there are also tons of inspiring, intriguing, and informative stories about people who've managed to make the sort of change you are considering. One of the hardest things about any transition is feeling alone and uncertain. Once you've read this book, you'll likely be feeling way less of both.

There are beginning to be a flow of wonderful books that assist folks in their mid-to-later career lives with guidance in steps to consider and move into a new field (often termed encore careers). This one is a must read. It is practical, very informative and enjoyable to read. The book pairs real life experiences (yes, you are not alone) with practical how-tos (like how do you write a resume if you have not written one in twenty years). If you are considering an encore career in the nonprofit sector you will find this book filled with essential resources and perspectives. I highly endorse this book. We will be providing the *Encore Career Handbook* as a "must read" for our students in *Encore!Hartford*. Dr. David Garvey, Director, *Encore!Hartford* Nonprofit Leadership Program, Department of Public Policy, University of Connecticut

I was disappointed. I was looking for something that had original ideas regarding career, life, employment, goals, etc. Nothing new here. Just the same old bromides repackaged.

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