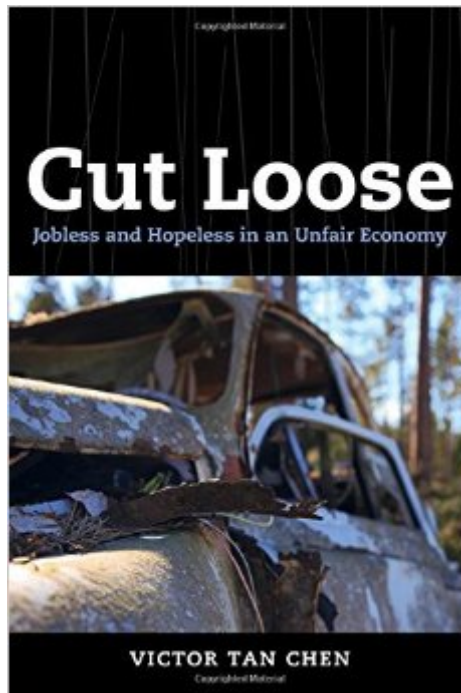


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# Cut Loose: Jobless And Hopeless In An Unfair Economy



## Synopsis

Years after the Great Recession, the economy is still weak, and an unprecedented number of workers have sunk into long spells of unemployment. *Cut Loose* provides a vivid and moving account of the experiences of some of these men and women, through the example of a historically important group: autoworkers. Their well-paid jobs on the assembly lines built a strong middle class in the decades after World War II. But today, they find themselves beleaguered in a changed economy of greater inequality and risk, one that favors the well-educated or well-connected. Their declining fortunes in recent decades tell us something about what the white-collar workforce should expect to see in the years ahead, as job-killing technologies and the shipping of work overseas take away even more good jobs. *Cut Loose* offers a poignant look at how the long-term unemployed struggle in today's unfair economy to support their families, rebuild their lives, and overcome the shame and self-blame they deal with on a daily basis. It is also a call to action; a blueprint for a new kind of politics, one that offers a measure of grace in a society of ruthless advancement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So any times when we hear numbers about who isn't working or how the labor market seems to be changing we can forget that these are not JUST numbers. These are lives that are being impacted either positively or negatively by the ability to have a job, take care of one's self and one's family. In the book *CUT LOOSE* author Victor Tan Chen does an amazing job of putting a name and real-life circumstance to some of those who we have heard only statistics about---and I think all of us would

be better for reading it. So much of what Chen says in the book allows us to realize that not all of us are affected the same by the economy and the ability or inability to have the type of employment that can sustain us. The book shows through real examples how education doesn't necessarily translated into a "good" job no more than the way our circumstances can affect whether we can keep said job. Chen evaluates some of the things that makes this a difficult time for many, in spite of the promising numbers that may have been coming out lately about people entering the workplace. The other thing that for me was really interesting and sad in some ways was that there are some as Chen shares in the book that don't see a job as "good" or even worthy of decent pay if it's not something considered more honorable than manual labor. As someone who knows from my days in the hotel industry it is sometime the ones who seem to do the most work that receive the less pay and recognition----something that is accepted until tables or turned and those with the more comfy jobs realize how difficult those "menial" jobs are.

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