

the myth of normal

The myth of normal: Challenging Society's Narrow Definition of What's "Typical"

Introduction

The concept of being "normal" has long dictated societal standards, influencing how individuals perceive themselves and others. From childhood through adulthood, many are conditioned to aspire to a certain ideal—one that aligns with societal expectations of behavior, appearance, and success. However, this pervasive idea of "normal" is, in reality, a myth—an illusion crafted by cultural norms and stereotypes that often exclude or marginalize those who don't fit into predefined boxes. Understanding the origins, implications, and realities of this myth is essential for fostering a more inclusive and accepting society.

What Is the Myth of Normal?

The myth of normal refers to the false belief that there is a standard or typical way of being—be it in terms of mental health, physical appearance, behavior, or life choices—that everyone should aspire to or conform to. It presumes that deviations from this norm are abnormal, problematic, or undesirable. This misconception can lead to stigmatization, discrimination, and internalized shame among those who differ from societal expectations.

Context and Origins

Historically, the idea of normalcy has been shaped by various factors:

- **Cultural Norms:** Different cultures have their own standards of what is acceptable or desirable, often rooted in traditions, religious beliefs, or social hierarchies.
- **Medical and Scientific Frameworks:** Psychiatry and medicine have historically classified certain behaviors or mental states as disorders, reinforcing the idea that deviation from the norm is pathological.
- **Media and Popular Culture:** Films, advertising, and social media often depict idealized images and lifestyles, reinforcing narrow standards of beauty, success, and happiness.
- **Socioeconomic Factors:** Socioeconomic status influences perceptions of normalcy, often privileging certain lifestyles or appearances over others.

The Impact of the Myth of Normal

The belief in a singular normalcy has far-reaching consequences:

1. Stigmatization and Discrimination

Individuals who do not conform to societal standards—such as those with mental health conditions, disabilities, or non-conforming gender identities—may face social exclusion, discrimination in workplaces, or even systemic barriers.

2. Internalized Shame and Low Self-Esteem

People who feel they don't fit the mold may internalize feelings of inadequacy, leading to anxiety, depression, or self-hatred.

3. Limited Understanding and Compassion

The myth fosters a lack of empathy towards diversity, reducing society's capacity to understand and support those with different experiences.

4. Inhibited Personal Growth

When people are pressured to conform, they may suppress their authentic selves, hindering personal development and fulfillment.

Challenging the Myth: Embracing Diversity

To dismantle the myth of normal, it's crucial to recognize and celebrate human diversity. Here are key principles to consider:

Understanding the Spectrum of Human Experience

Instead of viewing behaviors, appearances, or mental states as either normal or abnormal, recognize that human traits exist on a broad spectrum. For example:

- Mental health conditions are part of natural human variation.
- Physical appearances vary widely due to genetics and environmental factors.
- Behaviors and preferences are influenced by cultural, personal, and contextual factors.

The Fallacy of a Single Standard

Society often promotes an ideal—such as the "ideal body," the "successful professional," or the "perfect family." These ideals are often narrowly defined and exclude vast portions of the population.

The Importance of Cultural Relativity

What is considered normal in one culture may be viewed differently in another. Understanding cultural relativity helps deconstruct ethnocentric standards of normalcy.

The Role of Personal Identity and Authenticity

Encouraging individuals to embrace their authentic selves reduces the pressure to conform to societal standards and promotes mental well-being.

Strategies for Moving Beyond the Myth

1. Education and Awareness

Educating communities about the diversity of human experiences helps break down stereotypes and misconceptions.

2. Promoting Representation

Diverse representation in media, leadership, and public discourse fosters acceptance and normalizes differences.

3. Advocacy and Policy Change

Supporting policies that protect rights and promote inclusion—such as anti-discrimination laws—is essential.

4. Fostering Empathy and Compassion

Personal interactions that emphasize understanding and kindness can challenge prejudiced notions of normal.

5. Encouraging Self-Acceptance

Cultivating self-awareness and self-compassion helps individuals resist societal pressures to conform.

The Benefits of Rejecting the Myth of Normal

Embracing human diversity and rejecting the myth of normal leads to numerous societal and individual benefits:

- Increased mental health and well-being.
- Greater innovation and creativity through diversity.
- Stronger social cohesion and empathy.
- Personal freedom to pursue authentic lives.

Conclusion

The myth of normal is a societal construct that confines individuals within narrow boundaries, often leading to harm and exclusion. Recognizing that human experiences are diverse, fluid, and context-dependent is vital for fostering a more inclusive, compassionate society. By challenging outdated notions of what is "normal," we open the door to greater acceptance, understanding, and personal fulfillment for everyone. Embracing the richness of human variation not only benefits individuals but also strengthens the social fabric as a whole.

Remember, being human is inherently diverse, and there is no one-size-fits-all standard to define worth, success, or happiness. Breaking free from the myth of normal allows us to celebrate our differences and build a world where everyone can thrive authentically.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central idea behind the myth of normal?

The myth of normal refers to the misconception that there is a single standard of 'normal' behavior, body, or mind, when in reality, human diversity is vast and what is considered 'normal' is often culturally constructed and variable.

How does the myth of normal impact mental health and societal perceptions?

It can lead to stigmatization of those who differ from societal norms, perpetuate unrealistic standards, and discourage acceptance and understanding of diverse experiences, ultimately harming mental health and inclusivity.

In what ways does challenging the myth of normal benefit society?

Challenging this myth promotes acceptance of diversity, reduces stigma, encourages personalized approaches to health and well-being, and fosters more inclusive environments where all individuals can thrive.

How does the myth of normal influence educational and workplace policies?

It can result in policies that favor a narrow definition of 'ability' and 'productivity,' marginalizing those who don't fit these standards, and highlighting the need for more flexible, inclusive practices.

Can you give examples of how the myth of normal manifests in popular culture?

Examples include media portrayals that idealize a 'perfect' body, mental health stereotypes, and narratives that equate certain behaviors or identities with abnormality, reinforcing narrow standards of 'normalcy.'

What steps can individuals take to challenge the myth of normal in their communities?

Individuals can educate themselves about diversity, question societal standards, support inclusive policies, and promote acceptance of different experiences and identities to help dismantle the myth of normal.

Additional Resources

The Myth of Normal: Debunking the Illusion of Standardization in Humanity

In a world obsessed with categorization, labels, and standards, the concept of "normal" has become a powerful, yet often misleading, narrative. It shapes societal expectations, influences personal self-perception, and informs policies in health, education, and workplace environments. But what if the very idea of "normal" is a myth—an oversimplification that masks the beautiful complexity of human diversity? This article aims to critically examine the myth of normal, dissect its origins, implications, and why embracing variability is essential for a more inclusive understanding of humanity.

Understanding the Myth of Normal

Defining "Normal": A Historical Perspective

The term "normal" originates from the Latin word *normalis*, meaning "made according to a carpenter's square" or "perpendicular." Historically, it was used in architecture and mathematics to describe standards of measurement and symmetry. Over time, the term migrated into scientific and social sciences, where it began to denote what is typical, standard, or acceptable within a given context.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, "normal" gained prominence in psychology, medicine, and sociology. Pioneers like Wilhelm Wundt and later, Sigmund Freud, sought to define what constitutes typical mental health or behavior, often using statistical averages as benchmarks. These benchmarks then became criteria for diagnosing deviations, leading to the establishment of "abnormal" as anything outside the norm.

This framing, however, subtly embedded a normative judgment: what is common or statistically average is inherently preferable or acceptable, while deviations are pathological or undesirable. Over time, this has fostered rigid standards that do not account for human diversity.

The Social Construction of Normal

The concept of normal is not only rooted in science but also in social and cultural norms. Societies develop standards based on historical, cultural, and political contexts, which often reflect dominant groups' values and biases. For example:

- **Physical Appearance:** Ideal body types, skin colors, and grooming standards vary across cultures and eras, but mainstream media often promotes a narrow standard of beauty.
- **Behavior and Norms:** Social behaviors deemed acceptable or "normal" differ greatly, influenced by cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and societal expectations.

- Abilities and Conditions: Medical and social definitions of "disability" or "mental health" are shaped by societal norms, often leading to marginalization of those who do not conform.

This social construction means that what is considered normal is fluid, context-dependent, and often exclusionary. It reinforces power dynamics, privileging certain traits while stigmatizing others.

The Statistical Fallacy: Equating Average with Ideal

A common misconception is that the statistical average or median of a population represents the ideal or healthy standard. For example, if the average height of adult men in a country is 5'9", it does not mean someone shorter or taller than that is abnormal or problematic.

This fallacy ignores the natural variability inherent in human populations. Human traits—height, intelligence, personality, health—are distributed along a spectrum, often following a bell curve (normal distribution). Most individuals fall within the middle range, but the extremes are equally valid and valuable.

Relying solely on averages to define "normal" oversimplifies reality and neglects the importance of diversity. It can lead to harmful practices like:

- Medical treatments targeting "average" patients, neglecting those who fall outside the norm.
- Educational systems that favor certain learning styles.
- Social policies that marginalize non-conforming identities.

The Implications of the Myth of Normal

Pathologizing Diversity

One of the most significant consequences of the myth of normal is the pathologization of difference. When deviations from a perceived norm are viewed as abnormal, they are often labeled as disorders, disabilities, or deficits. This framing can:

- Lead to stigmatization and discrimination.
- Encourage unnecessary medicalization of natural human variations.
- Suppress authenticity and self-acceptance.

For example, conditions like autism, ADHD, or variations in gender identity have historically been pathologized, despite growing recognition of their natural diversity. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) has evolved to reflect this,

but remnants of the "abnormal" label persist.

Impact on Mental Health and Self-Perception

The pressure to conform to societal standards of "normal" can lead to:

- Anxiety and depression among those who feel they do not fit societal molds.
- Low self-esteem and internalized stigma.
- A sense of alienation and inadequacy.

Research shows that embracing diversity and rejecting rigid standards improves mental health outcomes and fosters resilience.

Limitations in Policy and Practice

Educational, healthcare, and workplace policies often prioritize "normal" functioning, which can:

- Marginalize individuals with different abilities or learning styles.
- Limit access to accommodations and support.
- Perpetuate inequalities and systemic biases.

For instance, standardized testing may favor certain cognitive profiles, and workplace norms may disadvantage neurodiverse individuals.

Challenging the Myth: Embracing Human Variability

Reframing Normal as Diversity

The first step toward debunking the myth is to reconceptualize "normal" as a reflection of human diversity. This involves recognizing that variability is intrinsic to our species and enriches society. Key principles include:

- Normal is a spectrum, not a point: Human traits are distributed across a wide range, with no single "ideal."
- Differences are not deficiencies: Variations can be strengths and offer unique perspectives.
- Cultural relativity: Standards of normalcy are culturally constructed and should be contextualized.

Implications for Medicine, Education, and Society

Adopting a diversity-centered perspective entails significant shifts:

- Medicine: Moving toward personalized treatments and away from one-size-fits-all approaches.
- Education: Designing inclusive curricula that accommodate different learning styles and intelligences.
- Workplaces: Valuing neurodiversity and creating environments that support various ways of working.
- Society: Promoting acceptance and understanding of different identities, abilities, and expressions.

Practical Strategies to Embrace Variability

To move beyond the myth of normal, consider the following approaches:

1. Educate and Raise Awareness: Promote understanding of diversity as a natural and valuable aspect of humanity.
2. Challenge Stereotypes and Stigma: Confront biases in media, policy, and interpersonal interactions.
3. Implement Inclusive Policies: Ensure systems are adaptable to different needs and abilities.
4. Celebrate Uniqueness: Highlight stories and contributions of individuals who exemplify diversity.
5. Foster Empathy and Compassion: Cultivate environments where differences are respected and valued.

Conclusion: Toward a More Inclusive Understanding of Humanity

The myth of normal is a simplification that ultimately limits our appreciation of human complexity. By recognizing that "normal" is a social construct, a statistical artifact, and often an exclusionary standard, we can begin to embrace the rich tapestry of human diversity. This shift not only promotes individual well-being and self-acceptance but also fosters more equitable, innovative, and compassionate societies.

Rejecting the myth of normal is not about abandoning standards or striving for excellence; it is about understanding that excellence exists in myriad forms and that each person's unique traits contribute to the richness of our collective human experience. In a world free from the confines of the myth, all expressions of human variation are recognized as vital threads in the fabric of society.

Final note: Challenging the myth of normal requires ongoing reflection, education, and systemic change. By doing so, we pave the way for a future where diversity is celebrated, and everyone has the space to thrive authentically.

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the myth of normal: [The Myth of Normal](#) Gabor Maté, MD, 2025-08-05 THE INSTANT #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NOW IN PAPERBACK “Riveting and beautifully written.” —Bessel van der Kolk, MD, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Body Keeps the Score* “Wise, sophisticated, rigorous and creative. . . . Essential reading.” —Tara Westover, New York Times bestselling author of *Educated* “An essential compass during disorienting times.” —Esther Perel, psychotherapist, author, and host of *Where Should We Begin* From our most trusted and compassionate authority on stress, trauma, and mental well-being—a groundbreaking investigation into the causes of illness, a bracing critique of how our society breeds disease, and a pathway to health and healing. Gabor Maté’s internationally bestselling books have changed the way we look at addiction and have been integral in shifting the conversations around ADHD, stress, disease, embodied trauma, and parenting. Now, in this revolutionary, bestselling book, he eloquently dissects how in Western countries that pride themselves on their health care systems, chronic illness and general ill health are on the rise. So what is really “normal” when it comes to health? For all our expertise and technological sophistication, Western medicine often fails to treat the whole person, ignoring how today’s culture stresses the body, burdens the immune system, and undermines emotional balance. In *The Myth of Normal*, co-written with his son Daniel, Maté brings his perspective to the great untangling of common myths about what makes us sick, connects the dots between the maladies of individuals and the declining soundness of society, and offers a compassionate guide for health and healing. The result is Maté’s most ambitious and urgent book yet.

the myth of normal: *The Myth of Normal* Gabor Maté©, 2022

the myth of normal: *Summary of The Myth of Normal* QuickChapters, 2025-08-08 Book Summary: *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness & Healing In A Toxic Culture* By Gabor Maté, M.D. In *The Myth of Normal*, Dr. Gabor Maté challenges our conventional ideas about health, illness, and what it means to be “normal” in today’s world. Drawing on decades of clinical experience and groundbreaking research, Maté explores how trauma and stress—often hidden beneath the surface—are deeply woven into the fabric of modern life, contributing to a wide range of physical and mental health issues. This summary unpacks Maté’s central argument: that much of what we consider “normal” in our culture is actually unhealthy, and that true healing requires us to look beyond symptoms to address the root causes of suffering. Through compelling stories and practical insights, Maté offers a compassionate roadmap for understanding the connections between mind, body, and society, and for finding genuine healing in a world that often overlooks the impact of trauma. Note: This summary is an independent resource designed to highlight the main ideas and key takeaways from *The Myth of Normal*. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by Dr. Gabor Maté or the original publisher.

the myth of normal: Summary of The Myth of Normal by Gabor Maté: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture GP SUMMARY, 2023-04-19 DISCLAIMER This book does not in any capacity mean to replace the original book but to serve as a vast summary of the original book. Summary of *The Myth of Normal* by Gabor Maté: *Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture* IN THIS SUMMARIZED BOOK, YOU WILL GET: - Chapter astute outline of the main contents. - Fast &

simple understanding of the content analysis. - Exceptionally summarized content that you may skip in the original book Gabor Maté's *The Myth Of Normal* is a groundbreaking investigation into the causes of illness, a critique of how our society breeds disease, and a pathway to health and healing. It examines how chronic illness and general ill health are on the rise in Western countries, and how trauma and stress, and the pressures of modern-day living, exert on our bodies and minds. Maté brings his perspective to the great untangling of common myths about what makes us sick and offers a compassionate guide for health and healing.

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the myth of normal: *The Problem with Being a Person* Talia Pollock, 2025-06-10 Escape the race to happiness, build a life of value, and resist the pull of self-help You've heard this story: outwardly, woman was living the dream. Inwardly, woman was drowning in despair. It's what happened next that sets this tale apart. Many of us go through life believing that something about us is not normal enough. So, we devote ourselves to the endless pursuit of self-improvement. That's what Talia Pollock decided to do. In her quest to feel better, Talia Pollock got seduced by self-help trends that offered fleeting solace but failed to soothe the depths of her inner turmoil. Conventional remedies, like medication and therapy, provided a semblance of relief but didn't ease the angst she felt inside. It wasn't until she discovered Existentialist philosophy that she discovered is that what we're told is abnormal is actually entirely human, and it's our attempts to cure ourselves of our humanity will eventually drive us mad. Echoing the timeless wisdom of philosophers and the timely research of social scientists, Pollock offers a modern take on finding the courage to create your own version of satisfaction. Pollock's sincere retelling of her own experiences urges readers to question conventional notions of happiness embrace contentment as a lasting source of well-being navigate the challenges of a comfortably uncomfortable life Whether you're grappling with existential questions, seeking to break free from societal expectations, or yearning for a deeper sense of fulfillment, *The Problem with Being a Person* offers a powerful message for prioritizing self-acceptance over self-improvement.

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the myth of normal: *The Power of Parting* Eamon Dolan, 2025-04-01 A myth-shattering, inspiring book that combines research, reportage, and memoir to explore the growing phenomenon of estrangement from toxic relatives—showing it not as a tragedy, but as an empowering and effective solution to the heartbreak of family abuse. After decades of enduring his mother's physical and psychological torment, after years of trying in vain to set boundaries, Eamon Dolan took a

radical step: he cut his mother out of his life. No more phone calls, no more visits, no more contact. Parting with his abuser gave him immediate relief and set him on a path toward freedom, confidence, and joy like none he had ever felt before. In *The Power of Parting*, Dolan has written the book he wishes he'd had when he was struggling to free himself from his mother's abuse. In the process, he discovered how widespread estrangement really is. At least 27 percent of Americans are estranged from a parent, sibling, or other family member. He also learned why so much stigma surrounds this common—and often lifesaving—phenomenon. Even among therapists—the professionals who would seem most attuned to the pain relatives can inflict—there's a bias toward reconciliation, when millions of their patients need instead to escape their abusers' grip. Estrangement, Dolan realized, should be understood and embraced, not shrouded in shame. Drawing on his own suffering and healing, as well as experts' advice and the testimony of other courageous survivors, Dolan first explains why abuse is much different and more prevalent than we may think, how it harms us in childhood and beyond, and why limiting or eliminating contact might be our best possible choice. Then, he walks readers through the steps of a successful, positive estrangement: how to take crucial time for yourself; how to make sure no one can gaslight you into minimizing or forgetting; how to set rules for your abuser and—if they can't or won't respect your limits—how to end a toxic relationship. He also offers valuable counsel on how to ease the guilt and grief that often accompany parting, and how to break the cycle of abuse that was likely passed down to you through many generations. With a convincing blend of clarity and empathy, Dolan encourages others to do what he ultimately did for himself: determine whether the people in your life treat you with the care and concern you deserve—and part ways with them if they don't.

the myth of normal: *GERD* Parakrama T. Chandrasoma, 2017-10-26 *GERD: A New Understanding of Pathology, Pathophysiology, and Treatment* transforms the assessment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) from its present state, which is largely dependent on clinical definition and management, to a more objective scientific basis that depends on pathologic assessment. Sequential chapters in this single-author book describe the fetal development of the esophagus, the normal adult state, and the way exposure to gastric juice causes epithelial and lower esophageal sphincter damage at a cellular level. It allows recognition of the pathologic manifestations of lower esophageal sphincter damage and develops new histopathologic criteria for quantitating such damage. This understanding provides new pathologic criteria for definition and diagnosis of GERD from its earliest cellular stage. Algorithms based on measurement of sphincter damage can identify, even before the onset of clinical GERD, persons who will never develop GERD during life, those who develop GERD but remain with mild and easily controlled disease, and those who will progress to severe GERD with failure to control symptoms, Barrett esophagus and adenocarcinoma. Aggressive early intervention in the last group with the objective of preventing disease progression to its end points of uncontrolled symptoms and adenocarcinoma becomes feasible. - Provides a new method of assessment of GERD that has never previously been presented, creating a pathway to control - Describes a new pathologic test based on standard histology that can define lower esophageal sphincter damage - Sequential chapters outline the way GERD progresses from the perspective of the amount of damage to the lower esophageal sphincter - Provides new avenues of clinical research and technologic innovations in pathology and treatment aimed at preventing esophageal adenocarcinoma

the myth of normal: *The Sabbath Way* Travis West, 2025-06-03 Experience the transformational power of the sacred, ancient, radical rhythm of Sabbath rest. In the fast-paced, chaotic, overly scheduled cadence of our culture, it can be difficult to imagine how to squeeze the Sabbath into our already over-stuffed lives—like trying to fit an eleventh passenger into an eight-passenger van. What if Sabbath isn't designed to "fit" into our lives, but rather to take over our lives—in the best way imaginable? Hebrew scholar and Old Testament professor Travis West believes that we've misunderstood what it means to truly Sabbath. In his book, *The Sabbath Way*, Travis takes readers on a spiritual journey to discovering radical rest is more than a weekly practice of taking a day off—it's also a posture, a way of living every day. It means much more than sleeping

in, taking naps, or chilling poolside for an afternoon; instead, the radical rest of Sabbath means putting rest—and delight, gratitude, and flourishing—first rather than last. Using personal story and expert knowledge, Travis shows Christians how to make Sabbath rest the metronome that establishes and maintains our life's rhythms, apprenticing us to abundance our whole life long. Readers of this book will discover how the Sabbath: slows us down and helps us discover the things that make us feel most alive, freeing us from rigidity and legalism disrupts our cultural obsession with productivity and achievement and cultivates a more life-giving connection between our work and our worth inspires an unhurried, sacramental worldview that sees all of life as a gift safeguards neighborliness, creation care, awareness of God's presence, justice, belonging and inclusiveness—enabling us to grow into the people God is calling us to be in our lives, our homes, our workplaces, our communities, and our world The Spirit of God longs for you to be fully alive, and the world needs your unique vitality. The Sabbath is calling. Will you come?

the myth of normal: Stuck in a Role Diana J. Feldman, 2025-05-19 Stuck in a Role illustrates how adolescents, especially those who have experienced developmental trauma, can become “stuck” in protective roles that can distance them from their authentic selves, and how the ENACT Drama Therapy Method can help them break free from these confining roles. Using innovative methods of dramatic play, improvisation, and finely honed methods of communication, Feldman shares her unique method of drama therapy, developed over more than 30 years working in the NYC school system, as well as her moving and inspiring case histories. This book will support all professionals working with children and adolescents, including creative arts educators and therapists, psychotherapists, school counselors, parents, and teachers. It illustrates how to help teens learn crucial coping and relationship skills, moving them toward new and productive ways of being. Through compelling case histories based on Feldman's work with thousands of adolescents labeled hard-to-reach, this book models empathy for youth behavior.

the myth of normal: Imaginary Power, Real Horizons Richard Gilman-Opalsky, 2024-07-09 A defense of the radical imagination from a scholar of social movements. Political theorist and philosopher Richard Gilman-Opalsky's Imaginary Power, Real Horizons is a tribute to the imagination and to its necessity for liberatory struggle. “‘Impractical’ is the name given to anyone who imagines something radically other than what exists,” he writes. However, many things—such as the abolition of slavery—were dismissed as impractical before they came to be. In a warm, plainspoken manner, these essays chart the affects of creativity and utopianism through topics as varied as the cyclical nature of popular movements; the international history of May Day; the experience of teaching political theory and Marxism in contemporary China; and the revolutionary aspirations of Free Jazz. The human imagination is a real, world-creating power, and those who would declare otherwise have a poor understanding of history. Imaginary Power, Real Horizons is a call to action for those who would dare to dream of a society organized by a different logic than capitalism.

the myth of normal: Getting Past What You'll Never Get Over John F. Westfall, 2012-10-01 When hard times strike, we look forward with longing to the day when we will get over the event and have closure. This is a difficult--often impossible--road to travel. There are some things in life that we must learn to live with because they will never truly go away for good. Despite that truth, there is life--rewarding and abundant life--after heartache and pain. John F. Westfall leads readers beyond their hurts and into a life of confidence, freedom, and secure joy. Sharing stories with wisdom, humor, and vulnerability, he shows how to move forward beyond fear, regret, guilt, anger, and bitterness into a life worth living.

the myth of normal: Millennial Spring Miram Grace, George B. Graen, 2014-06-01 Our corporate dominated world is resisting the best efforts of the “under 30s” to shape it into the information age. This eBook contains information about what the careers of the “under 30s” corporation will become. This was done examining recent trends in careers of “growing-tip” companies like Apple, Boeing, Microsoft and US and international design schools. The world of careers is changing fast, and the millennials - the generation of people who became adults around

2000, or in the decade or so after – have been right in the middle of it. From Independence Square in Kyiv to the streets of Caracas, from Taksim Square in Istanbul to Zuccotti Park in New York, and from Silicon Valley to Wall Street, it's the 30-and-under crowd courageously leading the quest for different ways. Less invested in past approaches, tech-savvy to a fault, and painfully aware of the challenges left to them by earlier generations, they're not willing to "settle" – to make the same compromises (and mistakes) they think their parents made. And although they sometimes get rapped for being self-centered, all the evidence I see – and I've taught thousands of them on two continents, and even have one in my own family -- suggests that the millennials represent real hope for the future. Please consider this a call to all millennials – here, in the pages of this book, are some of the means. Get out there and create the under-30s revolution. Solve the problems your parents couldn't. Do it together, with a conscientious eye to what works for all involved. Get out there and save the world.

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