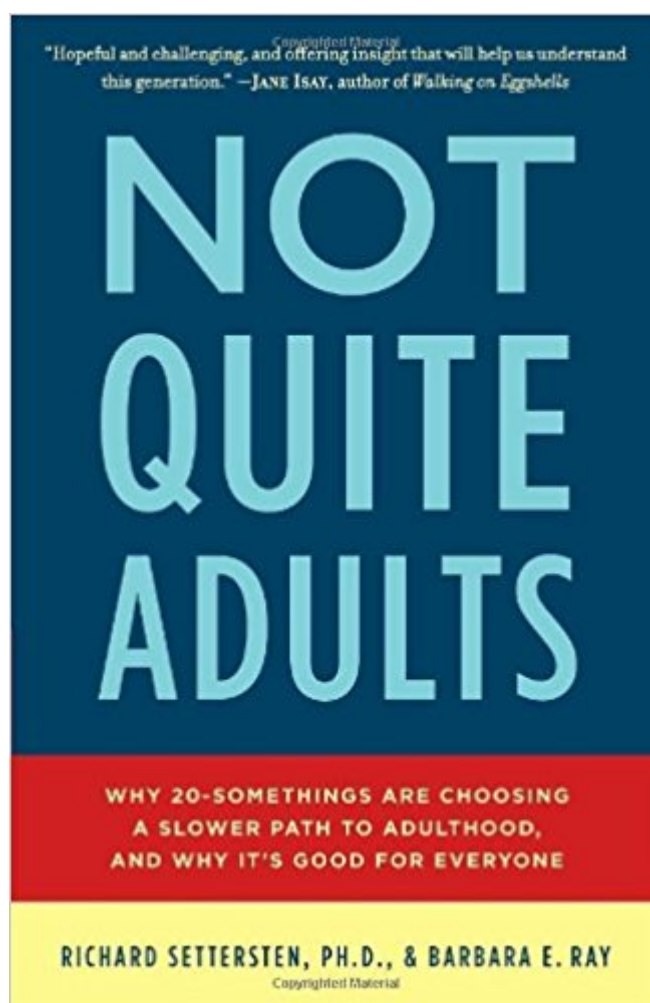




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# Not Quite Adults: Why 20-Somethings Are Choosing A Slower Path To Adulthood, And Why It's Good For Everyone



## Synopsis

Why are 20-somethings delaying adulthood? The media have flooded us with negative headlines about this generation, from their sense of entitlement to their immaturity. Drawing on almost a decade of cutting-edge research and nearly five hundred interviews with young people, Richard Settersten, Ph.D., and Barbara E. Ray shatter these stereotypes, revealing an unexpected truth: A slower path to adulthood is good for all of us. Their surprising findings include—

- Young adults who finish college and delay marriage and child-rearing get a much better start in life.
- Few 20-somethings who live at home are mooching off their parents. More often, they are using the time at home to gain necessary credentials and save money for a more secure future.
- Helicopter parents aren't so bad after all. Involved parents provide young people with advantages, including mentoring and economic support, that have become increasingly necessary to success.

Not Quite Adults is a fascinating look at an often misunderstood generation. It's a must-read for parents, teachers, psychologists, sociologists, and anyone interested in today's youth culture. Visit [www.notquiteadults.com](http://www.notquiteadults.com) for more information on this revelatory book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Settersten, a professor of human development and family sciences at Oregon State University, and Ray, communications director of the Network on Transitions to Adulthood, funnel the findings of the eight-year MacArthur Research Network's study of 20-somethings into a portrait of a generation.

Drawing on more than 500 interviews and foraying into their subjects' debts, regrets, and ambitions, the authors reveal that the cohort is making a slower transition to adulthood--they are slower to leave the nest, slower to find a full-time job, slower to marry and have children--but that their choices are hardly regressions; they are often necessary adaptations to a world vastly different from their parents'. "Slaying misperceptions," the authors show that young people are some of the most debtphobic individuals in the country, that they are delaying--not abandoning--marriage, that friends play larger and more influential roles in their lives and assist with "critical life decisions," and that they continue to regard having children as meaningful, "even salvation." Aside from enjoying a panoramic perspective on one generation, readers will be able to glean tips on everything from dating to parenting from this admirably lucid and fair-minded study that, in describing what is happening, reveals what is working. (Dec.) (c) Copyright © PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

“There are three huge strengths that set this book apart from anything else available on the transition to adulthood. First, it is written in a lively and jargon-free style by two rare social scientists who are familiar with the English language. Second, its scope is stunning, including challenges to becoming an adult created by dramatic changes in education, relations between young adults and parents, marriage and its precursors, civic life, and the world of work. Third, the tone is relentlessly upbeat about the advantages these changes are opening up for young people. This book proves that it is possible to write an interesting book about a big social problem that reflects research knowledge while nonetheless being accessible to the American public.”

—Ron Haskins, co-director of the Brookings Institution’s Center on Children and Families

“Based on interviews with 500 young adults and extensive research, this outstanding book offers a fresh and compelling view of why it is taking this generation longer to make career and family decisions. The message here is about the value of “slowing down,” and it makes sense not just for young adults, but also for their parents and educators, who are “fast tracking children” into a lengthy period of being nearly, but not quite, adults. Learn about today’s young adults, why they are making the life choices they are, and why we should feel good about it.”

—Barbara Schneider, author of the Ambitious Generation, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University

Not Quite Adults is perhaps the most important contribution to date about the strange new life of America’s twentysomethings. Settersten and Ray are able to combine a deep grasp of the research with common sense advice for “not quite adults” and their parents. The slower path to adulthood is here to stay; thanks to the authors, we are now much wiser about what that means

for all of us. — Kay Hymowitz, author of *Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men Into Boys* and contributing editor *City Journal* — "In a world that is confused by 20-somethings, *Not Quite Adults* offers insight that will help us understand this generation. Hopeful and challenging, this book is a must read for parents and policy makers alike." — Jane Isay, author of *Walking on Eggshells*. "One of the most important functions of social science research is to raise the quality of public debate by challenging myth, conjecture, and sensationalism with empirical realities. This book does just that by presenting an integrated social map of young adulthood in 21st Century America that is grounded in a diverse body of research." — James Garbarino, PhD, — Loyola University Chicago, author of *Children and the Dark Side of Human Experience* — "Amid all the outcry over young people stuck in adulescence and failing to launch comes this sensible portrait of a generation of almost-adults. — Based on empirical research, and not hand-wringing punditry, Settersten and Ray reveal a new stage of development that slows the clock, but does not stop it, making slower, but steady progress to more durable relationships and stable social networks." — Michael Kimmel, Professor of Sociology, SUNY Stony Brook, author of *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men* — "The rulebook has changed; the good ol' days of a universally accepted school-work-family-retirement fast track are gone. Despite mainstream media's attempt to portray 20-somethings as a group of lazy, no-good slackers, *Not Quite Adults* uncovers the real story — how a slower, more calculated transition into adulthood often makes more sense and leads to a better future for us all. — Sean Aiken, author of *The One-Week Job Project* — "Aside from enjoying a panoramic perspective on one generation, readers will be able to glean tips on everything from dating to parenting from this admirably lucid and fair-minded study that, in describing what is happening, reveals what is working. — Publishers Weekly — A provocative look at how a changing reality is transforming the transition to adulthood for a generation of Americans, and the implications of this transformation in today's competitive world." — Kirkus

A bit outdated in 2016, yet still rings true. The authors even predicted an event like Trump's win. The book is a great illustration on how parents and school and government institutions manage or fail to help kids secure a better future.

In every field of study, there are a few experts whose groundbreaking contributions cause the conventional wisdom to change in profound ways. Settersten and Ray have successfully produced

such a work. Their highly insightful and readable account of 20-something Americans, based on interviews with 500 young adults, challenges the widely held view in which today's young adults are portrayed as a bunch of slackers who refuse to become responsible and independent members of society. In *Not Quite Adults*, the authors conclude instead that those twenty-somethings who take their time achieving adulthood -moving from their parents' residence later, remaining in school later, and marrying later--ultimately enjoy a tremendous advantage in the job market as well as their family life. Not only do the authors conduct an exceptionally perceptive analysis, but they also go beyond the data to provide extremely valuable advice for "not-quite-adults" and their parents. One of their important lessons is that young adults who depend on their parents are generally not the spoiled brats depicted in stereotyped characterizations of their generation. Instead, they truly appreciate the assistance and guidance they receive from their families. *Not Quite Adults* is much more than a "good read

This book is important for anyone who has a young adult or works with young adults in educational environments. I was initially drawn to this book because of my interest and research in to parental involvement in higher education and the impact that it has on students. This book goes beyond the generational theories in explaining how parental involvement has become so important and why it remains important in this world of swimmers and treaders. The real life stories of students and young adults trying to get ahead are very moving and relevant in the current state of affairs in our nation. I will be recommending this to all of my colleagues and friends.

*Not Quite Adults* is a groundbreaker! Wide in scope and lively in style, it challenges the stereotype that today's 20-somethings are a generation of entitled slackers who refuse to grow up. Rather, the authors show how the times are a-changin'--- and how these changes have radically impacted the transition to adulthood today, providing insights into why the slower path to growing up is beneficial to all. As a developmental psychologist---and the mother of a 24 year old---I love this book. It should be required reading for anyone interested in what is happening to 20-somethings in America today.

"*Not Quite Adults...Everyone*" is a MustRead for Everyone!!!!It is an essential look with pointed insights that offer fresh & compelling views on why it is taking this 20-Somethings generation longer to make Life, Career & Family Decisions!...Authors Richard Settersten & Barbara Ray offer multiple inputs drawn on almost a decade of cutting-edge research, interviews,etc. which reveal an unexpected truth that a slower path to adulthood is good for all of us!!!"*Not Quite Adults...Everyone*"

is about our Global Youth Culture / Net Generation that we are leaving the greater share of responsibilities for the Global Healing of Mother Earth!!!...Going Forward, The Status Quo simply cannot & will not fit Mother Earth, another day, today or tomorrow!!!...However, The Good News is, that with our existing Global Networked Intelligence & Problem Solving capabilities,etc.,Our NetGeneration / 20-Something Children with our Mass Collaboration assistance can and should start implementation Today / Now in Participation X.X of Critical / Ongoing Global Network Initiatives for New Ideas / Strategies / Plans & Methods,etc. that will ensure that they are empowered to attack these awesome responsibilities Today / Now!!!...After all, We are Only talking about Mutual Global Survival of Humankind & Mother Earth!!!...Carpe Diem!...Michael!Not Quite Adults: Why 20-Somethings Are Choosing a Slower Path to Adulthood, and Why It's Good for Everyone

This book really helped me understand my son and his choices. He is so much like me and I didn't see this until I read the book. This could be the generation that works later in life but enjoys what they are doing more than previous generations. It's so much more interesting when a person doesn't trudge along in life with work work work but instead cherishes those things that one will need at the end of life which is friends and family!

This book was written by a professor at my university and it was exactly what I've been looking for. In this in between generation that has no scripts for what their future is supposed to look like this book gives you direction and support. I think everyone should read this in the few years after high school, if not sooner. This book changed my views on life for the better.

There's important information here. The authors don't just offer opinions about what's going on with today's young adults. They use results from interviews of 500 kids to tell this generation's story so far. While the authors do offer recommendations, those suggestions are based upon findings from the MacArthur study--what seems to be working for most people in this age group.As a parent of two young adults, I found the book compelling and useful. It's well-written and entertaining so it wasn't hard to get to the substance.

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