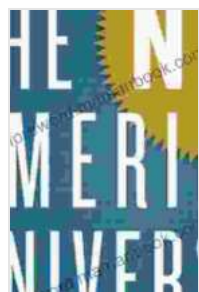


# Designing the New American University



## Designing the New American University by Michael M. Crow

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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American higher education is at a crossroads. The traditional model of the university, based on the lecture hall and the research lab, is no longer meeting the needs of students in the 21st century. The cost of college has skyrocketed, while the value of a college degree has stagnated. And the skills that students learn in college are often not the skills that employers value.

It's time to rethink the future of American higher education. We need to create a new model of university that is more affordable, more relevant, and more responsive to the needs of students and employers.

## The Challenges Facing American Higher Education

- **The rising cost of college:** The cost of college has been rising steadily for decades. In the 1980s, the average cost of tuition and fees

at a four-year public university was \$2,000 per year. Today, the average cost is more than \$10,000 per year.

- **The stagnant value of a college degree:** While the cost of college has been rising, the value of a college degree has not kept pace. In the past, a college degree was a guarantee of a good job and a higher salary. Today, college graduates are facing high unemployment rates and stagnant wages.
- **The skills gap:** The skills that students learn in college are often not the skills that employers value. A recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that only 35% of employers believe that college graduates have the skills they need.

## **A New Model for the American University**

The new American university will need to be more affordable, more relevant, and more responsive to the needs of students and employers.

Here are some key elements of a new model for the American university:

- **Affordability:** The new American university will need to be more affordable for students. This can be achieved through a variety of measures, such as reducing tuition and fees, increasing financial aid, and expanding access to online and part-time education.
- **Relevance:** The new American university will need to offer programs and courses that are relevant to the needs of students and employers. This means developing new programs and courses that focus on the skills that employers value, and providing students with opportunities to gain practical experience.

- **Responsiveness:** The new American university will need to be more responsive to the needs of students and employers. This means providing flexible scheduling, offering online and part-time programs, and developing new ways to assess student learning.

The future of American higher education is uncertain. But one thing is clear: the traditional model of the university is no longer meeting the needs of students in the 21st century. We need to create a new model of university that is more affordable, more relevant, and more responsive to the needs of students and employers. By ng so, we can ensure that American higher education remains a pillar of our society and a source of opportunity for all.

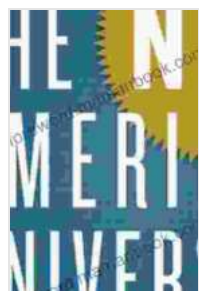


**Call to Action**

If you are interested in helping to redesign the American university, there are a number of things you can do:

- **Support organizations that are working to reform higher education.** There are a number of organizations that are working to make higher education more affordable, more relevant, and more responsive to the needs of students and employers. You can support these organizations by donating your time or money.
- **Contact your elected representatives.** Let your elected representatives know that you support reforming higher education. You can do this by writing letters, making phone calls, or attending town hall meetings.
- **Spread the word.** Talk to your friends, family, and colleagues about the need to reform higher education. The more people who are aware of the problem, the more likely we are to find solutions.

By working together, we can create a new model of university that meets the needs of the 21st century and ensures that American higher education remains a pillar of our society and a source of opportunity for all.



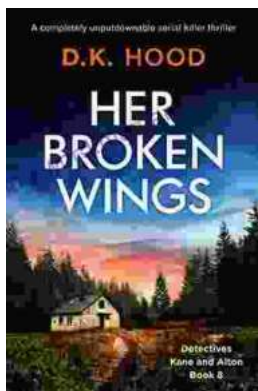
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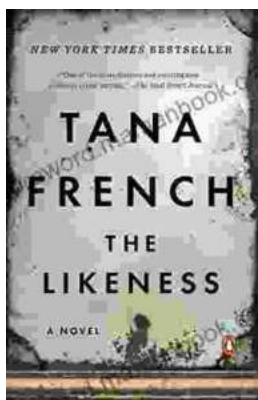
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