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Q&A with Suzanne Skees

AUTHOR OF *MY JOB: MORE PEOPLE AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD, BOOK 2*

“MY JOB explores meaning, craft, grit, hustle, and exposes the often-invisible humanity at the core of our economy”

-Alexa Clay, Bestselling Author of *The Misfit Economy*

Question: What made you want to write a second book to the *MY JOB* series?

Suzanne Skees: After releasing *MY JOB*, I wanted to continue profiling professionals from all walks of life, seeking to understand how our work shapes our lives. The fascinating people I met this time around work in all kinds of different industries, including health, education, finance, agribusiness, tourism, culture, diplomacy and peace.

Q: What makes this book, and *MY JOB* series, different from other human-interest series?

SS: The *MY JOB* series goes into far more depth about how each person landed in that job, what it takes to do it, and how their job impacts their wellbeing and life. The story of a job becomes an intimate story of a human life.

Q: How do these stories in *MY JOB* serve as motivation for others trying to get in the workforce, or to make changes in their everyday lives?

SS: My wish is to establish the *MY JOB* community as a forum for where people can connect through stories of work. Similar to the Humans of New York movement, *MY JOB* will function as a connector in an era of deep division, where people of all religions, races, genders, socioeconomic levels, etc. can find common ground and learn more about each other.

Q: As the author of *MY JOB*, you must have an in-depth answer to that question yourself. To that end, what is *your* job?

SS: I created the Skees Family Foundation in the San Francisco area in 2004. Together with my family--40 members ages nine to 91--we support very small nonprofits working to end poverty in two ways we consider to be both respectful and powerful: education and jobs. We seek startups founded by local community members, often women and minorities, who're applying incredible ingenuity to scale online and rural schools and launch small businesses and support entrepreneurs. What we do is not charity but rather investment into equal-opportunity programs that boost families' prosperity as well as nations' GDP.

Q: What inspired you to use *MY JOB* as a way to inform others about the Skees Family Foundation and the international issue of poverty?

SS: I was first drawn to international development when I realized my children had access the same food, shelter, and education I'd received as a child—merely because of geographical luck at birth—I became obsessed with the notion that all the world's children should have the same. As I worked with courageous nonprofit and social enterprises lifting our fellow and sister humans out of poverty, I began to see **jobs** as the most dignified, sustainable path out of poverty. Everyone involved in the Skees Family Foundation has the same views, as serving on the foundation is their second job/volunteer. All author proceeds from *MY JOB* would go back to my family's foundation, to support nonprofits and social enterprises running job-skills and job-creation programs to end poverty around the world.

SUZANNE SKEES serves as founder/board chair of the Skees Family Foundation, which supports innovative self-help programs in the U.S. and developing countries in education and job creation. She studied English literature at Boston College and world religions at Harvard Divinity School. Writing for online and print media, she travels from schools to slums, prisons to farms, serving as a storyteller for nonprofit workers, social entrepreneurs, and their courageous clients, who toil every day to end poverty and create equality.

***MY JOB, Book 2* will be released in March 2019, and is available for pre-order on [Amazon](#). Connect with My Job on its [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the Skees Family Foundation by visiting their [website](#).**

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