



A Day in the Life of a Graduate

As you wait in your blue cap and gown, the valedictorian and salutatorian give their speeches, in which they reminisce, thank teachers, and otherwise just ramble. Too anxious to listen to their words, you time them. After 5 minutes and 32 seconds, you've had enough. In your mind, you can only think of the embarrassment of slipping onstage, knocking the podium over, and sending teachers, parents, and friends into a frenzy.

You are torn away from your nightmare by thunderous clapping. Are they clapping because it was a sentimental speech or because it's over? There's not enough time to decide; they have begun to hand out diplomas. With trembling knees, you wait for your name to be called. After what seems like an eternity, your name booms out of the loudspeaker. You slowly proceed up the steps and almost tiptoe across the stage. There is cheering as you shake hands with the principal and receive your diploma.

It's not until you reach your seat that you smile and realize the magnitude of your accomplishment. You haven't slipped across the stage! No, really. You have been handed your future and, like your tassels, can turn it over any way you please.

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