

# COMMENCEMENT--THE BEGINNING OF THE END

A Humorous Reading

by  
G. Robert Simmons



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When submitting this reading, Mr. Simmons wrote: "I have endured so many commencement speeches which have dwelt dismally on the 'cold, cruel world' theme that I decided I would try my hand at parodying it."

It is indeed with great pleasure that I gaze upon the happy, eager faces of this graduating class. Would that you could retain these jubilant countenances throughout your lives. But, alas, it is into a cold, cruel world that you are journeying. It is a fast-moving, ultramodern world--full of contact lenses, stereophonic hi-fis, and multitudinous easy-payment plans--but pitfalls lurk around every corner.

First of all, you need to make a decision about your vocation. As tragic as it may seem, you will all have to go to work. The big question is--working at what? If you prepare yourself to be a butcher or baker, sure as there are television commercials, you'll wish in your innermost soul that you'd been a candlestick maker. Or if your path seems to lead toward the law, you'll yearn for the antiseptic smell of your own doctor's office. So just steel yourselves right now to rolling out at 6:30 every morning to your little portion of the world's work. Once you can drag yourself out of bed and get a cup of coffee down, any job can be faced--even the humdrum one at which you may be plugging away.

**--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---**