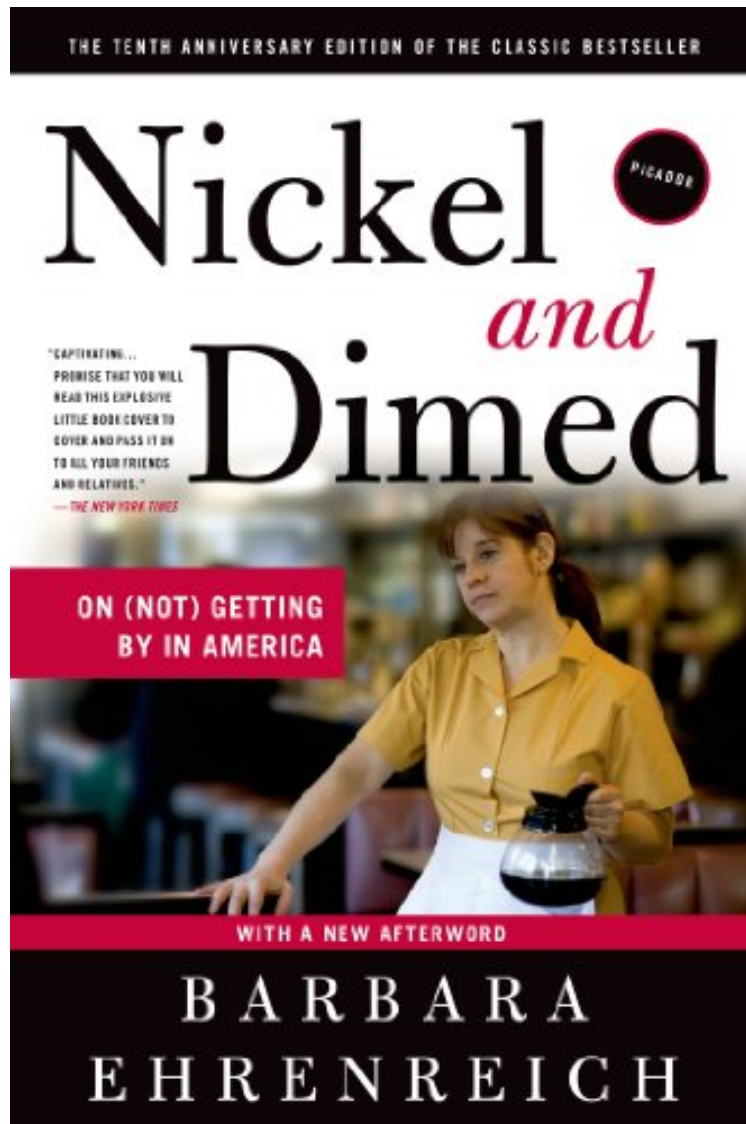


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## Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America

Barbara Ehrenreich

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**Barbara Ehrenreich : Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Working 40 hours a week and still in poverty- that is immoralBy Yussuf A KalibThis book shows how our hard working people are working 80 hours a week and still losing ground and in poverty. In a country as blessed as ours, that is immoral and unacceptable. It will catch up with all of us at some point. A great book based on hard facts and an ugly reality we don't to admit1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile ReadBy Pamela JaneThere were a few things she was doing like eating out often that I thought someone truly struggling wouldn't do, but the major insight in her book was how difficult transportation issues and the

housing market was and of course it highlights why many women stay with men they shouldn't because financially they have little other options. Overall an interesting read, flaws in her experimental approach aside. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a good read By Mark in WIa good read, I liked Evicted more

Our sharpest and most original social critic goes "undercover" as an unskilled worker to reveal the dark side of American prosperity. Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job -- any job -- can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She lived in trailer parks and crumbling residential motels. Very quickly, she discovered that no job is truly "unskilled," that even the lowliest occupations require exhausting mental and muscular effort. She also learned that one job is not enough; you need at least two if you int to live indoors. Nickel and Dime reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity -- a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Read it for the smoldering clarity of Ehrenreich's perspective and for a rare view of how "prosperity" looks from the bottom. You will never see anything -- from a motel bathroom to a restaurant meal -- in quite the same way again.