



# Race, Class, and Gender in the United States & Nickle and Dimed

*Paula Rothernberg , Barbara Ehrenreich , Paula Rothernberg*

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## **Race, Class, and Gender in the United States & Nickle and Dimed Details**

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## **From Reader Review Race, Class, and Gender in the United States & Nickle and Dimed for online ebook**

### **Molly Persons says**

At the beginning of this novel I thought it was kind of boring at the beginning then as I kept reading it became really interesting. At first i tohught it was a little bit rude for someone to "pretend" to be working and being a person of minimum wage and in poverty because i felt as though it was mocking the people who really do try and she wasnt poor in real life at all. I didnt think it would go well for her because she was overqualified for her jobs but it turned out really well written. By having read this novel i learned alot more about what it is like living off of just getting piad minimum wage and having to live like they did and the hardships of it. Even though it was a good book it was also not ym taste of reading, I wouldnt prefer a book like this but it should deffinently be read by everyone, and is a true eye opener.

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### **meredithanne says**

It's great that Barbara Ehrenreich's job allowed her to could go out and report on the situation of jobs in the U.S. it's about time that someone did it. i think she did a thorough job explaining the reality of her experiences while making sure to differentiate that she was not 'really' in these situations as others in the U.S are (seeing as she had a back up plan and money to resort to.)

The section set in the twin cities i could relate to since i was also in an entry level job in st.paul. Knowing that people across the country were in similar situations, and her acknowledging the difficulty of being in these jobs made the book that much more enjoyable to read. i wasn't 'grabbed' by her writing style, but i would still recommend this book to anyone interested.

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### **John Haake says**

Although it has been some time since I actually read this book, I must say that my memories of very vivid scenes from this woman's experience has frequently surfaced in my mind. It has made me a better person just by reading this book.

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### **Yi Cheung says**

I picked up this book during my unemployment, and having worked in the lower-waged class for most of my life, I sympathized with the sentiments portrayed in this book. I was, however, surprised to find that working conditions still managed to shock me.

I appreciated the tone used by the author in this book, although she expressed her confusion at how easily people adapt to bad conditions, she also showed a reverence for the abilities and skills of the working class. This lead me to believe that she truly immersed herself in within the working class.

I also enjoyed that she made a habit of referencing materials when the author could have easily based the book on her own experiences.

Definitely a recommended read.

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### **Jj says**

Nickle and Dimed changed the way I think about things. Rothernberg shines a light on the unknown difficulty of those in the lower socioeconomic classes. She shows that they do not have to struggle only with living without sufficient funds to afford luxuries, but that their jobs require strenuous work that will be detrimental to the body over time. She forces you to realize what it's like to give up your pride. She lives on minimum wage, and describes the difficulty living on such a small budget. This is a great book for those who have never experienced true poverty first-hand.

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### **Lara-Nour says**

I really enjoyed the succinctness of the writing and the premise of the book. It opened my eyes to what lower middle class America's daily struggles are. In the first part, the main character is waitressing. Her experience opened my eyes to the mistreatment and difficulties that many people in the restaurant industry endure.

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### **Rattyfleef says**

Can't say I liked it, as such, or that the writing was fabulous, but it was worth reading. She discusses some of the barriers blocking the mythic Rise Out Of Poverty If Only You Work Hard Enough. Recommended. Also yes I use science loosely here but I don't want to start a new shelf just for this :p

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### **Raini Bisson says**

“Nickle and Dimed,” by Barbara Ehrenreich, is a book that looks into the minimum wage experience of many Americans, and the struggle it takes to live off of a minimum wage salary. The book is told as a memoir from Ehrenreich point of view over a year when she traveled the country seeing if she could make ends meet living off of a minimum wage salary. The book as a whole is very well written and slightly disturbing. Ehrenreich talks about some of the deplorable health concerns that she encountered in a lot of the restaurants that she was employed in. Many of the experiences that Ehrenreich goes through have to deal with clothing and food shortages, as well as lack of sufficient living quarters. The book is meant to be a study in the possibility of making it off of working a minimum wage job. This was before the wage increases and the book made it very clear that it would virtually be impossible to live off of just one minimum wage job. The book does a very good job on explaining the discrepancies and unfair wage policies of the minimum wage worker, and leaves the reader questioning whether or not the system is truly fair. This book is definitely a good teaching tool, and could be used in a classroom to further expand on the importance of saving, budgeting, and furthering an individual’s education.

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### **Meagan Wilson says**

This book opened my mind in ways that I can't begin to describe in the space of a review. I read it as an advanced copy 2 years before it was published, and I find that I reference it so often it's hard to believe it's been 10 years. I feel that this perspective on life of the minimum wage worker is not only important, it's critical for those of us who employ (housekeepers) and are serviced (Walmart/wait staff) by them. Be grateful for the grace life has shown you if you are not working these jobs, but, more importantly, be realistic about how hard and thankless these jobs are...

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### **Whitney Day says**

Love this book, the excerpts in this book from other books make me want to read those books. This book will change how you look at things. Must be able to be open to understanding and get rid of pre conceived ideas to take what it is saying in. Some of the passages I had to read more than once to get a better understanding and perspective.

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### **Sandy says**

I found this to be an interesting read. The author comes clean that she is just getting a taste of the life of the working poor. Her stories made me laugh, made me cringe, and most importantly, made me think. Overall, a worthwhile read!

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### **Joellenparker says**

who would shop at Walmart after reading this?

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### **Christy says**

"Only" a decade old, and the best book/textbook of its type! Rothernberg does well by herself with the best "race and ethnic relations" texts, anyway, but this one with Ehrenreich's powerhouse Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America is just excellent. Using Ehrenreich's embedded journalism approach to understanding the lives of the working poor, the entire work casts economic inequality and poverty even more central in the through lines of race and gender here.

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### **Stephie says**

I read this as part of a sociology class at UNC on poverty. I found it to be an easy read and entertaining, but not as profound as many people have thought.

While I do believe this book gives insight into the lives of the working poor, I think it would have been more helpful if the author was actually working poor rather than a journalist conducting a social experiment. It was pretty telling, however, that the author ended up quitting the assignment early because the working poor lifestyle was as unsustainable as she predicted it might be.

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### **Laura says**

This is an eye opening look into the lives of too many Americans who work doing labor-intensive jobs and still don't have the means to live in even the most basically decent conditions. I have a much greater appreciation for, and I am much kinder to minimum wage workers after reading this. They make big sacrifices and don't have much to look forward to.

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