

Nickel And Dimed Undercover In Low Wage America

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Nickel and Dimed Metropolitan Books

Nickel and Dimed
Metropolitan Books

The Cult of Personality Testing
Penguin

The bestselling author of Nickel and Dimed goes back undercover to do for America's ailing middle class what she did for the working poor Barbara Ehrenreich's Nickel and Dimed explored the lives of low-wage workers. Now, in Bait and Switch, she enters another hidden realm of the economy: the shadowy world of the white-collar unemployed. Armed with a plausible résumé of a professional "in transition," she attempts to land a middle-class job—undergoing career coaching and personality testing, then trawling a series of EST-like boot camps, job fairs, networking events, and evangelical job-search ministries. She gets an image makeover, works to project a winning attitude, yet is proselytized, scammed, lectured, and—again and

again—rejected. *Bait and Switch* highlights the people who've done everything right—gotten college degrees, developed marketable skills, and built up impressive résumés—yet have become repeatedly vulnerable to financial disaster, and not simply due to the vagaries of the business cycle. Today's ultra-lean corporations take pride in shedding their "surplus" employees—plunging them, for months or years at a stretch, into the twilight zone of white-collar unemployment, where job searching becomes a full-time job in itself. As Ehrenreich discovers, there are few social supports for these newly disposable workers—and little security even for those who have jobs. Like the now classic *Nickel and Dimed*, *Bait and Switch* is alternately hilarious

and tragic, a searing exposé of economic cruelty where we least expect it.

Global Woman Metropolitan Books

With globalization, traditional societies are being replaced by an international working class and a small minority of the global rich. In such a situation, who is to guarantee social justice?

Smile Or Die Nation Books

"Salting is a simple concept: get hired at a non-union company, do the job you were hired to do, and, with the help of organizers on the outside, unionize your coworkers from the inside. James Walsh spent almost three years as a 'salt' in two casinos in South Florida, working as a buffet server and a bartender. Neither his employers at the casinos nor the union knew about Walsh's intentions to

write about his experience. Now he reveals little-known truths about how unions fight to organize workers in the service industries, the vigorous corporate opposition [that can be] against them, and how workers are caught in the battle"--

Living with a Wild God Verso

"Extraordinarily affecting....A very important book....To read and remember the stories in this book, to take them to heart, is to be called as a witness." THE BOSTON GLOBE There is no safety net for the millions of heartbroken refugees from the American Dream, scattered helplessly in any city you can name. RACHEL AND HER CHILDREN is an unforgettable record for humanity, of the desperate voices of the men, women, and especially children, and their hourly

struggle for survival, homeless in America.

Bait and Switch Simon and Schuster

A New York Times bestseller! From the celebrated author of *Nickel and Dimed*, Barbara Ehrenreich explores how we are killing ourselves to live longer, not better. A razor-sharp polemic which offers an entirely new understanding of our bodies, ourselves, and our place in the universe, *NATURAL CAUSES* describes how we over-prepare and worry way too much about what is inevitable. One by one, Ehrenreich topples the shibboleths that guide our attempts to live a long, healthy life -- from the importance of preventive medical screenings to the concepts of wellness and mindfulness, from dietary fads to fitness culture. But *NATURAL*

CAUSES goes deeper -- into the fundamental unreliability of our bodies and even our "mind-bodies," to use the fashionable term. Starting with the mysterious and seldom-acknowledged tendency of our own immune cells to promote deadly cancers, Ehrenreich looks into the cellular basis of aging, and shows how little control we actually have over it. We tend to believe we have agency over our bodies, our minds, and even over the manner of our deaths. But the latest science shows that the microscopic subunits of our bodies make their own "decisions," and not always in our favor. We may buy expensive anti-aging products or cosmetic surgery, get preventive screenings and eat more kale, or throw ourselves into meditation and spirituality. But all these things offer

only the illusion of control. How to live well, even joyously, while accepting our mortality -- that is the vitally important philosophical challenge of this book. Drawing on varied sources, from personal experience and sociological trends to pop culture and current scientific literature, NATURAL CAUSES examines the ways in which we obsess over death, our bodies, and our health. Both funny and caustic, Ehrenreich then tackles the seemingly unsolvable problem of how we might better prepare ourselves for the end -- while still reveling in the lives that remain to us.

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Our authors are masters of their craft, utilizing language and images to produce brilliant globes that feel real. With every turn of the page, you'll be drawn deeper into the tale, excited to discover what happens next.

Blood Rites Penguin

The sharp social critic and author of Blood Rites looks underneath the illusion of American prosperity at poverty and hopelessness in America.

Six Car Lengths Behind an Elephant Penguin

An enraging, necessary look at the private prison system, and a convincing clarion call for prison reform." —NPR.org

New York Times Book Review 10 Best Books of 2018 * One of President Barack Obama's favorite books of 2018 * Winner of the 2019 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize * Winner of the Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism * Winner of the 2019 RFK Book and Journalism Award * A New York Times Notable Book A ground-breaking and brave inside reckoning with the nexus of prison and profit in America: in one Louisiana prison and over the course of our country's history. In 2014, Shane Bauer was hired for \$9 an hour to work as an entry-level prison guard at a private prison in Winnfield, Louisiana. An award-winning investigative journalist, he used his real name; there was no meaningful background check. Four months later, his employment came to

an abrupt end. But he had seen enough, and in short order he wrote an exposé about his experiences that won a National Magazine Award and became the most-read feature in the history of the magazine Mother Jones. Still, there was much more that he needed to say. In *American Prison*, Bauer weaves a much deeper reckoning with his experiences together with a thoroughly researched history of for-profit prisons in America from their origins in the decades before the Civil War. For, as he soon realized, we can't understand the cruelty of our current system and its place in the larger story of mass incarceration without understanding where it came from. Private prisons became entrenched in the South as part of a systemic effort to keep the African-

American labor force in place in the aftermath of slavery, and the echoes of these shameful origins are with us still. The private prison system is deliberately unaccountable to public scrutiny. Private prisons are not incentivized to tend to the health of their inmates, or to feed them well, or to attract and retain a highly-trained prison staff. Though Bauer befriends some of his colleagues and sympathizes with their plight, the chronic dysfunction of their lives only adds to the prison's sense of chaos. To his horror, Bauer finds himself becoming crueler and more aggressive the longer he works in the prison, and he is far from alone. A blistering indictment of the private prison system, and the powerful forces that drive it, *American Prison* is a necessary human document about the

true face of justice in America.

[Nickeled-and-Dimed to Death](#) Atlantic Books (UK)

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Nickel and Dimed* comes a brave, frank, and exquisitely written memoir that will change the way you see the world. Barbara Ehrenreich is one of the most important thinkers of our time. Educated as a scientist, she is an author, journalist, activist, and advocate for social justice. In *LIVING WITH A WILD GOD*, she recounts her quest-beginning in childhood-to find "the Truth" about the universe and everything else: What's really going on? Why are we here? In middle age, she rediscovered the journal she had kept during her tumultuous adolescence, which records an event so strange, so cataclysmic, that she had

never, in all the intervening years, written or spoken about it to anyone. It was the kind of event that people call a "mystical experience"-and, to a steadfast atheist and rationalist, nothing less than shattering. In *LIVING WITH A WILD GOD*, Ehrenreich reconstructs her childhood mission, bringing an older woman's wry and erudite perspective to a young girl's impassioned obsession with the questions that, at one point or another, torment us all. The result is both deeply personal and cosmically sweeping—a searing memoir and a profound reflection on science, religion, and the human condition. With her signature combination of intellectual rigor and uninhibited imagination, Ehrenreich offers a true literary achievement—a work that has the power

not only to entertain but amaze.

Playing Against the House Macmillan

"DON'T believe the naysayers. The American Dream—the fable that says if you work hard and follow the rules, you'll make it—is alive and well." —New York Post Adam W. Shepard's *Scratch Beginnings* is the fascinating and eye-opening account of the grand social experiment the author undertook in response to Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*. Subtitled "Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream," *Scratch Beginnings* chronicles Shepard's successful efforts to raise himself up from self-imposed rock bottom in one year's time—a personal odyssey that is sure to inspire anyone who reads about it, instilling new faith in the solid principles on which our democracy was

built.

Poems That Make Grown Men Cry Macmillan

Award-winning psychology writer Annie Paul delivers a scathing exposé on the history and effects of personality tests. Millions of people worldwide take personality tests each year to direct their education, to decide on a career, to determine if they'll be hired, to join the armed forces, and to settle legal disputes. Yet, according to award-winning psychology writer Annie Murphy Paul, the sheer number of tests administered obscures a simple fact: they don't work. Most personality tests are seriously flawed, and sometimes unequivocally wrong. They fail the field's own standards of validity and reliability. They ask intrusive questions. They

produce descriptions of people that are nothing like human beings as they actually are: complicated, contradictory, changeable across time and place. The Cult Of Personality Testing documents, for the first time, the disturbing consequences of these tests. Children are being labeled in limiting ways. Businesses and the government are wasting hundreds of millions of dollars every year, only to make ill-informed decisions about hiring and firing. Job seekers are having their privacy invaded and their rights trampled, and our judicial system is being undermined by faulty evidence. Paul's eye-opening chronicle reveals the fascinating history behind a lucrative and largely unregulated business. Captivating, insightful, and sometimes shocking, The

Cult Of Personality Testing offers an exhilarating trip into the human mind and heart.

Nickel and Dime Metropolitan Books

Named one of the best nonfiction books of the year by The Washington Post “Tangled Up in Blue is a wonderfully insightful book that provides a lens to critically analyze urban policing and a road map for how our most dispossessed citizens may better relate to those sworn to protect and serve.” —The Washington Post “Remarkable . . . Brooks has produced an engaging page-turner that also outlines many broadly applicable lessons and sensible policy reforms.” —Foreign Affairs Journalist and law professor Rosa Brooks goes beyond the “blue wall of silence” in this radical inside examination of American policing

In her forties, with two children, a spouse, a dog, a mortgage, and a full-time job as a tenured law professor at Georgetown University, Rosa Brooks decided to become a cop. A liberal academic and journalist with an enduring interest in law's troubled relationship with violence, Brooks wanted the kind of insider experience that would help her understand how police officers make sense of their world—and whether that world can be changed. In 2015, against the advice of everyone she knew, she applied to become a sworn, armed reserve police officer with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department. Then as now, police violence was constantly in the news. The Black Lives Matter movement was gaining momentum,

protests wracked America's cities, and each day brought more stories of cruel, corrupt cops, police violence, and the racial disparities that mar our criminal justice system. Lines were being drawn, and people were taking sides. But as Brooks made her way through the police academy and began work as a patrol officer in the poorest, most crime-ridden neighborhoods of the nation's capital, she found a reality far more complex than the headlines suggested. In *Tangled Up in Blue*, Brooks recounts her experiences inside the usually closed world of policing. From street shootings and domestic violence calls to the behind-the-scenes police work during Donald Trump's 2016 presidential inauguration, Brooks presents a revelatory account of what it's like inside

the "blue wall of silence." She issues an urgent call for new laws and institutions, and argues that in a nation increasingly divided by race, class, ethnicity, geography, and ideology, a truly transformative approach to policing requires us to move beyond sound bites, slogans, and stereotypes. An explosive and groundbreaking investigation, *Tangled Up in Blue* complicates matters rather than simplifies them, and gives pause both to those who think police can do no wrong—and those who think they can do no right.

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Had I Known Macmillan

How the brutalities of working life are transformed into exhaustion, shame, and self-doubt: a writer's account of her

experience working in an Amazon fulfillment center. No longer able to live on the proceeds of her freelance writing and translating income, German novelist Heike Geissler takes a seasonal job at Amazon Order Fulfillment in Leipzig. But the job, intended as a stopgap measure, quickly becomes a descent into humiliation, and Geissler soon begins to internalize the dynamics and nature of the post-capitalist labor market and precarious work. Driven to work at Amazon by financial necessity rather than journalistic ambition, Heike Geissler has nonetheless written the first and only literary account of corporate flex-time employment that offers “freedom” to workers who have become an expendable resource. Shifting between the first and the second person,

Seasonal Associate is a nuanced expose of the psychic damage that is an essential working condition with mega-corporations. Geissler has written a twenty-first-century account of how the brutalities of working life are transformed into exhaustion, shame, and self-doubt.

Had I Known Back Bay Books

In this unique poetry anthology, 100 grown men - bestselling authors, poets laureate, actors, producers and other prominent figures from the arts, sciences and politics, share the poems that have moved them to tears.

Class MIT Press

Since the Gilded Age, social scientists, middle-class reformers, and writers have left the comforts of their offices to "pass"

as steel workers, coal miners, assembly-line laborers, waitresses, hoboes, and other working and poor people in an attempt to gain a fuller and more authentic understanding of the lives of the working class and the poor. In this first, sweeping study of undercover investigations of work and poverty in America, award-winning historian Mark Pittenger examines how intellectuals were shaped by their experiences with the poor, and how despite their sympathy toward working-class people, they unintentionally helped to develop the contemporary concept of a degraded and "other" American underclass. While contributing to our understanding of the history of American social thought, *Class Unknown* offers a new perspective on contemporary debates over how we

understand and represent our own society and its class divisions.

Seasonal Associate Crown

This book reveals the origins of contemporary sexual attitudes and offers a clear perspective on the evolving nature of female sexuality

Oxford University Press

Winner of the 2021 PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay, *HAD I KNOWN* contains the most provocative, incendiary, and career-making pieces by bestselling author, essayist, political activist, and "veteran muckraker" Barbara Ehrenreich (The New Yorker). A self-proclaimed "myth buster by trade," Barbara Ehrenreich has covered an extensive range of topics as a journalist and political activist, and is

unafraid to dive into intellectual waters that others deem too murky. Now, *Had I Known* gathers the articles and excerpts from a long-ranging career that most highlight Ehrenreich's brilliance, social consciousness, and wry wit. From Ehrenreich's award-winning article "Welcome to Cancerland," published shortly after she was diagnosed with breast cancer, to her groundbreaking undercover investigative journalism in *Nickel and Dimed*, to her exploration of death and mortality in the New York Times bestseller, *Natural Causes*, Barbara Ehrenreich has been writing radical, thought-provoking, and worldview-altering pieces for over four decades. Her reviews have appeared in the New York Times Book Review, the Washington Post, the Atlantic Monthly,

and the Los Angeles Times Book Review, among others, while her essays, op-eds and feature articles have appeared in the New York Times, Harper's Magazine, the New York Times Magazine, Time, the Wall Street Journal, and many more. *Had I Known* pulls from the vast and varied collection of one of our country's most incisive thinkers to create one must-have volume.

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Two social scientists chart the consequences of the global economy on women across the world, revealing the underground economy that has turned many poor women into virtual slaves. Reprint. 12,500 first printing.

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REVIEW OF NICKEL AND DIMED UNDERCOVER IN LOW WAGE AMERICA

- This is a very good book on imaginative prayer. This form of prayer is liable to be controversial for some Christians, which is understandable. However, I think Boyd does a very good job of explaining the biblical and historical precedents for this method and of answering common doubts and questions about it. It's sometimes difficult for me to imagine Jesus saying and doing some of the things he does in

the case studies presented, but imaginative prayer is a highly individualized experience. This, in itself, is not a problem as long as it doesn't conflict in character with Jesus as revealed in scripture. Imaginative prayer seems only applicable to the "inner healing" of damaging memories of past experiences. I wondered how it would help for those who experience difficult situations in the here and now. The book is well worth considering carefully even if you have trouble accepting some of the experiences described in it. It makes the case that the use of our imagination in prayer is important if it is to be a formational experience, not something that leaves us much the same as we've always been, struggling entirely by our

own efforts to better ourselves.

- I've only read about a quarter of the book and I'm giving up on it. The author didn't do any real research apparently. The NCIS stuff is a joke. An aircraft carrier commander becoming a NCIS commander. Talk about a demotion. And then having civilian defendants represented by military lawyers and going to "military court". I was trying to live with these inaccuracies, but it just kept getting worse. Two of the characters are "professional" agents, but they carry two full sized handguns and use them like a gunfighter in the old west. Come on! Then the author has AK-47 assault rifles firing 5.56 mm cartridges. I gave up. I like my stories to have accurate details. This book does not.