



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

*Barbara Ehrenreich*

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

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

This engrossing piece of undercover reportage has been a fixture on the *New York Times* best seller list since its publication. With nearly a million copies in print, *Nickel and Dimed* is a modern classic that deftly portrays the plight of America's working-class poor.

A successful author, Barbara Ehrenreich decides to see if she can scratch out a comfortable living in a blue-collar America obsessed with welfare "reform". Her first job is waitressing, which pulls in a measly \$2.43 an hour plus tips. She moves around the country, trying her hand as a maid, a nursing home assistant, and a Wal-Mart salesperson. What she discovers is a culture of desperation, where workers take multiple thankless jobs just to keep a roof overhead.

Often humorous and always illuminating, *Nickel and Dimed* is a remarkable expose of the ugly flip side of the American dream.

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