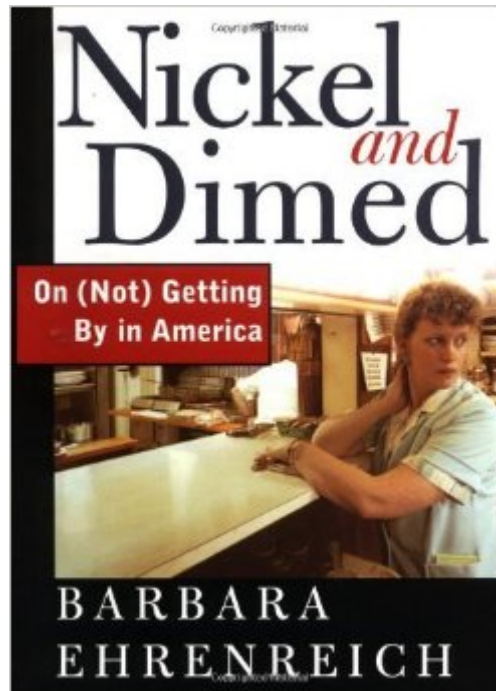


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By Barbara Ehrenreich - Nickel And Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America (First Edition) (4.8.2001)



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was extremely well written (by this prolific author), and provoked a lot of thought questions. In terms of masterful use of English, think of books like Diary of a Manhattan Call Girl: A Novel or The Nanny Diaries: A Novel. Even for all the skillful writing: It's too bad that it didn't really have that much to say. There are several issues that she addresses, and it makes me wonder if she had picked up a few books on Economics, might she have realized that she didn't have a case (and that this book would not have been written):

1. Affordable housing: When she gets to Minneapolis, she talks about the shortage of "affordable housing." To me, the logical question is: If there is a short supply, what is stopping the builders from making new properties? In California, 90% of the land is off limits to developers. She mentions housing (in California, no less!) on p. 231, and the onerous building restrictions zoom right by her as a causal factor.
2. Wage levels.a. You can either control price or supply. But not both. (That is the reason that price controls have never worked over the last several thousand years.) The author talks about what the wages are for these various jobs (and remember that this was way back in the late 90s/ early aughts that this book was written and researched). But the fact that bosses could find workers to work at these wages means that there were enough people for them to choose from to get workers at those wages.

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