

Ehrenreich, Barbara    Nickel and Dimed

This was a bestseller about how lower wage non-skilled employees survive on their limited earnings. The author actually tells her story of going undercover working in various cities in Florida, Maine, and Minnesota. The author was trying to determine if she could actually live and eat on the salaries from jobs she took. The jobs included stints as a waitress, Wal Mart employee and hotel maid. The author's experience showed that at times even working did not allow her to cover her essential costs. The author also found that like in other professions there were office politics at these job sites. She also found that securing decent housing was a major obstacle in cities and that the cost of housing is increasing at a faster pace than were the wages. A further point was that she felt disrespected and looked down upon while working in these positions.