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Quicklet - Nickel And Dimed

The Quicklet Team

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Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less. Barbara Ehrenreich's Nickel and Dimed has sold more than 1.5 million copies since its publication in 2001. It is required reading in many high school and college classrooms. The book has been translated into several languages. It has recently become available as an ebook. Nickel and Dimed received The 2001 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Best Current Interest book Joan Holden wrote a play based on the characters found in Nickel and Dimed. Richard Brick and Ira Deutchman are developing a movie based on Nickel and Dimed. Mr. Brick is best known as the co-producer of several Woody Allen movies. He also worked with the late Peter Jennings. BOOK EXCERPT FROM THE BARBARA EHRENREICH QUICKLET: NICKEL AND DIMED Ms. Ehrenreich had options. She could stay at home and attempt to live on the equivalent of a $7 an hour job. This scheme, however, wouldnt give her a true picture of the life lived by a menial worker. According to The Preamble Center for Public Policy, the odds were 97 to 1 against a recent welfare recipient finding a job that paid a living wage. Barbara decided she had to personally battle those odds to understand how the working poor live. In addition, Ms. Ehrenreich holds a doctorate in biology. Her training dictated personal experimentation. She wanted to find out if there were hidden economies in the world of the low wage worker. Perhaps, she thought, there were unseen benefits to this type of life. On the other hand, the day to day drudgery of low paying work might exact hidden damages. Barbara decided only first-hand experience could tell the tale. Rules were set for her journey into the world of unskilled labor. Rule one: There could be no use of her normal set of job skills. Rule two: She had to take the highest paying job that was offered and do her best to hold it. Rule three: She must live in the cheapest place available, within a given range of safety and privacy. Over time, Barbara bent all of these rules. Filling out job applications presented the next problem. She reinvented herself as a recently divorced homemaker returning to work after many years. Ms. Ehrenreichs doctorate in biology became three years of college. Friends were enlisted to back up the fabrications. The reinvention turned out to be almost unnecessary. Most potential employers didnt check her references. ...to be continued! Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Introduction
  - Background Information For Nickel And Dimed
  - Overall Summary For Nickel And Dimed
  - List of Important People In Nickel And Dimed
  - Terms & Definitions For Nickel And Dimed
  - ...and much more
- Chapter-By-Chapter Summary
  - Summary of Nickel And Dimed: “Getting Ready”
  - Summary of Nickel And Dimed: “Serving in Florida”
  - Summary of Nickel And Dimed: “Scrubbing in Maine”
  - Summary of Nickel And Dimed: “Selling in Minnesota”
  - ...and much more
- Additional Reading
  - Major Reviews & Related Articles For Nickel And Dimed
  - Interesting Facts About Nickel And Dimed
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Roxanne Harrelson:

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