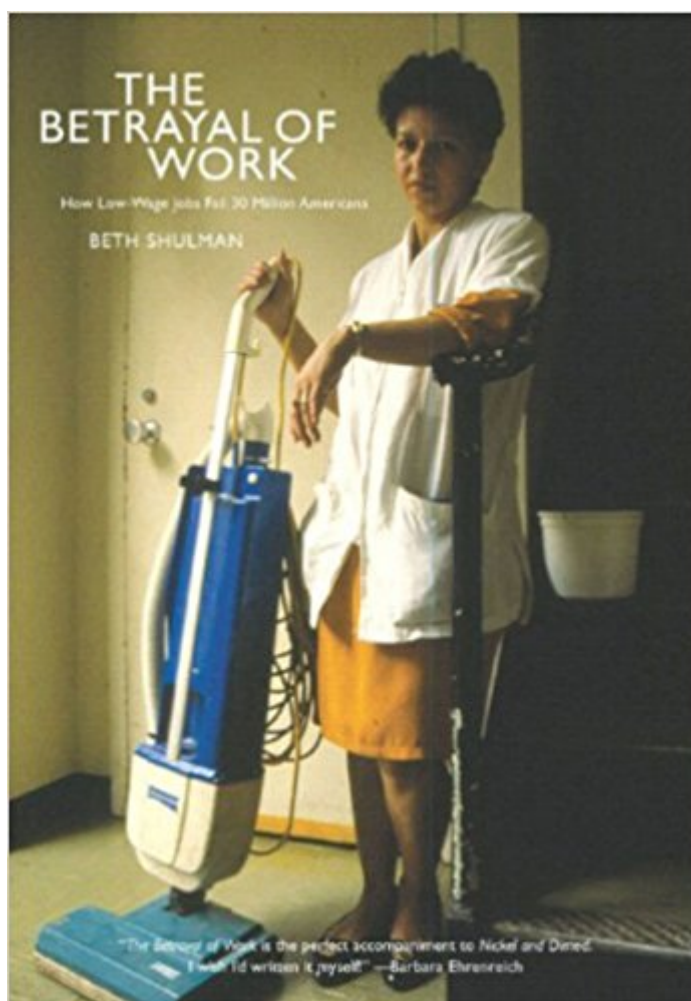


The book was found

# The Betrayal Of Work: How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans



## Synopsis

Following its publication in hardcover, the critically acclaimed *Betrayal of Work* became one of the most influential policy books about economic life in America; it was discussed in the pages of *Newsweek*, *Business Week*, *Fortune*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsday*, and *USA Today*, as well as in public policy journals and in broadcast interviews, including a one-on-one with Bill Moyers on PBS's *NOW*. The *American Prospect*'s James K. Galbraith's praise was typical: "Shulman's slim and graceful book is a model combination of compelling portraiture, common sense, and understated conviction." Beth Shulman's powerfully argued book offers a full program to address the injustice faced by the 30 million Americans who work full time but do not make a living wage. As the influential Harvard Business School newsletter put it, Shulman "specifically outlines how structural changes in the economy may be achieved, thus expanding opportunities for all Americans." This edition includes a new afterword that intervenes in the post-election debate by arguing that low-wage work is an urgent moral issue of our time.

## Book Information

Paperback: 255 pages

Publisher: The New Press (October 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159558000X

ISBN-13: 978-1595580009

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #692,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Unemployment #183 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Income Inequality #703 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Labor & Industrial Relations

## Customer Reviews

"The *Betrayal of Work* is the perfect accompaniment to *Nickel and Dimed*. I wish I'd written it myself!"  
Barbara Ehrenreich

Beth Shulman was a labor consultant and former vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Washington, D.C. She passed away in 2010.

This is an eye-opening book. Though it was written about ten or so years ago, the information and dynamics exposed are still, unfortunately, germane. Written with compassion and thoroughly researched, this little tome is essential for understanding the mechanics of poverty among the (hard) working class.

Interesting. Loved it.

Ordered this book late for my son who needed it for school. It came right away and in great condition for a used book!

There is a gross misperception that all employed working Americans are doing well living the American dream, well this book rips off the cover from this blanket of lies, on pages 4-5 "BUT THE GREAT SECRET OF AMERICA IS THAT A VAST NEW IMPOVERISHED POPULATION HAS GROWN UP IN OUR MIDST. YET THESE ARE NOT AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE WORLD OF WORK; IN FACT, THEY MAKE UP THE CORE OF MUCH OF THE NEW ECONOMY. INDEED, OUR RECENT PROSPERITY RESTS, IN PART, ON THEIR MISERY. THEIR POVERTY IS NOT INCIDENTAL TO THEIR ROLE AS WORKERS, BUT DERIVES DIRECTLY FROM IT. THEY ARE AMERICA'S SUPER-EXPLOITED. AND THAT IS BOTH A SHAME AND A CHALLENGE OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS. A SHAME BECAUSE AMERICA HAS ALWAYS HONORED WORK, YET NOW FINDS ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF DEGRADING IT. A CHALLENGE BECAUSE WHATEVER ONE THOUGHT OF AMERICA'S WELFARE POOR, FEW PEOPLE WERE MAKING MONEY OFF THEM. THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF OUR NEW WORKING POOR. CORPORATIONS, CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, SHAREHOLDERS, AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS ARE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY OFF OF THEM. THIRTY MILLION AMERICANS, ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR WORKERS, MAKES LESS THAN \$8.70 AN HOUR. AND THESE LOW-WAGE, NO-BENEFIT JOBS TRANSLATE INTO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROFITS, EXECUTIVE PAY, HIGH STOCK PRICES, AND LOW CONSUMER PRICES." In case you're wondering exactly who are these low-wage workers then turn to the bottom of page 5-6, "THEY ARE NURSING HOME WORKERS AND HOME HEALTH-CARE WORKERS WHO CARE FOR OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS, YET MAKE SO LITTLE INCOME THAT MANY QUALIFY FOR FOOD STAMPS. THEY ARE POULTRY PROCESSING WORKERS WHO BONE AND PACKAGE THE CHICKEN WE EAT FOR OUR DINNER, YET THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE LINE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM. THEY ARE RETAIL STORE WORKERS

WHO HELP US IN DEPARTMENT STORES, GROCERY STORES AND CONVENIENCE STORES, BUT CAN'T GET ENOUGH HOURS OR BENEFITS TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES WITHOUT AT LEAST TWO JOBS. THEY ARE HOTEL WORKERS WHO ENSURE THAT THE ROOMS WE SLEEP IN ON OUR BUSINESS TRIPS AND FAMILY VACATIONS ARE CLEAN, BUT WHO HAVE NO SICK DAYS OR FUNERAL LEAVE OR VACATION TIME. THEY ARE JANITORIAL WORKERS WHO EMPTY OUR WASTEBASKETS AFTER DARK BUT WHO HAVE NO CHILD CARE. THEY ARE CATFISH WORKERS WHO PROCESS THE FISH WE ENJOY, BUT MUST WORK WITH INJURED WRISTS FROM CONTINUOUS MOTION ON THE LINE. THEY ARE 1-800 CALL-CENTER WORKERS WHO ANSWER OUR REQUESTS AND TAKE OUR ORDERS WHILE UNDER CONSTANT MANAGEMENT SURVEILLANCE. AND THEY ARE CHILD-CARE WORKERS WHO EDUCATE AND CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN WHILE THEIR OWN LIVE IN POVERTY."Another term for these lies is myths which can be found on page 7 "HOWEVER, THE REIGNING AMERICAN MYTHOLOGY THAT BEING IN A LOW-WAGE JOB IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION, THAT MOBILITY WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM, UNDERMINES SUCH CONCERN. BUT THE EVIDENCE BELIES THE MYTH. WHILE SOME LOWER-WAGE WORKERS WILL MOVE UP THE LADDER, MOST WILL NEVER MOVE INTO THE MIDDLE CLASS. THEIR CHILDREN WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE. IGNORING THIS REALITY LEAVES IN PLACE WHAT HAVARD ECONOMIST RICHARD FREEMAN CALLS AN "APARTHEID ECONOMY."INADEQUATE WAGES ARE ONLY ONE PART OF THE PROBLEM. MOST OF THESE WORKERS LACK BASIC JOB BENEFITS SUCH AS HEALTH CARE, SICK PAY, DISABILITY PAY, PAID VACATION, AND RETIREMENT."The entire chapter 5 HOW LOW-WAGE JOBS DAMAGE US ALL from pages 81-100 should be read by everyone who feels they're not affected by people who work in low-wage jobs, for those people who feel low-wage workers should move up the ladder then you need to read the section titled THE MOBILITY MYTH pages 101-103. I salute this book's author BETH SHULMAN for telling the truth about the millions of low-wage workers in America, if you care about this issue as much as I do then you need to go to [www.bethshulman.com](http://www.bethshulman.com) and buy this book.

Although I haven't read the oft-referenced NICKLED AND DIMED, I discovered this book totally by accident and found it both informative and True. As one of the new "working poor", I responded immediately to the personal anecdotes. I am an educated white male in my early-forties who as recently as three years ago made \$35,000 a year. Now, the best job I can find is in a bookstore for \$8.50 an hour! And in my own immediate family, there are three others who have been struggling to

find ANY job for two years, one of whom has a BA in Accounting!! So if anything, the book's alleged questionable anecdotes criticized by others certainly speak to this reader. Indeed, one could argue that anecdotes often reveal greater Truths than dry facts....Of course, Shulman has an agenda, but it is one backed up by facts, quoted in her book and elsewhere. It is undebatably true that the job situation in the US is changing for the worse, and it doesn't take this book, or others, to prove it, but simple observation. However, it is great to see many of the facts I've heard so many times elsewhere collected in a single volume. Sadly, Shulman is probably preaching to the converted. While I agree with every point in the book, its doubtful a Conservative or corporate-apologist would -- but then again, they are the ones who got us in this mess and are profiting from it, so what do they care? For me, this book makes me want to read more, so I think I'll check out "Nickled and Dimed" now....

Although in the blurb on the front of this book, Barbara Ehrenreich says she wishes she'd written it herself, this book is no Nickel and Dimed; it is less readable and much more tendentious. Beth Shulman does a satisfactory job of describing the problems low-wage workers face (although I think she could've used a lighter hand with the statistics), but her proposed solutions are radically socialistic ones that in my opinion would have a devastating effect on the fabric of life in the U.S. She does make several incisive points, though. Contrary to what many of us believe, there is very little mobility out of low wage work, even if one works hard. Also, low wage earners in most other affluent countries are significantly better off than their counterparts in the U.S., which is touted as the Land of Opportunity. This book, for all its shortcomings, did make me think differently about low wage earners and the problems they face, but if you're only going to read one book on the subject, I'd recommend Nickel and Dimed.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Betrayal of Work: How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans  
The Betrayal of Work: How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans and Their Families  
Low Carb: 365 Days of Low Carb Recipes (Low Carb, Low Carb Cookbook, Low Carb Diet, Low Carb Recipes, Low Carb Slow Cooker, Low Carb Slow Cooker Recipes, Low Carb Living, Low Carb Diet For Beginners)  
Low Carb Diet: Introduction To Low Carb Diet And Recipes Of Low Carb Soups And Casseroles: (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, low carb recipes)  
Low Carb Cookbook: Delicious Snack Recipes for Weight Loss. (low carbohydrate foods, low carb cooking, low carb diet, low carb recipes, low carb, low carb ... dinner recipes, low carb diets Book 1)  
STEVE JOBS: Steve Jobs: Top Life Lessons: Unlimited Success, Leadership, and Powerful

Creativity: Steve Jobs Biography: Steve Jobs (Business, Biographies ... Rich and Famous, Computers and Technology) Low Carb Candy Bars: 25 Low Carb Recipes To Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth: (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, low carb recipes) Fail, Fail Again, Fail Better: Wise Advice for Leaning into the Unknown Low Carb Cookbook: 500 BEST LOW CARB RECIPES (low carb diet for beginners, lose weight, Atkins diet, low carb foods, low carb diet weight loss, low carb food list) Keto Bread Cookbook: Real Low Carb Recipes: (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, low carb recipes) The Ketogenic Diet Cookbook: Lose 15 Lbs In Two-Weeks With 66 Perfect Low Carb Keto Recipes: (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, low carb recipes) Low Carb: The Ultimate Beginner's Low Carb Guide to Lose Weight Quick without Starving With over 20 Easy Recipes To Follow. (Low Carb, Low Carb Cookbook, ... Diet, Low Carb Recipes, Low Carb Cookbook) Low Carb: Low Calorie Cookbook: 200 High Protein Recipes for Weight Loss, Muscle Building, Healthy Eating and Increased Energy Levels (Low Carb High Protein ... Low Carb Cookbook, Low Carb Diet Book 1) Low Carb: Low Calorie Cookbook: 50 High Protein Recipes Under 500 Calories for Weight Loss, Muscle Building, Healthy Eating & To Increase Energy (Low Carb ... Low Carb Cookbook, Low Carb Diet Book 1) Keto Bread Cookbook : (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, low carb recipes) Low Sodium Cookbook: Enjoy The Low Sodium Diet With 35 Tasty Low Sodium Recipes (Low Salt Diet) (Low Salt Cooking Book 1) LOW CARB DIET: KETOGENIC DIET: 1000 BEST LOW CARB AND KETOGENIC DIET RECIPES (BOX SET): low carb cookbook, ketogenic diet for beginners, low carb diet for beginners, low carbohydrate diet, ketogenic Low Carb: Don't starve! How to fit into your old jeans in 7 days without starving with a Low Carb & High Protein Diet (low carb cookbook, low carb recipes, low carb cooking) Low Carb: Low Carb, High Fat Diet. The Winning Formula To Lose Weight (Healthy Cooking, Low Carb Diet, Low Carb Recipes, Low Carb Cookbook, Eat Fat, Ketogenic Diet) Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)