

Bailee Moody-Kay

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Ehrenreich attended Reed College in Portland, OR where she received a Ph.D. in cell biology and eventually got into activism after graduating college. After having a child, Ehrenreich decided to quit her job and become a full-time writer. She wrote "Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers" and after writing, "Nickel and Dime" in 1998. While Barbara lived in a relative poverty home, somewhat struggling, she always managed to have food on the table, a way to get to and from work, and always have a roof over her head. The story of Nickel and Dime is about an exceptional writer who did not have a lot of money. The writer went undercover to study how nonskilled workers make ends meet. The experiment that this writer did took place in three separate states Maine, Florida, and Minnesota, the writer then had to find a full-time job and living arrangements. Part of the study was to see if they could afford to live only off the amount of money made from low paying jobs and have money left over. She had many different jobs through the time of this experiment including working at, Hearthside, Jerry's, Hotel Maid, and Wal-Mart. Each job had many pros and cons to it. Ehrenreich was known to use both qualitative and quantitative methods in her experiments and the many different interviews that took place throughout this time of study as well as much participant observation. While Florida,

he earned \$1,039 in one month, in Maine he came the closest to achieving the goal while earning \$300 a week and while in Minneapolis the total earnings came to be right around \$1,120. Overall, the experiment that Ehrenreich performed was a great success. It a good way for the upper class to really observe the lower class and see what it's like and some of the struggles that you go through every day.