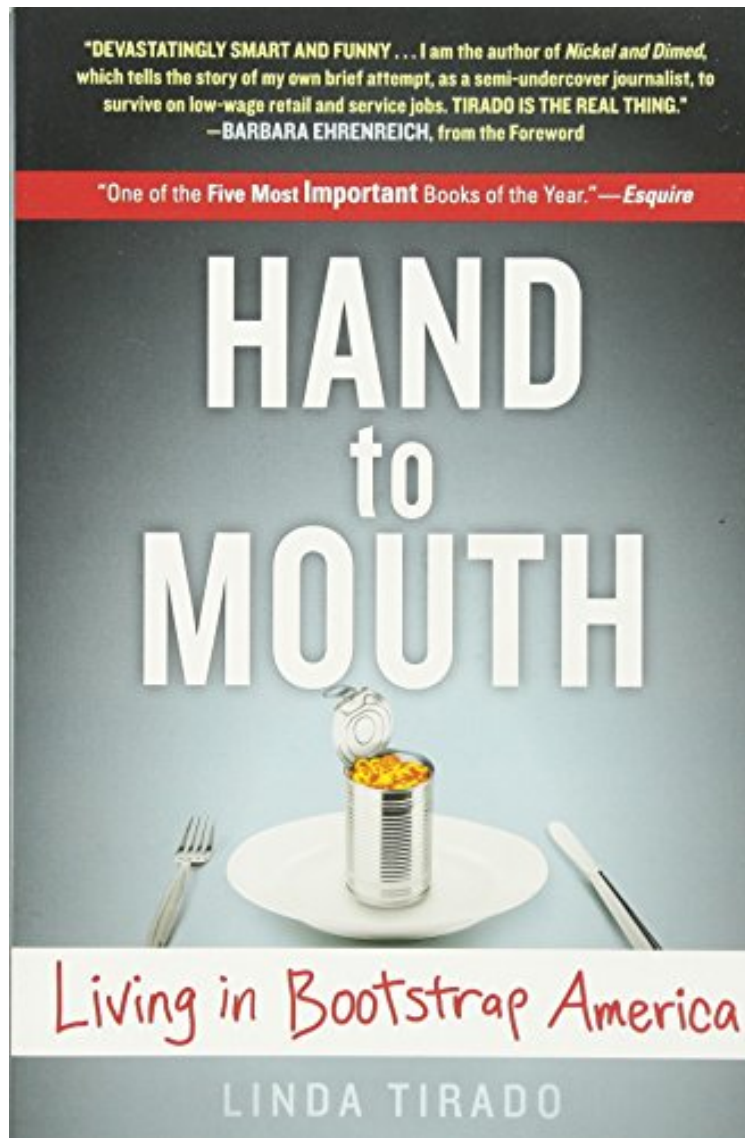


## Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America

Linda Tirado

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#98266 in Books Linda Tirado 2015-09-01 2015-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .58 x 5.461, 1.00 #File Name: 0425277976240 pages Hand to Mouth Living in Bootstrap America | File size: 48.Mb

**Linda Tirado : Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America:

168 of 176 people found the following review helpful. Tirado goes from funny to angry in 0.2 seconds because poverty is bleak, requiring the 'stamina of Sisyphus' to keep going. By Bookreporter Why do poor people do things that seem so self-destructive? When 32-year-old Linda Tirado, a college student, wife and working mother of two, responded to this question on an online discussion board in the fall of 2013, her stirring personal post entitled Why I

Make Terrible Decisions, or, poverty thoughts," went viral and sparked heated community discussions about poor peoples individual and collective work ethics, motivations, food choices, childrearing, health practices, mental states and even sex lives. Many supporters, including Barbara Ehrenreich, author of NICKEL AND DIMED: On (Not) Getting By in America, "felt an enormous wave of vindication" upon reading Tirado's words. And in the foreword of HAND TO MOUTH: Living in Bootstrap America, Ehrenreich praises Tirado for openly and unabashedly sharing the daily realities of her life as a low-wage worker and demonstrating "that poverty is not a culture or a character defect; it is a shortage of money." "I am doing what I can to walk you through what it is to be poor," writes Tirado. She recalls in her mid-20s holding three jobs as a bartender (a boss offered female workers better shifts if they agreed to service him sexually), waitress (the baseline hourly wage for waiting tables was \$2.13, and new staff got the slower shifts) and voter registration canvasser. The soul-killing experience, Tirado laments, "nearly killed me, and I still didn't break twenty grand that year." Tirado describes the fundamental lack of job security and basic benefits in the food service industry, such as paid sick leave and health insurance. "As a general manager for a chain restaurant, I got eight days of maternity leave after I had my second daughter. Unpaid." She reports on hazardous working conditions ("Most kitchens in the middle of the summer are intolerable, with temperatures well into the triple digits. I've seen people sent to the hospital with heatstroke") and recounts her own mishaps ("My arms and hands are covered in scars from the fryers. Oil at nearly 400 degrees doesn't tickle when it hits your skin, and you can't avoid the spatter entirely. I've burned my hands because the oven gloves had worn through and the owners were too cheap to spring for another pair. I've sliced my fingers open nearly to the bone when knives have slipped). Tirado also offers these provocative comments to privileged folk: You don't need a titanium stroller and Science disapproves of your anti-bacterial-spray fetish. In relating her story, Tirado goes from funny (You can't pay a doctor in chickens anymore) to angry (It's pretty enraging to poor people when rich people, who get preventative care and can afford vitamins and gym memberships, look down on us as if we don't have a clue how to take care of our bodies. We know --- we just can't afford it) in 0.2 seconds. And understandably so, because poverty is downright bleak, requiring the stamina of Sisyphus to keep going. Reviewed by Miriam Tuliao 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. UNDERSTANDING IS THE KEY By Anne Moore This book tells it like it was, how it is and how it will be unless we begin to love as sisters and brothers. Unless we look at ourselves in the mirror and see ourselves for who we are as a person and begin to love ourselves as part of our community, things will not change. The saddest part is that those who should read this book with an open and understanding heart, will never touch it. And yes, I'm talking about our Legislators, Senators and Congress. Unless we have walked this walk and made a change on purpose, we will continue to be the way we want to be. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You will either love or hate this book By Silvia M. Corradin You will either love or hate this book. There is no gray area. You will either thank her for her honesty, or you will judge her choice of words. In my view, she is one of the few people who can clearly tell it like it is, and if she sounds condescending is because she's very obviously been treated like a piece of garbage for being poor. So, this is her turn to slash back. I thought her comparisons were spot on. She does make a lot of good points and is quick at dispelling rumors galore. I personally loved it and could relate to some of it. Hey. I've been poor. I've been there. Not that I am rich now, or anything...

The real-life Nickel and Dimed the author of the wildly popular Poverty Thoughts essay tells what it's like to be working poor in America. ONE OF THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT BOOKS OF THE YEAR--Esquire DEVASTATINGLY SMART AND FUNNY. I am the author of Nickel and Dimed, which tells the story of my own brief attempt, as a semi-undercover journalist, to survive on low-wage retail and service jobs. TIRADO IS THE REAL THING. Barbara Ehrenreich, from the Foreword As the haves and have-nots grow more separate and unequal in America, the working poor don't get heard from much. Now they have a voice and it's forthright, funny, and just a little bit furious. Here, Linda Tirado tells what it's like, day after day, to work, eat, shop, raise kids, and keep a roof over your head without enough money. She also answers questions often asked about those who live on or near minimum wage: Why don't they get better jobs? Why don't they make better choices? Why do they smoke cigarettes and have ugly lawns? Why don't they borrow from their parents? Enlightening and entertaining, Hand to Mouth opens up a new and much-needed dialogue between the people who just don't have it and the people who just don't get it.

"The woman who accidentally explained poverty to the nation." The Huffington Post [A] whipsmart woman's firsthand account of what it looks and smells and tastes and feels like to be living in poverty brilliant and to the point. You won't soon forget her voice or her message. Entertainment Weekly Funny, sarcastic, full of expletives, and most of all outrageously honest. . . . Tirado has a way with words that somehow both breezy and blunt. BusinessWeek In this riveting memoir, Tirado shares in vivid detail what it's like to be a college graduate in the throes of poverty. Womens Health Magazine "Must-read...powerful." Good Housekeeping Educative . . . Tirado's raw reportage offers solidarity for those on the front lines of hardship yet issues a cautionary forewarning to the critical: Poverty is a potential outcome for all of us. Outspoken and vindictive, Tirado embodies the cyclical vortex of today's struggle to survive. Kirkus s Tirado tells it like it is Enthralling and horrifying, this should be required reading for policymakers. Booklist, starred

review  
In Hand to Mouth, [Tirado] uses her piercing insight, coupled with a confessional but unrepentant voice, to open a nuanced and deeply unsettling window into poverty in the U.S. Ms. Magazine  
This book should inspire important discussion.  
Library Journal  
The great thing about writing is that it doesn't discriminate, with regard to race or gender or anything, class included. Being rich and advantaged doesn't mean you won't be cruelly exposed on paper as a pompous fraud. Conversely, if you write well, being broke and tired won't prevent your talent and mental clarity from shining through. Linda Tirado is just a terrific writer. There's a crucial passage in Hand to Mouth where Linda asks why we all can't at least just agree that someone has to do the grunt work, and that there's dignity in that, too. With this strong and unembarrassed account of her life on the edges of poverty Linda single-handedly re-takes some of the dignity that has been stripped from people without means in this singularly greed-dominated, most mean-spirited generation in America's history. Honesty has its own power and this is a most honest book. Everyone who thinks things are just fine in this country should read it. Matt Taibbi, New York Times bestselling author  
"Linda Tirado tells it like it is for tens of millions of America's low-wage workers a group that's growing even as America's billionaires rake in ever more of the nation's total income and wealth. The top hedge-fund partner got \$3.5 billion in 2013. That came to \$1,750,000 an hour. Yet somehow we can't even raise the minimum wage. Read what Linda has to say and you'll understand it's not because Linda or other low-wage workers somehow deserve to be treated this way any more than the \$3.5 billion hedge-fund deserves his pay. The game is rigged and we must un-rig it." Robert B. Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, national bestselling author of Aftershock  
When our economy and our democracy are both broken, the story Linda Tirado writes here is simply known as real life for millions of Americans who are going broke every day and feel ignored by our government. Every American deserves an equal seat at the table in the halls of power and a wage that can put food on the dinner table.  
Hand to Mouth should serve as a red flag to the politicians in Washington and the millionaires on Wall Street, this is why we the people are mad as hell, and were not going to take it anymore. Cenk Uygur, Host of The Young Turks (www.tytnetwork.com)  
For those who have never had the experience, Tirado's book allows you to hear, smell, taste, feel and visualize life as a minimum wage worker. It also leaves you with two inescapable conclusions. First, poverty can happen to anyone even if you are born into the middle class. Second, you can educate people until you are blue in the face, but as long as there are jobs that require sweeping floors, flipping burgers, or waiting tables, we will never eliminate poverty until everyone who works is paid a living wage. Robert Creamer, Democracy Partners, author of Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win  
Hand to Mouth delivers the message to America's poorest citizens, You are not alone, and it represents a wake-up call to the world's wealthiest individuals that income inequality has dangerous economic consequences for real people. It is an insightful, heart-wrenching, and at times laugh-out-loud look into how a third of our fellow Americans are living as poor people in an economy that only serves the top 1%. If you can afford to purchase this book, you will be peering into a world you likely have never known and definitely will never forget. Tirado's words read like a conversation over coffee, but she delivers a devastating blow to our current economic assumptions equivalent to a modern day Oliver Twist or The Jungle. Ryan Clayton, Executive Director, Wolf-PAC.com  
"She is refreshingly infuriated. She acknowledges her faults, but she hones a constructive resentment to cut through her chronic depression, sharpen her wit and tune her X-ray vision into the disparities of power and money. She maps the chain reactions that lead families from one setback to another."--The New York Times  
A terrific writer...A most honest book. Everyone who thinks things are just fine in this country should read it.  
Matt Taibbi, New York Times bestselling author of The Divide  
You won't soon forget her voice or her message.  
Entertainment Weekly  
Enthralling and horrifying, this should be required reading for policymakers.  
Booklist (starred review)  
[An] unapologetic explanation for why she and other poor people do what they do. It's funny, sarcastic...and most of all outrageously honest.  
Bloomberg Businessweek  
About the Author  
Linda Tirado is a completely average American with two kids and, until recently, two jobs. Her essay Why I Make Terrible Decisions, or, Poverty Thoughts was picked up by the Huffington Post, the Nation, and countless other publications, and was read by more than six million people. This is her first book.