

(Pdf free) Dirt Cheap - Life At The Wrong End Of The Job Market

Dirt Cheap - Life At The Wrong End Of The Job Market

Elizabeth Wynhausen

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Elizabeth Wynhausen : Dirt Cheap - Life At The Wrong End Of The Job Market before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dirt Cheap - Life At The Wrong End Of The Job Market:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Upper Class Lady takes a Job Amongst the Working Class By James N Simpson Elisabeth Wynhausen, a journalist for a Sydney newspaper decides to take some time off from the paper and explore the lower paid jobs just to see what it is like. Well her motives were more likely actually so she can write a book about her experiences and make more money from book sales than she would have from her newspaper job. Dirt Cheap rather than really being what it set out to be, an insight for those fully employed in higher paying jobs as to what life is really like for those working in the lower paid positions is more of a comparison between the social classes. Elisabeth normally lives in Bondi, one of Australia's richest suburbs that your average Australian wouldn't even be able to afford to rent in let alone buy property in. Like many older aged Australians, she purchased her home before the suburb was popular, when homes only cost the equivalent of a few years pay so with the mortgage paid off over a generation ago, and a property worth millions she has been able to live quite the upper class lifestyle. The problem with her research though is she cannot shake the need to continue doing this throughout her experiment, with her refusal to live in accommodation that shares a bathroom, often staying in bed and breakfasts or hotels, needing to swim in a public pool every morning and so forth. This means a lot of her complaints about not being able to survive on the lesser pay checks really aren't relevant as your average Joe working in the same jobs is prepared to live a normal non upper class standard of life. Still the book is interesting, she certainly does highlight problems for the lower waged employee and anyone who has ever been unfortunate enough to be forced to visit the job network providers

will relate to the incompetence, laziness and ridiculousness she highlights through her experiences with those organisations. Elisabeth also reflects on how outsiders are treated in small towns, the differences between ethnic cultures and the inability to plan day to day life for the casual employee. What she doesn't point out though, is the benefits a lot of people get from seasonal or casual employment or acknowledge the fact that a lot of people in the same casual workplaces she worked in actually like the flexibility which is the key reason they took those jobs in the first place. I work a number of casual jobs as well as my normal job and many casual colleagues in these jobs are also either after a bit of extra money, students, parents of young children who don't want to work full time, semi retired or people who want to gain experience and skills in a new area. Apart from wanting a few more hours from time to time, most like the casualness of these positions so that they don't have to regularly commit to a schedule, can go away on a trip for a week, attend other job interviews or work other higher paid week or two or even one day temporary jobs without having to pretend their sick which you need to do for a full time job. Elisabeth was working casual jobs in substitute of a full time job and complaining she didn't make enough to survive, when common sense should have told her that would obviously be the case, most casual jobs are not a substitute for full time work. The employers of the full time jobs she could get are portrayed as a bit dodgy but this is obviously a reflection of the circumstances she was playing. With either a resume full of pretend employment experience or one with no skills in the area she wanted to work, of course most reputable companies wouldn't hire her. Companies do investigate claims on resumes these days so the ethical companies she "couldn't find" obviously wouldn't have even given her an interview. Elisabeth also complains that when she is doing jobs such as a cleaner, office workers staying late or coming in early didn't make an effort to talk to her, when I bet there was many a time at a newspaper she had a deadline for a story and didn't stop to chat to the cleaner. *Dirt Cheap* is an interesting read but it is more of a look at an upper class older aged person working in environments where the majority of workers are teenagers, working class people and so forth rather than a full time higher paid worker working in lower paid jobs. She is also very anti the existing Australian government and the new workplace reforms designed to give a fairer balance for employers and this is very evident in her writing in fact she even blatantly criticises these things at times. Journalists are supposed to give unbiased coverage, showing both sides of the story, she doesn't do that here. Also why does she need to give fictitious names to companies and towns? Surely if her claims are fact, as a journalist she can expose these people doing the wrong thing. If you want a great read about job seeking check out the fiction novel *The Ax* by Donald E Westlake.