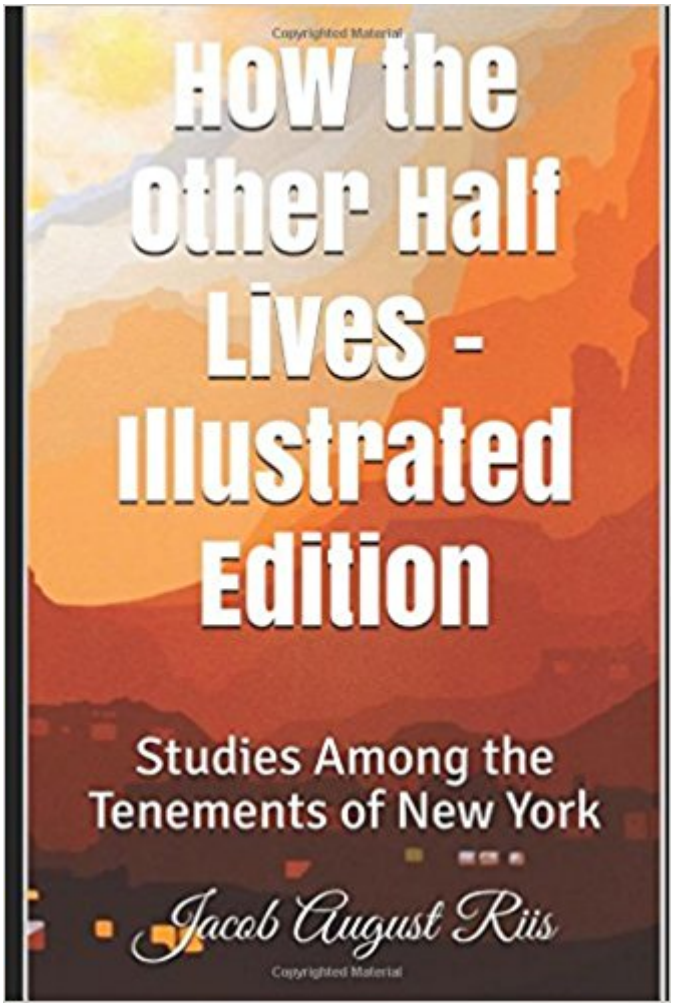
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How The Other Half Lives - Illustrated Edition: Studies Among The Tenements Of New York



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Synopsis

Long ago it was said that Ã¢â ¬Å“one half of the world does not know how the other half lives.Ã¢â ¬Â• That was true then. It did not know because it did not care. The half that was on top cared little for the struggles, and less for the fate of those who were underneath, so long as it was able to hold them there and keep its own seat. There came a time when the discomfort and crowding below were so great, and the consequent upheavals so violent, that it was no longer an easy thing to do, and then the upper half fell to inquiring what the matter was. Information on the subject has been accumulating rapidly since, and the whole world has had its hands full answering for its old ignorance. In New York, the youngest of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s great cities, that time came later than elsewhere, because the crowding had not been so great. There were those who believed that it would never come; but their hopes were vain. Greed and reckless selfishness wrought like results here as in the cities of older lands. Ã¢â ¬Å“When the great riot occurred in 1863,Ã¢â ¬Â• so reads the testimony of the Secretary of the Prison Association of New York before a legislative committee appointed to investigate causes of the increase of crime in the State twenty-five years ago, Ã¢â ¬Å“every hiding-place and nursery of crime discovered itself by immediate and active participation in the operations of the mob. Those very places and domiciles, and all that are like them, are to-day nurseries of crime, and of the vices and disorderly courses which lead to crime. By far the largest partÃ¢â ¬â •eighty per cent. At leastÃ¢â ¬â •of crimes against property and against the person are perpetrated by individuals who have either lost connection with home life, or never had any, or whose homes had ceased to be sufficiently separate, decent, and desirable to afford what are regarded as ordinary wholesome influences of home and family.... The younger criminals seem to come almost exclusively from the worst tenement house districts, that is, when traced back to the very places where they had their homes in the city here.Ã¢â ¬Â• Of one thing New York made sure at that early stage of the inquiry: the boundary line of the Other Half lies through the tenements. It is ten years and over, now, since that line divided New YorkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s population evenly. To-day three-fourths of its people live in the tenements, and the nineteenth century drift of the population to the cities is sending ever-increasing multitudes to crowd them. The fifteen thousand tenant houses that were the despair of the sanitarian in the past generation have swelled into thirty-seven thousand, and more than twelve hundred thousand persons call them home. The one way out he sawÃ¢â ¬â •rapid transit to the suburbsÃ¢â ¬â •has brought no relief. We know now that there is no way out; that the Ã¢â ¬Ëœsystem Ã¢â ¬â„¢ that was the evil offspring of public neglect and private greed has come to stay, a storm-centre forever of our civilization. Nothing is left but to make the best of a bad bargain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The photos from this dark time in the most poor section of a bustling immigrant city were very stark and startling. The author writes the narrative very well, and it is as if he has studied these people for themselves, by being among them. His expose was very instrumental in getting changes effected for the benefit of these poor people. When we look at these, we are reminded of the hardships that were endured by our forefathers and mothers, who came to America, willing to risk everything for the opportunity presented here. It should increase our respect for them tremendously, to understand, in stark black and white evidence, of how they were forced to live.

Great source for teachers to share how immigrants lived back at the turn of century. Gives great ideas of what pictures to look for on internet for classroom discussion. Does not copy as clear as you want. Its still a great book of primary photos and accounts of how the other half lives. Was a good investment for the classroom.

This is the antipodal world of the Rockefellers, Morgans, et al. It is a story in pictures of South of Houston in contrast to the more recognized world of pampered Fifth Ave. at turn the century NYC. Photos of children huddled together against the cold in alleyways and women bedding down near pot-bellied stoves in elevated subway stations speak volumes about the hidden merciless cruelty of post-Civil War, industrial age American cities. It also gives a unique and genuine flavor to the immigrant experience of those years providing a view into the various neighborhoods of NYC. You

cannot be indifferent after reading this.

The print is small. The photographs are miniature and blurry.The edition is a total waste.

Makes me wonder how these poor kids ever survived---maybe they didn't.

I enjoyed this book. Gives the best description, thru old photos and words of the poverty and degradation felt during that period in our history. Very good read.

Great read, learned a lot.

Of course Joseph is outstanding I got this one as a gift it is great history he live did he photographed it he is outstanding

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