JOBS INVOLVING FOOD & RETAIL:
Dishwasher: One Man’s Quest to Wash Dishes in All Fifty States by Pete Jordan [921 JORDAN]

Presents a memoir of the author’s cross-country, itinerant dishwashing odyssey describes his twelve-year quest to wash dishes in all fifty states.

Malled: My Unintentional Career in Retail by Caitlin Kelly [658.85 KELLY]
The author, a middle-aged journalist, took a retail position at the local mall after losing her well-paying job. and recounts how her exposure to unreasonable corporate heads and abusive customers raised her awareness of the plight of retail employees.

ALSO:
Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl
6 1 4 5 0 9 2 REICH L

Hey Waitress: The USA from the Other Side of the Tray by Alison Owings [920 OWINGS]

Waiter Rant: Thanks for the Tip: Confessions of a Cynical Waiter by The Waiter [921 WAITER]
Making of a Chef: Mastering the Heat at the Culinary Institute of America by Michael Ruhlman [921 RULLMAN]

The Devil in the Kitchen: Sex, Pain, Madness and the Making of a Great Chef by Marco Pierre White [921 WHITE]

Heat: An Amateur’s Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta Maker, and Apprentice to a Dante-Quoting Butcher in Tuscany by Bill Buford [394.1209 BUFORD]

Cooking Dirty: A Story of Life, Sex, Love, and Death in the Kitchen by Jason Sheehan [921 SHEEHAN]

Retail Hell: How I Sold My Soul to the Store by Freeman Hall [921 HALL]

The Customer Is Always Wrong: The Retail Chronicles [658.812 CUSTOMER]

LOOKING AT VARIOUS JOBS:

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich
[305 569 EHRENREICH]

In an attempt to understand the lives of Americans earning near-minimum wages, Ehrenreich works as a waitress in Florida, a cleaning woman in Maine, and a sales clerk in Minnesota.

Working People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do by Studs Terkel [331 TERKEL]

Men and women representing a variety of occupations, describe the daily routine of their jobs and express their grievances, aims, and dreams.

Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs edited by John Bowe, Marissa Bowe, and Sabin Steeler
[303.36 GIG]

More than 150 people in common and unusual occupations talk about their lives and work in the new economy, encompassing the human experience from a labor-support doula to a funeral home director.

ALSO:

Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream by Barbara Ehrenreich
[331.13 EHRENREICH]

Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys: An Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work by Jeanne Marie Laskas [305 562 LASKAS]

Working in the Shadows: A Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won’t Do by Gabrial Thompson [331.6209 THOMPSON]

Ever wonder what it’s like to fight a fire, operate on a wild animal, or even wash dishes in all fifty states? Then these books are for you – offering a look at the fun, fascinating, and sometimes frustrating jobs Americans have. Take time out of your own busy workweek to see what others do for a living.

The annotations are courtesy of NoveList Plus. Check out NoveList Plus, part of the TFPL databases, for more reviews.

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JOBS IN PUBLIC SERVICE:
Among Schoolchildren by Tracy Kidder [372.1102 KIDDER]
Challenges the dedication and perseverance of fifth-grade teacher Chris Zajac of Holyoke, Massachusetts, in her effort to educate the economically and emotionally deprived urban children in her classroom.

Blue Blood by Edward Conlon [921 CONLON]
A portrait of life as a police officer in the NYPD chronicles the author's life as a cop, from growing up with a police officer father, to his first day on the beat to his rise to detective.

Confessions of a Tax Collector: One Man's Tour of Duty Inside the IRS by Richard Yancey [921 YANCEY]
Describes the workforce culture of the Internal Revenue Service, recounting how the author joined the IRS as an impressionable jobseeker and witnessed cover-ups, schemes, and widespread paranoia over a twelve-year period.

ALSO:

Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing by Ted Conover [365.92 CONOVER]
Jumping Fire: A Smokejumper’s Memoir of Fighting Wildfire by Murry A. Taylor [634.9618 TAYLOR]
Fire Fighters: Stories of Survival from the Front Lines of Firefighting edited by Clint Wills [634.9618 FIRE]
Educating Esme: Diary of a Teacher’s First Year by Esme Raji Codell [921 CODELL]
Teacher Man by Frank McCourt [921 MCCOURT]
I’d Like to Apologize to Every Teacher I Ever Had: My Year as a Rookie Teacher at Northeast High by Tony Danza [921 DANZA]
Free for All: Oddballs, Geeks, and Gangstas in the Public Library by Don Borchert [921 BORCHERT]

JOBS INVOLVING SCIENCE & MEDICINE:
Ambulance Girl How I Saved Myself by Becoming an EMT by Jane Stern [921 STERN]
The author describes how she survived severe depression by becoming an EMT, describing her training under an ex-Marine, the confusion of her first calls, and her new vocation's ability to reveal the secrets of human nature.

Ranger Confidential: Living, Working, and Dying in the National Parks by Andrea Lankford [333.783 LANKFORD]
Lankford unveils a world in which park rangers struggle to maintain their idealism in the face of death and disillusionment while holding that thin green line between protecting the park from the people, the people from the park, and the people from each other.

ALSO:

House Calls and Hitching Posts: Stories from Dr. Elton Lehman’s Cree Amous Among the Amish by Elton Lehman [610.92 LEHMAN]
Aftermath, Inc.: Cleaning up After CSI Goes Home by Gil Reavill [363.252 REAVILL]
On Call: A Doctor’s Days and Nights in Residency by Emily F. Transue [921 TRANSUE]
Tell Me Where It Hurts: A Day of Humor, Healing, and Hope in My Life as an Animal Surgeon by Nick Trout [636.0897 TROUT]
The White House Doctor: A Memoir by Connie Mariano [921 MARIANO]
Nursing America: One Year Behind the Nursing Stations of an Inner-City Hospital by Sandy Balfour [920 BALFOUR]
Trauma: My Life as an Emergency Surgeon by James Cole [921 COLE]
Weekends at Bellevue by Julie Holland [921 HOLLAND]
Curtains: Adventures of an Undertaker-in-Training by Tom Jokin [921 JOKIN]

OTHER JOBS:
Cruising Attitude: Tales of Crashpads, Crew Drama, and Crazy Passengers at 30,000 Feet by Heather Poole [387.742 HESTER]
Combining the best of a galley gossip with the author's own experiences, this insider's look at the life of a flight attendant takes readers behind the scenes.

Confections of a Prep School Mommy Handler by Wade Rouse [921 ROUSE]
A memoir of life among the super rich - and super spoiled - describes how the author's job as director of publicity at a prestigious prep school became translated into an effort to keep some of the wealthy, pretty, and mean mothers of the elite students happy.

ALSO:

Callgirl by Jeannette Angell [921 ANCELL]
Strip City: A Stripper’s Farewell Journey Across America by Lily Burana [921 BURANA]
Some Girls: My Life in a Harem by Jillian Lauren [921 LAUREN]
In the Basement of the Ivory Tower: Confessions of an Academic by Professor X [378.12 PROFESSOR]
Punching Out: One Year in a Closing Detroit Auto Plant by Paul Clemens [338.4762 CLEMENS]
Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid’s Memoir That Inspired “Upstairs, Downstairs” and “Downton Abbey” by Margaret Powell [921 POWELL]
Heads in Beds: A Reckless Memoir of Hotels, Hustles, and So-Called Hospitality by Jacob Tomsky [921 TOMSKY]
In the Land of Long Fingernails: A Gravedigger in the Age of Aquarius by Charles Wilkins [921 WILKINS]
Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline by Brian David Bruns [910.45 BRUNS]