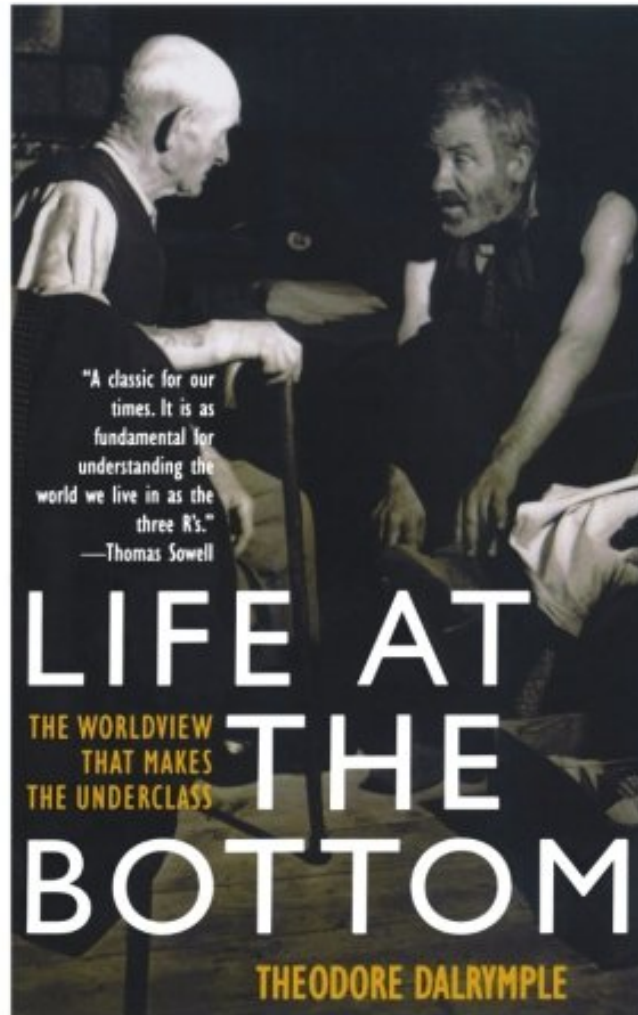


[Ebook free] Life at the Bottom: The Worldview That Makes the Underclass

Life at the Bottom: The Worldview That Makes the Underclass

Theodore Dalrymple

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Theodore Dalrymple : Life at the Bottom: The Worldview That Makes the Underclass before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life at the Bottom: The Worldview That Makes the Underclass:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disturbingly believable.By Tom GilsonDalrymple writes well, for starters. He has an unusually clear grasp of social cause and effect, which makes this an important book. He also sees the limits of cause and effect, that is, he knows that the people of whom he writes in this sad book are human, and

have the power to choose far more of their own destinies than English society credits them for. Life at the bottom is, in his view, made far worse than otherwise necessary by the inhuman attitudes among those who live near the top. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Critical with compassion By velodog revolver Masterful style and wit combined with a genuine level of compassion and uncompromising evaluation of life's choices and their consequences. As a practicing physician in a small town emergency department I see the same problems and outcomes of our "post modern" culture. The study of "worldview" aka, philosophy and its current results might offer some direction. The greatest man to ever live said, "come to me all who are heavy laden (really tired) and I will give you rest". We have been brainwashed to ignore the importance of spiritual things and have swallowed the drugs of "enlightenment" which in the end only leave us desolate. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. America's future perhaps? By Douglas J. Wolf This story of dystopian Britain is too depressingly familiar to anyone who pays heed to the changes the welfare state has brought to the US.

Here is a searing account—probably the best yet published—of life in the underclass and why it persists as it does. Theodore Dalrymple, a British psychiatrist who treats the poor in a slum hospital and a prison in England, has seemingly seen it all. Yet in listening to and observing his patients, he is continually astonished by the latest twist of depravity that exceeds even his own considerable experience. Dalrymple's key insight in *Life at the Bottom* is that long-term poverty is caused not by economics but by a dysfunctional set of values, one that is continually reinforced by an elite culture searching for victims. This culture persuades those at the bottom that they have no responsibility for their actions and are not the molders of their own lives. Drawn from the pages of the cutting-edge political and cultural quarterly *City Journal*, Dalrymple's book draws upon scores of eye-opening, true-life vignettes that are by turns hilariously funny, chillingly horrifying, and all too revealing—sometimes all at once. And Dalrymple writes in prose that transcends journalism and achieves the quality of literature.

From Publishers Weekly Filled with poignant stories of women and men trapped in destructive behaviors and environments, this volume puts forth a vision of the modern world and of intellectualized modernism as hell but offers few concrete or theoretical solutions. Dalrymple, a noted conservative columnist in London's *the Spectator*, collects pieces he wrote for the conservative *City Journal*, using his own work as a physician in British slums and prisons as fodder for an analysis of the underclass: "not poor... by the standards of human history" but trapped in "a special wretchedness" from which it cannot emerge. Most of his patients put their violence in the passive: the murderer who says "the knife went in" as though he had no control; the man who beat his girlfriend and then exclaimed, "I totally regret everything that happen' [sic] as if... [it] were a typhoon in the East Indies." The fault, Dalrymple asserts, is not bad environments, but a pervasive liberal view and agenda that creates "passive, helpless victims," encourages the idea that the acceptance of "unconscious motivations for one's acts" obviates personal responsibility, and the "widespread acceptance of social determinism." Dalrymple makes many astute observations on British social attitudes about wealth, the tattooing of white youths and urban redevelopment, and his writing is graceful and often witty. But his main points get hammered home too quickly and too often. His critique of liberalism and the welfare state, while sometimes provocative, is spelled out in the introduction and repeated again and again. While Dalrymple is preaching to the converted, his vivid writing and often heartbreaking stories rise above his deeply felt but repetitive social analysis. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. Truthful therefore morally courageous and intellectually rigorous. (Norman Podhoretz) Dalrymple's vivid writing and often heartbreaking stories rise above his deeply felt social analysis. (Publishers Weekly) Brilliant social analysis... a master chronicle of life at the bottom. (Hilton Kramer) Lucid, unsentimental, and profoundly honest... Dalrymple is one of the great essayists of our age. (Denis Dutton, Editor, *Arts Letters Daily*) This devastating account and analysis of underclass life and the elite ideas which support it is a classic for our times. (Thomas Sowell, Rose and Milton Friedman Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University) It is a truism that ideas have consequences, but a truism is rarely illustrated as implacably as in this book. (George F. Will, syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*) Theodore Dalrymple is the best doctor-writer since William Carlos Williams. (Peggy Noonan) Mr. Daniels's best essays cast a spell almost from the opening line. (New York Sun) A landmark experience is reading *Life at the Bottom* (Detroit Free Press) Once in a long while a writer comes along with a vision so powerful that it shakes you. Theodore Dalrymple is that kind of writer. (Bruce Ramsey Liberty Press) About the Author Theodore Dalrymple is a physician and psychiatrist who practices in England. He writes a column for the *London Spectator*, contributes frequently to the *Daily Telegraph*, and is a contributing editor of the Manhattan Institute's *City Journal*. His other books include *Our Culture*, *What's Left of It*, *Mass Listeria*, and *So Little Done*. He lives in Birmingham, England.