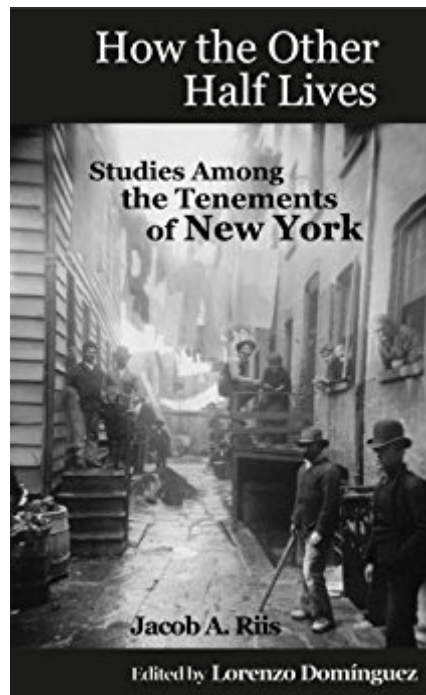


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# How The Other Half Lives: Studies Among The Tenements Of New York (with 100+ Endnotes)



## Synopsis

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION " 123 new endnotes that provide insight to the contemporary reader to understand the historical, political and social context of Riis's story. All endnotes are hyperlinked to their original online sources for further in-depth research or reading. " Edited by Lorenzo Domínguez, bestselling author and award winning New York City street photographer whose book *25 Lessons I've Learned about Photography*, is the #1 bestselling essay on in 2010 & 2011. " New author biography and short publication history, not available in other versions. " All the original illustrations and photos have been restored. " A bonus gallery of the photos that inspired the illustrations in the original 1890 edition. " Typos found in other versions have been corrected. " Statistics found in the original appendix have been recreated and organized for easier understanding. " Priced for accessibility, this version was created as a public service for the millions of students and photography enthusiasts, who are interested in how photography can make a difference in people's lives, sway public policy and inform the public about important social issues affecting their lives and those of others. " More than 21,000 lines and a million characters of code, as well as hundreds of hours of editing and coding were required to create this special edition. \*\*As of the publishing date one small glitch was discovered. The book opens at the Endnotes. Please overlook and simply go to your table of contents to choose where you would like to begin reading. I am working on a fix.

ABOUT JACOB RISS AND HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES Poetically detailing the lives of the impoverished of New York City's tenement slums at the end of the 19th century, *How the Other Half Lives* not only brought Riis wide acclaim but also sparked vast social reform at the turn of the twentieth century. It was also one of the first books to use photographs instead of engraved illustrations, which were the standard for images in all forms of print at the time. " Jacob Riis is the true Grandfather of Photojournalism, " proclaims bestselling author Lorenzo Domínguez. " Although film publicists have purported that Henri Cartier-Bresson deserves the title, he was not born until 1908, 18 years after Riis published *How the Other Half Lives*, a best seller that helped establish photojournalism as a true profession. " In addition to pioneering socio-documentary photography, Riis was also a notable muckraker, a leader of social reform at the advent of the Progressive Era and a personal friend of President Teddy Roosevelt, who wrote in his 1913 autobiography " My whole life was influenced by my long association with Jacob Riis, whom I am tempted to call the best American I ever knew. " Also an award-winning New York City street photographer, Domínguez recently restored, edited and published a new edition of this American classic, which is now available for Kindles, iPads and most smartphones.

ABOUT THE EDITOR Lorenzo Domínguez is a best-selling author, writer and an

award-winning street photographer. He has written numerous books, interviews and articles about fine art and photography. Throughout 2010 and 2011, his book, *25 Lessons I've Learned about Photography* has been the #1 Bestselling photo essay on .com. Paul Giguere, guru for the popular podcast thoughts on photography, considers *25 Lessons* one of the "classic" essays on photography. For more information go to [www.25Lessons.com](http://www.25Lessons.com). In October of 2010, Lorenzo served as the NYC photography adviser for Microsoft and in 2008 he was chosen to be the HP Be Brilliant Featured Artist. He has been called an "Internet photography sensation" by Time Out NY and is considered a "Flickr star" by Rob Walker, Consumed columnist, for New York Times Magazine. His work is represented worldwide by Getty Images.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

How did our grandfathers and great-grandfathers (and great-great, I suppose) survive immigration and the slums? What was life like on the Lower East Side of New York? For those of us whose family has only been in the US for a few generations, this is a must-read. Whether Irish, Italian,

Jewish, Chinese or Polish, German, Russian, hordes of refugees ended up in New York on the promise of a better life. Reading Riis' book reads like the newspaper in some ways; entrepreneurs lured poor people from Eastern Europe and contracted out their labor in sweat shops in the US. Sound familiar? But what is not so familiar are the living conditions in the tenements, dark, unventilated cages in blocks of buildings that rented for a surprising high rent to people who died by the thousands in the unsanitary conditions. Farm animals had it better. Why was rent so high? Supply and demand. Cheaper rent was to be had in Brooklyn and the outlying (as yet unincorporated) boroughs, but the WORK was in Manhattan, where you could get by as a tailor, a seamstress, a peddler or in some illegitimate activity. The conditions will make you cry; the story of foundling babies (abandoned newborns) is astonishing. A cradle was put outside a Catholic Church and instead of a baby each night, racks of babies appeared. The Church had to establish foundling hospitals run by nuns, who persuaded the unwed or impoverished mothers to nurse the baby they gave up, plus another baby (women can usually nurse two, though these malnourished women must have been hard-pressed.) The child mortality rate, especially in the "back tenements" or buildings built on to the back of others (dark and airless) was incredible.

"The business of housing the poor, if it is to amount to anything, must be business, as it was business with our fathers to put them where they are. As charity, pastime, or fad, it will miserably fail, always and everywhere" (p. 201). Jacob A. Riis, in his book, *How the Other Half Lives*, vividly describes the human condition of the tenements of New York during the late 1800's. The author provides not only a physical description of the tenement buildings but delves deeper into the people who live there and why they don't leave the pits of filth and despair. Jacob Riis, presents a compelling account of the intricate business of managing the slums of New York and maintaining the status quo among the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to America to seek a new and prosperous life. After arriving they found they were trapped in a life of high rents and low wages with little hope for improvement of their circumstances. What little help was available seemed to be in the form of charity that couldn't sustain the prideful immigrants desire to succeed in this country. The reader is taken on a tour of the slums and introduced to the groups of immigrants nationality by nationality and given a full account of the author's stereotypical ideas about their good and bad points. Of the Italian Riis says he only spends time indoors when it's raining or he is sick. When the sun shines the entire population seeks the streets carrying on all facets of life (p. 47). He further says the Italian is a born gambler (p 44) and learns slowly, if at all (p. 42) so that his job of working the ash carts is simply suited for him. On the positive side Riis says the Italian is as honest

as he is hot-headed (p. 45).

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