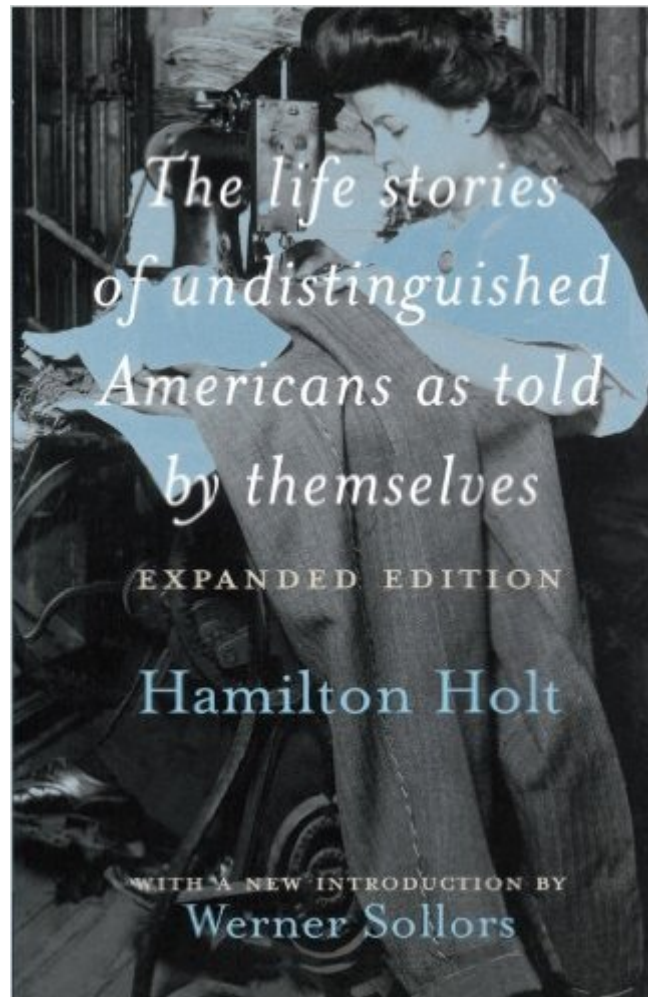


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The Life Stories Of Undistinguished Americans As Told By Themselves: Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Hamilton Holt, editor of *The Independent*, collected these touching autobiographies of ordinary people--new immigrants and sharecroppers, cooks and fishermen, women and men working in sweatshops, in the city, and on the land. First published in 1906, and reissued a decade ago, this new edition of *Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans* is expanded to include lives Holt did not include in his original selection, as well as a new preface by Werner Sollors.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is such a simple yet revealing book about what life was (and meant) for so many people in the 1800s. I love the "undistinguished Americans" line in the title because it is exactly that, the people that made up the daily threads of American life, who thanks to their hard work too we are the country we've become. Every story is particular and reveals surprising details of their daily lives. Note, the book is a reprint on demand of the original book (great way to save paper btw), so the pages look like they are scanned and the font is really big (at first when I received it I thought I had mistakenly ordered a "large print" book). Wonderful and moving stories.

I'm not one of the sort of people who falls often for heart warming. I'm too bitter, too jaded... too educated to be able to gush openly about kindly regard for many things. This book, though, deserves that kind of praise. As you could gather from the blurbs from magazines, this is a hundred year old book that seeks to illustrate the lives of typical, everyday (not to say uninteresting) Americans. The book is short; it's stories are realistic. Thus, it gives great insight into our collective

'ancestry': a voice to the long-dead. I'm inclined to think that every time I mentally want to destroy America, in this book, again, could be found renewed hope and exploration. In this book one can find the stories of Lithuanians who set out to cross the ocean, of free black women finding for the first time life in a segregated south, of Greek pushcart workers who end up with \$50,000 in the bank. More or less, these are the voices that give our community continuity.... and, well, I'm starting to ramble and make little sense....Just read the book....

This book comes Highly recommended. It gives an historical overview that most books miss. Words from the common person, struggling to survive and thrive are inspiring .

I hope this is one of many books just like this one! Heart-warming stories, you'll wish you'd known the person first-hand. I'm actually buying copies of this book for various friends that think the only history they need to know is on the History Channel! Well-written.

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