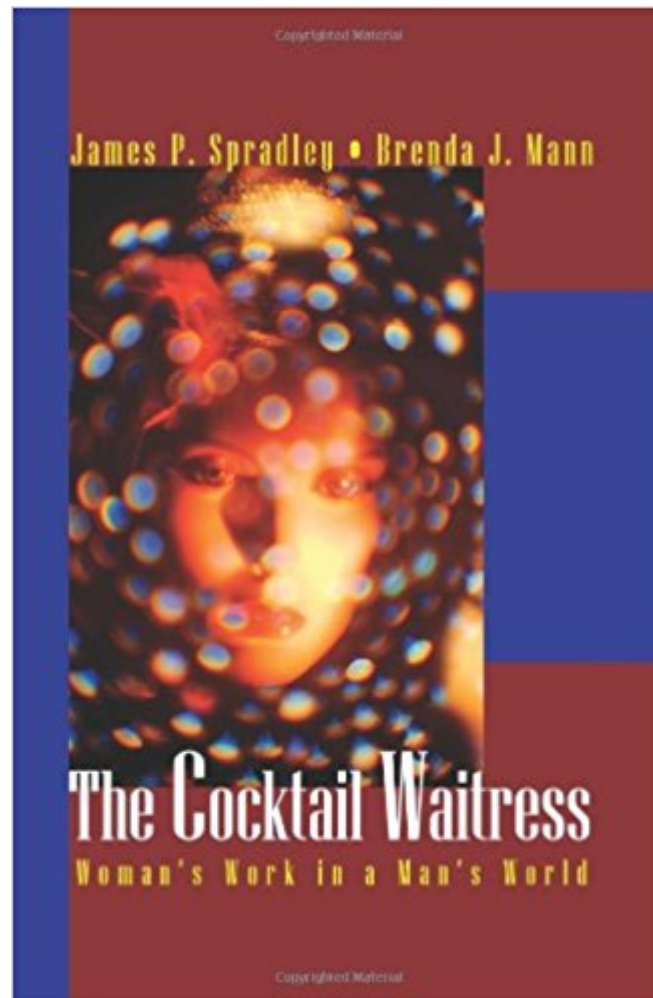




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The Cocktail Waitress: Women's Work In A Man's World



Synopsis

A 1975 classic, this highly readable, in-depth study examines a familiar female role in contemporary American society. The authors apply fieldwork methods to the study of social behavior in a college bar--as viewed from the perspective of cocktail waitresses. They describe in detail the day-to-day lives of women and the meaning of work for women in a man's world. Not a feminist tract, their book provides a wealth of empirical data on the nature of being female in our culture. The Cocktail Waitress examines female/male relationships as well as patterns of male dominance in social interaction, and shows how these are linked to more general issues in anthropology. The work teaches important social science concepts while always dealing with the college student's own world. Its objective presentation of the waitress casts light on significant social issues and the role of women in today's society, together with the manner in which female-male roles are interlocked.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"From an academic and in particular a methodological perspective, this ethnographic study of bar culture stands the test of time. The way in which the authors masterfully use evidence to draw conclusions and the vivid descriptions of people, places, and events bring Brady's Bar to life for the reader." --Anthropology of Work Review

Other works by James P. Spradley and available from Waveland Press: You Owe Yourself a Drunk: An Ethnography of Urban Nomads (ISBN 9781577660859 and The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society, Second Edition (with David W. McCurdy and Dianna J. Shandy)

(ISBN 9781577663645).

Enduring story based on a thorough ethnography that ethics committees would never allow, today. Constantly in print since the mid-1970s, "Cocktail Waitress" is interesting, on it's own, but especially useful in university courses where contact with the practices and processes of the quotidian world is as important as theories about such stuff.

This was a book I first read in college as part of a sociology class. To re-read this further removed from the time it was observing was astonishing. While society has moved forward, certain relevancies continue to prove true. For anyone who has ever sat in a bar you will find some part of this book insightful, and right on the money. Although severely dated, it was fun to read again.

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