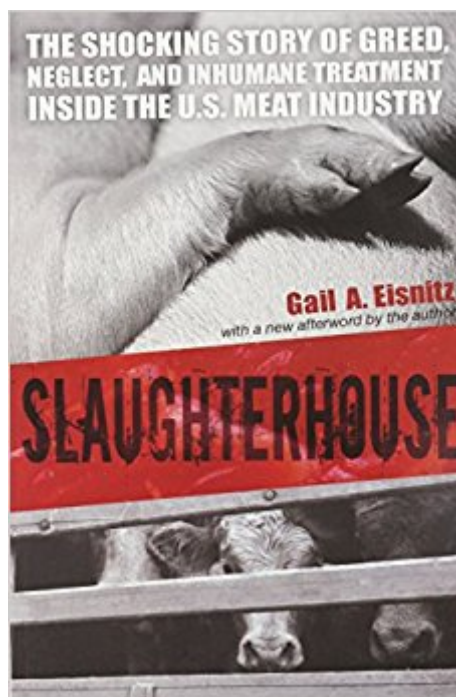




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# Slaughterhouse: The Shocking Story Of Greed, Neglect, And Inhumane Treatment Inside The U.S. Meat Industry



## Synopsis

Slaughterhouse is the first book of its kind to explore the impact that unprecedented changes in the meatpacking industry over the last twenty-five years – particularly industry consolidation, increased line speeds, and deregulation – have had on workers, animals, and consumers. It is also the first time ever that workers have spoken publicly about what’s really taking place behind the closed doors of America’s slaughterhouses. In this new paperback edition, author Gail A. Eisnitz brings the story up to date since the book’s original publication. She describes the ongoing efforts by the Humane Farming Association to improve conditions in the meatpacking industry, media exposés that have prompted reforms resulting in multimillion dollar appropriations by Congress to try to enforce federal inspection laws, and a favorable decision by the Supreme Court to block construction of what was slated to be one of the largest hog factory farms in the country. Nonetheless, Eisnitz makes it clear that abuses continue and much work still needs to be done.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As Eisnitz convincingly shows, the meat industry is indifferent to animal suffering, exploitative of its workers, and liable to produce a product that is riddled with dangerous bacteria. Whether you eat meat or not – if you care about humans or animals – this book is a must read." Peter Singer, Princeton University Author of *In Defense of Animals* and *Animal Liberation* "This book penetrates the veil of psychic numbing that keeps us oblivious to the real truth behind modern meat.

If you want to remain a prisoner of your own ignorance, don't read it. It will make you aware. It will wake you up. It will change your life." ."John Robbins, Founder of the EarthSave FoundationAuthor of Diet for a New America

What started out, with a single complaint about a Florida slaughterhouse turned into a tale of intrigue and suspense as investigator Gail A. Eisnitz unearthed more startling information about the meat and poultry Americans consume. This shocking story follows Eisnitz as she becomes submerged in a slaughterhouse subculture, venturing deeper and deeper into the lives of the workers. As the stakes become higher in her David-and-Goliath-type battle, this determined young woman finds herself courageously taking on one of America's most powerful industries. Slaughterhouse takes readers on a frightening but true journey from one slaughterhouse to another throughout the country. Along the way we encounter example after example of mistreated animals...intolerable working conditions...lax standards...the slow, painful deaths of children killed as a result of eating contaminated meat...the author's battle with the major television networks...and a dangerously corrupt federal agency that chooses to do nothing rather than risk the wrath of agribusiness...before the whole affair is blown wide open in this powerful expose. In an effort to understand how such rampant violations could occur right under the noses of U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors - the individuals charged with enforcing humane regulations in slaughterhouses - Eisnitz examines the inspectors' track record for enforcing meat and poultry safety regulations, their primary responsibility. Following a long paper trail, she learns that contaminated meat and poultry are pouring out of federally inspected slaughterhouses and, not surprisingly, deaths from foodborne illness have quadrupled in the United States in the last fifteen years. Determined to tell the whole story, Eisnitz then examines the physical price paid by employees working in one of America's most dangerous industries. In addition to suffering disfiguring injuries and crippling repetitive motion disorders, employees describe tyrannical working conditions in which grievances are met with severe reprisals or dismissals.

After reading the prologue, I was not sure how to approach Eisnitz's book. It jumps right into her story of collecting affidavits and interviews in an attempt to expose USDA's failure to uphold federal standards. Her collection was brutal and disturbing. After each interview, I felt disgusted by my naive trust in the meat industry for the first 21 years of my life. She develops an argument against the meat industry's current business standards and operations by conveying its negative social and environmental externalities not through statistics and scientific research but through human

experience. Towards the end of her story, she really cracks into the heart of the problem. She explains that too many people have turned a blind eye. The information is right in front of them, but they refuse to accept that their way of life is socially and environmentally destructive. She concludes by saying that, despite her many set backs, she accepts that all she can do is tell her story and the stories she has collected. Some may open their eyes but many will choose to ignore her. This book compelled this reader and refuse to accept the status quo. Bravo! Bravo! Encore!

Slaughterhouse, by Gail A. Eisnitz, helped me to become acutely aware of the gross and negligent violations of the Humane Slaughter Act committed in the vast majority of slaughterhouses throughout the U.S. If you consume any kind of meat or animal protein, you would be wise to read this book. Exhaustive investigative work reveals the shocking truth of the appalling, unfortunate and inexcusable, ongoing heinous crimes committed everyday against defenseless domestic animals. This milestone tome has forever changed my life for the better as I have recently made a personal decision to become a Vegan. By exposing the constant HSA violations that agribusiness slaughterhouses like Carolina Foods, John Morell & Co., Kaplan, IBF, Tyson, Sun Prairie, Smithfield Foods Inc., et al., carry out on a daily basis, I have become informed of the atrocious inhumane handling and slaughter of domestic farm animals destined for human consumption. Equally alarming is the knowledge of the absolutely un-hygienic conditions that exist in most of these processing plants due to the lack of adequate supervision on the part of the USDA, the federal department that should have unbiased, independent (of the avaricious, private slaughterhouse companies and unscrupulous, unethical private political agendas) inspectors present at these facilities to not only ensure against HSA violations, among other responsibilities, but to watch out for negligence that could ultimately affect public health safety. Not to mention the unsafe, unjust, hazardous and dangerous work conditions that many slaughterhouse employees must endure. An immense amount of gratitude to Ms. Eisnitz for her extraordinary, valient efforts to stop the suffering that so many animals endure. I highly recommend this book to all conscientious human beings and wholeheartedly pledge my support to this most noble cause.

I picked this book up because it was suggested by the Skinny Girl book. After reading the Skinny Girl book, I was a little nervous that this book was going to be several hundred pages of "boohoo, when you eat a chicken nugget or eat a burger you are a terrible murdering person." I was very grateful that the book was not. This book sucks you in and although it is a little repetitive, it is a terrific read. I was pleasantly surprised at the content of the book. It addressed poultry, pork,

beef and even horse slaughter. But the most interesting part is the way the author examines the human aspect of the slaughterhouses. This was not just a book about animal cruelty, but also about the terrible working conditions for the humans in the factories, the psychological ramifications, and bureaucracy surrounding it all. I would highly recommend this book to anyone, be they meat eater, vegan or vegetarian. Everyone should know where their food comes from. And after this book, you might just care a little bit more when you head to the market about your choices. I know I do!

This book effectively explains the horrors of the north american meat producing industry. It effectively communicates the impact that the industry has on the animals, who are literally tortured to death, and the people that work in the industry, who become inhuman, desensitized monsters. This book also demonstrates the author's frustration at trying to bring the evil of this terrible industry to light, only to be thwarted by the national media that wants no part of such a graphic story about such a powerful and monied corporate interest. I have not fact checked the author's research, but the book does appear to be well-researched. I would have preferred a little more insight into the effects of the meat producing industry on the environment. The book does discuss some of the impact, but not in any significant detail. This book, like other similar books, is a wake up call to Americans who don't understand the enormous price of their cheap supermarket meat.

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