

The book was found

# Lives On The Edge: Single Mothers And Their Children In The Other America

## **Lives on the Edge**



**Single Mothers and their Children  
in the Other America**

...

**Valerie Polakow**



## Synopsis

One out of five children, and one out of two single mothers, lives in destitution in America today. The feminization and "infantilization" of poverty have made the United States one of the most dangerous democracies for poor mothers and their children to inhabit. Why then, Valerie Polakow asks, is poverty seen as a private issue, and how can public policy fail to take responsibility for the consequences of our politics of distribution? Written by a committed child advocate, *Lives on the Edge* draws on social, historical, feminist, and public policy perspectives to develop an informed, wide-ranging critique of American educational and social policy. Stark, penetrating, and unflinching in its first-hand portraits of single mothers in America today, this work challenges basic myths about justice and democracy.

## Book Information

Series: Single Mothers and Their Children in the Other America

Paperback: 232 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (May 28, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226671844

ISBN-13: 978-0226671840

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #759,553 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting > Single Parents](#) #341 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families](#) #626 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting > Parenting Girls](#)

## Customer Reviews

Gracefully and forcefully written, this study charges that the male-dominated culture in the U.S. has always created myths that allow society to cast poor single mothers and their children into "otherness." The most prevalent myth, according to Polakow, who teaches educational psychology and early childhood studies at Eastern Michigan University, is that poor people got that way because of their own sociocultural or psychological pathology. Our "public policy of detachment," writes Polakow, stems from our historical attitudes about the nature of motherhood and childhood and about "normal families," contentions Polakow substantiates in her interviews with women who tell horrifying stories of how they fared under our welfare system when in need. Polakow calls for an

overhaul of this country's social policies to make health care, housing, child care allowances and parental leave mandatory entitlements for all provided by government. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The author of *The Erosion of Childhood* (Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1992) here takes an in-depth look at female-headed families enmeshed in poverty and the inept American welfare system, which she portrays as essentially hostile to single mothers. The book chronicles the history of poverty in the United States as it has affected women raising children alone, then examines the present-day lives of single mothers and their families, with particular attention to the children's experiences in school. Polakow (early childhood education, Eastern Michigan Univ.) offers example after depressing example to support her point that the welfare system traps women rather than helping them. Disturbing and often heartbreaking to read, this thought-provoking book is highly recommended for all libraries.- Jennifer Langlois, Missouri Western State Coll. Lib., St. Joseph Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great book for teacher and parents.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Lives on the Edge: Single Mothers and Their Children in the Other America  
Difficult Mothers: Difficult Mothers Cure: Toxic Relationships With Narcissistic Mothers Understood And Overcome Forever! (Difficult Mothers, narcissistic ... absent mother, narcissist relationship)  
Holding Her Head High: 12 Single Mothers Who Championed Their Children and Changed History  
Single Mothers by Choice: A Guidebook for Single Women Who Are Considering or Have Chosen Motherhood  
Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich Their Lives by Kathryn Lynard Soper (2007-05-15)  
Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich Their Lives by Martha Sears (Foreword), Kathryn Lynard Soper (29-May-2007) Paperback  
I Love You Mom! Floral and Gardening Coloring Book for All Ages: Mother's Day Gifts in all Departments; Mothers Day Gifts in al; Mother's Day in ... Gifts from Son in al; Mothers Day Gifts in al  
You're Not Crazy - It's Your Mother: Understanding and Healing for Daughters of Narcissistic Mothers (Daughters Of Narccissistic Mothers Book 1)  
The Mothers' Board: Mothers Know Best  
Strong Mothers, Strong Sons: Lessons Mothers Need to Raise Extraordinary Men  
American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work  
Great Disciples of the Buddha: Their Lives, Their Works, Their Legacies  
The Single Guy's First Trip To Vietnam: Helping single guy's make the most out of their

first vacation to enjoy the Vietnam nightlife and meet sexy girls. Pro-Life: Saving the Lives of Unborn Children, Making Possible Their Descendants, and Helping Their Parents Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice: How Women are Choosing Parenthood without Marriage and Creating the New American Family Through My Own Eyes: Single Mothers and the Cultures of Poverty War Hero: The Unlikely Story of A Stray Dog, An American Soldier and the Battle of Their Lives (Kindle Single) The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women Born Survivors: Three Young Mothers and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage, Defiance, and Hope

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)