



displaying pictures of naked women meant to rile Nagle, as one of the workers went on a misogynistic rant. Nagle walked out of the garage, to remove herself from the situation, and returned to the lockers later a semi-permanent worker. One cannot say for certain that an ordinary DSNY worker would have the same opinions of the job as Nagle if he or she was to write a book about it. Interestingly, Nagle spends an entire chapter attempting to describe the job from a married male's perspective. Surprisingly, the reader is not made aware of this change in perspective (and change from non-visibility to visibility) before it begins, and the chapter repeats several thoughts and ideas from previous chapters. There is also an entire chapter devoted to the story of two sanitation department tug boats being shot at sea during a brutal winter storm. While enjoyable reading, it is only tangentially related to the book's main themes.

Nagle did share one thing in common with the other sanitation workers – they were all invisible. She was made aware of this fact when, on a morning garbage run with two men, a beautiful woman married to a man who works in the same department, she was aware of this change in perspective (and change from non-visibility to visibility) before it begins, and the chapter repeats several thoughts and ideas from previous chapters. There is also an entire chapter devoted to the story of two sanitation department tug boats being shot at sea during a brutal winter storm. While enjoyable reading, it is only tangentially related to the book's main themes.

Overall, I do not believe Robin Nagle has achieved her goal of transferring sanitation work from the "unmarked" to the "marked" category of topics. While we are made aware of why sanitation work is extremely important and dangerous, the book does not offer much to challenge the stereotype of the job as extremely monotonous, and relatively uncomplicated. Had she gone into greater detail in describing a typical day's work, this might have created for readers a stronger connection to and appreciation for the men who do the job. Additionally, Nagle appears to have missed an opportunity to learn about the internment of Japanese-Americans.

To prove the value and importance of sanitation and a clean city, the author explains that New York regularly struggled with various deadly diseases from the 17th through most of the 19th centuries due to inadequate sanitation strategies and corruption within the sanitation department. Under Tammany rule, the infant mortality rate increased by 65% from 1810 to 1870, the death rate was 1 in 36 in 1860, and at any given point in time, between 50 and 70% of New Yorkers were ill. The Ladies Health Protective Association began a movement for a cleaner New York in 1884, and their goals were achieved after George E. Waring, appointed head of the Department of Street Cleaning in 1894, brought major changes to the department. The result was a far cleaner New York by 1896, removing waste from the streets that was, in some places, knee-high.

In *Picking Up: On the Streets and Behind the Trucks with the Sanitation Workers of New York City*, Robin Nagle provides very interesting insights on a little-studied profession and her personal

inside account of the lives of New York's sanitation workers and tracing the evolution of the city's battles to clean its streets, Nagle has made a strong case to include sanitation work in the "marked" category.

up and heaving into a truck. Nagle also learned that the position of supervisor, while seemingly appealing, is generally shunned

by ordinary workers due to the initial pay cut upon accepting the position, the forced realignment of relationships with coworkers, and the loss of respect from the public. On a camping trip when she was ten years old, behind a campsite that had otherwise seemed pure and unspoiled, Nagle discovered a 40-foot-wide pile of garbage that upset her childhood assumptions about adults' concern for their environment. This sparked an interest in waste management that years later led her to become a New York sanitation worker – at the same time she was becoming a professor at NYU. But the process of gaining access to sanitation work and later becoming fully employed were not as easy as she'd expected.

New York's Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has not had the greatest relationship with the media over the years. Reporters who'd been granted the opportunity to interview staff would ask unassuming questions and generally appear pleasant. But in most of the resulting publications, the department would emerge with its reputation even further damaged. To make matters worse, on a field trip with her NYU students to Fresh Kills Land II on Staten Island, once the largest land II in the world, Nagle allowed a New York Times reporter to come along, without first receiving permission from the DSNY. This mistake, coupled with the DSNY's general disdain for the media, barred Nagle from her quest to do sanitation work for several years. It was not until 2002 that Vito Turso, DSNY's newly appointed Deputy Commissioner for Public Information, allowed her to visit a DSNY facility. Turso required her to fully commit both her mind and body toward picking