

ABSTRACT

Author: Steff Sirois

Title: WHERE THEY WANT YOU: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Thesis Advisor: Tim Parrish

Department: Department of English

Year: 2020

“Where They Want You” is a collection of short stories that explores a crucial staple of American culture, right up there with fireworks and barbecues: abuse of members of the working class. Although the people who cook your food, brew your coffee, bag your groceries, and deliver your packages with speedy two-day shipping are oftentimes represented in media and government policy as unnecessary and insignificant, Capitalism has shown us that they are exactly opposite. Conniving CEOs bully millions into jobs where they’re paid next to nothing, injure themselves, and are constantly shown that they don’t matter, forcing them to work regardless of health problems, dangerous conditions, and even global pandemics—a reality we can plainly see right now as workers continue to clock in at Starbucks, Dunkin, McDonald’s, and other “essential” slices of American cuisine. These stories explore the people who work these jobs, the conflicts they face because of their working class status, and the consequences of being victimized by American classism.