

The Blue Collar Brilliance story narrates the work and home life of Rose “Rosie” Mergalio Rose. She is a mother to the author, Nick Rose. The author talks about his mother as a woman whose life has been shaped by her career as a waitress. He documents her hardships, how she overcomes obstacles, and the mastery she possessed at work over time. Despite many people assuming the work of blue collar workers is easy, blue collar work requires just as much rigor, and complex job skills as many white collar jobs.

Rose begins by informing readers of Rosie’s daily tasks and work responsibilities. Rosie worked smart in her career as a waitress. She learned to organize and group her tasks. “A waitress acquires knowledge and intuition about the ways and the rhythms of the restaurant business... Rosie devised memory strategies so that she could remember who ordered what. And because she knew the average time it took to prepare different dishes, she could monitor an order that was taking too long at the service station” (Rose 44). There was always a form of organization in the way she conducted her tasks. She considered which tasks to cluster as she circled through her stations. In an article named “The Blue Collar Drought”, Mason Bishop, a principal at WorkED Consulting stated “Blue-collar workers” is an archaic term. It hearkens to “dirty” jobs of yesteryear and is a term that I hope goes away. I think we should talk about “skilled tradesworkers” or a similar term, because today’s blue-collar workers need more technical and technology skills’ than in years past” (Wilkie). Blue collar workers are constantly being subjected to a lower standard when they are the ones doing the physical important work.

In general, waitresses are entitled with the responsibility of offering cafe menus and greeting customers. Including answering menu inquiries, pricing, availability and more. Rose emphasizes the idea that there's more to just “basic” intelligence to the job. Rose says “We reinforce this notion by defining intelligence solely on grades in school and numbers on IQ tests. And we employ social biases pertaining to a person’s place on the occupational ladder.”

Rosie also shaped her life because she handled her customers maturely. She did everything on the fly (Rose 45). The author asserts that it was difficult to tell a day when she woke up on the wrong side of the bed. She returned her orders so effectively and happily customers always assumed she was in a great mood. Another example showed that Rosie shaped her life that she considered the emotional state of her customers. She was keen not to cross any lines while solving problems. These included both technical and physical issues. Aside from the story, despite the kind of job many are grateful regardless just to simply be employed. Securing a job is not second nature to most and keeping one is also just as hard. People who’s lives are shaped

<https://www.shrm.org/hr-today/news/all-things-work/pages/the-blue-collar-drought.aspx>