Working on the Railroad by Brian Solomon

The notion of working on a railroad has always carried its share of romance, taking in everything from the dreams of small boys to legends like John Henry and Casey Jones. The reality is far more complicated and often, as this book amply demonstrates, more interesting. This richly illustrated volume takes us behind the scenes to show what goes into keeping a railroad running in our era of computer-aided 6,000-horsepower diesel locomotion. Author and photographer Brian Solomon explains who does what and how, from dispatching and signaling to maintaining locomotives and driving trains.

Everything it takes to keep a railroad running smoothly and safely—the daily decisions, the procedures that must be followed, the lowdown on track maintenance—comes clearly into view as Solomon gives readers both a seat in the locomotive and the dispatcher’s view. Into this larger account he weaves anecdotes from railroad workers as well as the historical evolution of railway vocations, with descriptions of how each job has changed over time as well as marvelous archival imagery that illustrates these developments.

Features:
* Notes:
* Click here to view our Condition Guide and Shipping Prices

My Personal Review:
This is an insiders look at what it's really like to work on the railroad. It's a collection of stories and pictures of men and machines from the later days...
of steam to today. Here is the engineer pulling on the throttle, but here also is the maintenance man carrying an oil can to lubricate the reciprocating parts of a steam locomotive.

The pictures and the book can't help but convey the romance of the men who make it happen on the railroad. This is in spite of the words that point out that the work is dangerous, that you can be called out at any moment, and that a lot of the work is very dirty - especially during steam engine days.

Mr. Solomon has spent most of his life writing about the railroads. He has already published twenty-something books before doing this one. He knows whereof he speaks and is able to explain what he knows clearly and interestingly.

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