

Slaughterhouse

by Gail Eisnitz

Questions to answer before class

- 1) What year was *The Jungle* published and what year was *Slaughterhouse* published? Based on what was described in *Slaughterhouse*, how has the humane treatment of animals changed in that time? (not based on your experiences, but on the details in the book) Have things gotten better or worse?
- 2) What is your experience with modern cattle or pig slaughter? Is it like Eisnitz describes or not?
- 3) For chapter 1; can you find anthropomorphic text, or is it all objective?
- 4) What other society issues does Eisnitz bring up other than animal welfare?
- 5) What is the USDA standard for humane “slaughter”? When is it acceptable and unacceptable in terms of insensibility? You will have to consult the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.
- 6) Look up the incident at Hallmark Westland cattle slaughter plant in California. What year was it? What happened to cause problems at that plant?

Questions for in-class discussion

- 1) Compare *The Jungle* and *Slaughterhouse*. The same or different? The same impact or not?
- 2) What philosophy does Eisnitz espouse or appeal to?
- 3) What do you think Peter Singer would say about *Slaughterhouse*?
- 4) Have things changed at slaughter plants since 1997?
- 5) If your uncle read *Slaughterhouse*, what would you tell him?
- 6) What is the USDA standard for humane “slaughter”? When is it acceptable and unacceptable in terms of insensibility? You will have to consult the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.
- 7) How does the USDA inspect animals ante mortem and peri-slaughter?
- 8) What philosophy is used by the slaughter plants in their view of food animals?