

Evicted....Poverty and Profit in the America City..... 2016 Matthew Desmond

Matthew Desmond, a United States sociologist, wrote this compelling book that takes a first-hand look at what it means to be evicted and living on the edge in this country. He writes of the lives of Arleen, Jori, Larraine, Scott, Pam, Crystal, Vanetta, and Sherrrena and Tobin. We read about their experiences living in rental property or being a landlord of these properties in Milwaukee. Readers of this book will get a glimpse into the struggles faced by persons living in poor neighborhoods and trying to afford shelter on very little income. Further, we read of their experiences in both formal and informal evictions and the reality that there are laws that create further barriers for them in their search for stable housing. Readers will learn that eviction records are public and how that further complicates matters. The author himself lived in these same neighborhoods and wrote this book only after spending time getting to know the individuals he was writing about. He also was able to do other research including surveys of renters in the city; reviewing school, court and public property records. He writes that "Eviction is a cause, not just a condition of poverty". The author's epilogue provides more details into his research and his suggestion that a universal housing voucher for all poor might be a better public policy to help those living in poverty.