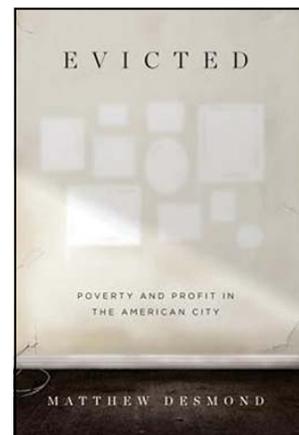


FHCWM Book Club Questions

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.



1. What did you learn that surprised you? Were you familiar with most of the history and events presented in the book?
2. Have you ever been in a position when you didn't have enough money for rent or a mortgage payment? Where you couldn't find anywhere to live? What do you think you would have done or even been able to do if you ever were in such a position?
3. What do you think of what the community (government agencies, nonprofits, others) has done to address evictions? What barriers did you see? What do you think should be done?
4. Were you surprised by the varied responses each tenant got from the landlords?
5. How did experiencing eviction impact the tenants? Their children? Did their experiences align with what you thought before reading the book or were they different?
6. How did experiencing eviction impact the landlords? Or other third parties? Did their experiences align with what you thought before reading the book or were they different?
7. What kinds of fair housing issues or barriers to housing choice did you see? What are some of the systemic barriers, issues or implications presented in the book?
8. Discuss the role of the criminal justice system.
9. Several of the tenants experience domestic violence or sexual abuse, some have disabilities, some use illegal drugs. How do those experiences impact their housing searches and other opportunities?
10. If you could ask Matthew Desmond a question, what would it be?

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Opening Doors to Housing Choice

