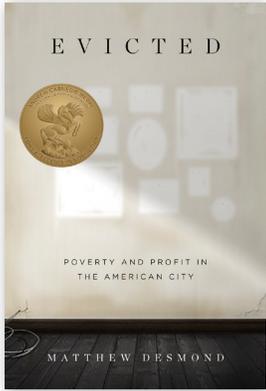


Andrew Carnegie

Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



2017 NONFICTION WINNER

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City
by Matthew Desmond
published by Crown, Penguin Random House

Through the stories of two landlords and eight families, Desmond exposes the harrowing stories of people who find themselves in bad situations, shining a light on how eviction sets people up to fail and what role the housing crisis plays in systemic poverty.

BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Prior to reading the book, were you aware of the toll evictions take on individuals and families? Has the book broadened your perspective about the personal and societal implications of this problem?
2. How does eviction impact the lives of women and children?
3. What are the connections between subpar housing conditions and tenant health?
4. How are landlords portrayed in the book? Are their actions justified?
5. While many scenes in the book elicit a variety of emotions or opinions from readers, there is a specific event in the book that gets people talking. When Lorraine gets her food assistance reinstated, the first thing she buys is an extravagant meal that costs her entire month's allotment. How did that make you feel initially? What about after Desmond explains that for many people with food insecurity, it is "difficult to imagine the amount of good behavior or self-control that would allow them to lift themselves out of poverty." Do you agree or disagree?
6. Did you find yourself identifying with some individuals examined more than others? Who stuck with you, and why?
7. What does the author do to make the reader understand the landlords' situations? Is he presenting all sides of the eviction issue in a balanced manner? Why would Sherrrena tell Arleen not to become a landlord?
8. Desmond writes that "poverty is profitable." Is this something you were aware of? How does this reflect on capitalism?

Cont. on next page

BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE CONT.

9. Desmond proposes several solutions for the issues surrounding the cycle of poverty and evictions. Do you think it's possible to implement those solutions? How probable is success?
10. Can you think of other possible remedies?

INTERESTED IN STARTING A BOOK GROUP?

The American Library Association offers resources on how to get started, how to structure a meeting, how to select books and how to facilitate a meaningful literary discussion.

For more information visit <http://libguides.ala.org/bookdiscussiongroups>.

ABOUT THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE

Co-sponsored by *Booklist* and RUSA (Reference and User Services Association), a division of the American Library Association, these awards were established to recognize the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers with a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. To learn more about the awards, books, and authors, visit ala.org/carnegieadult.