

20 March 2019

Desmond, "Evicted"

Prologue:

- pg. 2: truck or curb: either get stuff out yourself or it's put on sidewalk
↳ what do people do who just can't afford to move their stuff? lose it, I guess
- pg. 3: rent 88% of Allen's monthly welfare check
↳ if don't know how (society) expect people to actually better their situations when they're left w/ less than \$100/month to live due to highly priced housing.
- pg. 3-4: evictions used to be rare; riots, crowds, newspaper articles, etc.; others sat on furniture to prevent removal
↳ now, evictions common; no one bats an eye
↳ if can only assume there's some relation w/ this and race due to poverty rates; people expect this to happen to poor POC, so whites can't be bothered caring
- pg. 4: one in four spends over 70% on rent/utilities, 1/3 over 50%
↳ this is ridiculous; we have to do better - wages need to keep up w/ inflation, minimum wage needs reg. increases, housing more affordable, etc.

Chapter 1:

- pg. 9: "rent-collector": a shitty vehicle landlords drive in bad/poor neighborhoods
- pg. 10: I never would have guessed ~~that~~ Milwaukee was once the 17th largest city in U.S.
- pg. 12: it's great that you have such entrepreneurship + faith in yourself, but what you've chosen to do (being a landlord) is going to end up harming others
↳ partially b/c of the ~~cap~~ capitalist nature of our society
- pg. 13: Sherrera chose to spec. in renting to black poor
↳ could be seen as serving a needy population OR as incredibly predatory
- pg. 15: cost of fuel > utilities ↑ more than 50% since 2000
- pg. 16: having a heart = bad; if understand Sherrera's perspective but do Φ sympathy → she chose to be a slumlord

Chapter 2:

pg 21: it's unfortunate that young black men have to deal w/ (police) discrimination in the way they do

↳ that sometimes they learn the hard way (being arrested) that society is structured against them

pg 24: Milwaukee has ~~has~~ lost a lot of good jobs (esp. manufacturing)

↳ thanks to outsourcing & union busting

pg 24-25: by 1990, black poverty 42%; today 57% unemployment for working age black men (Milwaukee)

↳ this is insane; we need more (good) jobs; renewable energy jobs w/ training, infrastructure, etc

pg 25: Lamar: after rent, \$781/month

↳ people can't possibly live on this

pg 28-29: all these real estate people sound awful

↳ exploitive, predatory; I care about others at all, only their bottom lines

pg 29: and Sherrera herself is deplorable

↳ the more this book goes on, the less I sympathize; she's a landlord who doesn't care about her tenants

Chapter 3:

pg 34: Civil Rights Act in 1964 & Voting in 1965, but housing not covered until 1968

pg 37: and racism once again

↳ poor whites think they're better than poor blacks (or blacks in general) and fear moving to the "ghetto"

pg 38: Tobin makes money off poorest & most vulnerable

↳ once again, deplorable, predatory

Chapter 17:

pg 210: "the cat can't come" "

Chapter 18:

pg 217: can't have more than \$2k in bank if on SSI

↳ it's like forced poverty; people are de-incentivized from saving b/c then they'll lose their check. trapping them in this check to check cycle w/ no real opportunity to get out

pg 218: ~~she~~ Lorraine spent all her food stamp money on ~~the~~ lobster
↳ that story gives me (initially) the same negative visceral reaction; she's squandering her food stamps; I have to step back & look at the bigger picture. poor people are allowed to want + have nice things too. it's this capitalist society's upbringing that causes that visceral reaction

pg 222: senior housing more popular than low-income

↳ w/c why bother helping people who won't help themselves, right?

Chapter 19

pg 228: and once again, the disgusting racism of the poor white

↳ economic diff, and yet Ned, a convicted criminal w/ an open warrant think he's superior

pg 230: Fair Housing Act of 1968: families w/ children & protected class

pg 236: and racism from Pam too

↳ & matter how bad their situation, still racist & think they're better / neighborhoods w/ POC automatically bad

pg 238: "but they were white"

↳ convictions, evictions, warrants, children... but ~~that~~ white

pg 239: Ned is a racist asshole

pg 240: "teaching her sons to love small"

↳ this is heartbreaking; & I can only imagine this as a child makes it harder to ~~for~~ form relationships as an adult (or at least healthy relationships)