

Broke: Hardship and Resilience in a City of Broken Promises By Jodie Adams Kirshner My issue is that the stories of the 7 individuals could have been more interesting but were stilted and overshadowed by long discussions about city finances.

Midtown and Downtown development draws suburbanites at the price of huge tax breaks while neighborhood needs are ignored. 1250220637 Through these up-close-and-personal portraits of seven people trying to get by in Detroit after the city declared bankruptcy in 2013 Kirshner makes an excellent case that disinvestment in cities is disinvesting in the economy in neighborhoods and in individuals. Kirshner's narrative sometimes bogs down in dry statistics (she teaches bankruptcy law) but she wisely lets the facts speak for themselves and does a really nice job in rounding out her subjects with dignity and affection. We hear numbers we are told how bad something is but if we haven't lived it or had someone close to us live it then we often can't grasp the magnitude of these issues. There is nothing in the book that suggests that you should feel guilty for not seeing the struggle as it is but the effect is that you will understand the issues more holistically. —Brian Alexander author of Glass House A galvanizing narrative account of a city's bankruptcy and its aftermath told through the lives of seven valiantly struggling Detroiters Bankruptcy and the austerity it represents have become a common solution for struggling American cities. What do the spending cuts and limited resources do to the lives of city residents? In Broke Jodie Adams Kirshner follows seven Detroiters as they navigate life during and after their city's bankruptcy. For them financial issues are mired within the larger ramifications of poor urban policies restorative negligence on the state and federal level and—even before the decision to declare Detroit bankrupt in 2013—the root causes of a city's fiscal demise. Kirshner makes a powerful argument that cities—the economic engine of America—are never quite given the aid that they need by either the state or federal government for their residents to survive not to mention flourish. Broke: Hardship and Resilience in a City of Broken Promises Broke by Jodie Kirshner is a non-fiction read that dissects the financial downfall of Detroit and how the people living there cling to survival one penny at a time. 1250220637 This book takes a look at the present day dysfunction of the city of Detroit through the lens of several of its inhabitants recounting their troubles and pulling back the curtain to reveal the forces and decisions which caused problems. When you live in the South in the country it's hard to imagine a place like Detroit especially the most poverty stricken areas because I've never actually seen anything remotely close. What I am saying is acknowledge and recognize how elitist attitudes unfettered access and advantages allow a portion of society to quash other portions of society thus ensuring the class system (that allegedly does not exist) remains intact. As a growing epidemic not isolated in Detroit the same sad scenarios-hunger sickness homelessness- play out every single day for the unfortunate and the poverty stricken in a cycle they are not capable of breaking. Why do we remove people from homes leaving the houses empty to scrappers and decay and the bulldozers? Isn't it better for all to have the houses occupied assist with their improvement to have neighborhoods filled? Jodie Adams Kirshner's Broke relates the series of events and decisions that brought Detroit from vibrancy to bankruptcy. Broke also highlights those citizens who love their town and desire to prosper and live there. I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and NetGalley, #Broke #NetGalley 1250220637 Broke looks at the financial decline of Detroit and how that impacts 7 residents of the city. It is essentially mismanagement by the State and the City that leads to the crisis: Kirshner is a journalist and bankruptcy lawyer and teaches at Columbia Law School. Broke offers deep insight through compelling narrative writing that illuminates and reaches our hearts: I was granted access to a free eGalley by the publisher through NetGalley. I was granted access to a free eGalley by the publisher through NetGalley. 1250220637 I have a lot of thoughts about this book and I doubt they'll all make it into this little review, Kirshner's book looks at Detroiters and how they struggle to stay afloat in the few years surrounding Detroit's bankruptcy: Each of them is trying to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. They keep coming up against a system that seems stacked against them, Everyone—federal.

4 stars
Broke is the true story of a once great city falling to pieces after the enormous loss of jobs and the mortgage fiasco of a decade ago. The very small police force seems to be harassing the few citizens it has left. This book is maddening frustrating unbelievable and at times inspiring, I love the grit shown time and time again by those featured in this book who are just trying to overcome their circumstances and their multiple setbacks: It shows what happens when American jobs go away debt structuring and detailed passages around city money management and bankruptcy issues. It was slow very slow and I skimmed a lot to get to the stories about the people: This is not necessarily a bad book if this is what you're looking for not at all but it's not what holds my interest, 1250220637
This book is a deep dive into the city of Detroit and its financial crisis: I was originally drawn to this book because I am a native Michigander and have friends who live in and around Detroit. While it had some narratives on the lives of people living in the city during the years of the collapse most of the book reads like a finance or statistics book, For me those pages make me kind of just gloss over and I start to skim through those sections: I did enjoy the stories of the people who live there I just wish there had been a deeper dive into that aspect, I do feel that the book has value with all of the facts presented it just isn't a huge hit with me. I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review, Her final chapter and concluding author's note present her bullet point takeaways with power and eloquence. This book is indeed heartbreaking and infuriating and even inspiring; definitely deserves a permanent spot on my shelf of books about Detroit (I grew up there). 4 out of 5*'s 1250220637
We've seen the news headlines about cities filing for bankruptcy and of course we know how bad it sounds, But how is it felt on a personal level? Jodie Adams Kirshner's Broke follows seven Detroit residents to answer that question. Books like Kirshner's serves to help bridge that gap and help us to feel empathy for those who are affected by policy. I am not well-educated in these issues yet I found this book well-written and well-researched. I came away with a better understanding of how policies and predatory practices can destroy a community. It really wasn't that long ago that Detroit was a glittering city - it's scary how quickly it changed. Martin's Press and NetGalley for allowing me access to this book. 1250220637
What Broke really tells us is how systems of government law and finance can crush even the hardest of boot-strap pullers, Reggie loses his savings trying to make a habitable home for his family, Like Matthew Desmond's Evicted Broke looks at what municipal distress means not just on paper but in practical—and personal—terms, More than 40 percent of Detroit's 700000 residents fall below the poverty line: Post-bankruptcy they struggle with a broken real estate market school system and job market—and their lives have not improved. Success for all America's citizens depends on equity of opportunity, I enjoy non-fiction books that teach me something new especially when it's a subject I know a little bit about already: While I walked away from the book understanding Detroit's plunge into financial ruin a little bit better I was disappointed by how the individual storylines were executed. I didn't know how much the government played a part in Detroit's financial crisis prior to reading this book. The government played a huge part through poor decisions and the mismanagement of funds, I was also surprised by how much racial tension played a part in Detroit's ultimate ruin, While I think this part of the book was poorly executed I liked that the book tried to personalize a big issue by covering individuals and how the crisis affected them, Maybe I just wasn't in the mood for a non-fiction read but I had to drag myself through the pages of this book, I wanted to be sucked in! But unfortunately I didn't find the execution engaging: It read like a news report so I never felt like I got to know the individuals who had been touched by the crisis: I wish the book would have covered just a couple people in Detroit and then spent the time going in deep, I wanted to feel a connection—I wanted to care—but I was bored, Is this the book for you? If you have ties in Detroit you'll probably find Broke by Jodie Kirshner interesting: While it wasn't for me it might be for you! Thank you to NetGalley for providing the Kindle version of this book in exchange for an honest review. Having lived outside of Detroit for close to 30 years I was drawn to this book to learn more about the city. Further I've really enjoyed other adjacent nonfiction (Nickel and Dimed A \$500 House in Detroit and Evicted come to mind). While the topic held my interest the structure caused me difficulty. I found it difficult to go back and forth between broader passages and the narration of an individual's circumstances and to

go from one individual to another: It's possible that the eArc format contained fewer visual cues (headings) than the finished book. With thanks to NetGalley and to St. 1250220637 Broke by Jodie Adams Kirshner. Pub Date: 19 Nov 2019 *REVIEW* [1] Broke is the type of book that everyone should read simply to be better informed, I couldn't explain the why or how of the housing crisis any more than I could fly to the moon, The Detroit situation is categorically worse than I could ever describe, I am glad a book chronicling the radically poor and the destitute through the lens of their personal experiences exist: How can any of us understand what we have not lived? We cannot but this book gives an insider perspective that is startling, It is obvious the author meticulously researched and sifted through vast amounts of data and information, The result is a well written thoughtful intuitive look into hopelessly heartbreaking situations improbable to someone such as me, Try not to roll your eyes while I pontificate for a moment: In a society so advantageous and advanced why does such despair exist? We all know the distribution of wealth (and housing healthcare childcare education electricity food etc: It is simple really; if you are born with access and privilege the likelihood of your success is extremely high. Think about private schools-the basic structure ensures the elite stay elite, I have a hard time respecting the success of any person who did not earn it by working hard but rather by advantage and access. Think about the retail industry-privilege owns a store and privilege-amazingly taken for granted- keeps a store in business: Privilege watches a Friday night movie at the theater thus ensuring the overpaid famous retain their status, I am not saying donate everything you have to the poor and live like a hermit: Read Broke and inform yourself about how circumstances mean everything. I voluntarily reviewed this book and all opinions expressed are my own: 1250220637 My family moved to Metro Detroit in 1963 for a better life. My folks did achieve their dreams--a blue-collar job a home of their own medical insurance a decent income and a pension to retire on, Just a few years later my friends and I watched as planes with National Guard troops flew overhead and tanks lumbered along Woodward Ave. Over my lifetime the once-great city plummeted into bankruptcy and stretches of 'urban prairie'. But Kirshner doesn't just give a history of racist housing discrimination and government policy decisions, We experience Detroit through the stories of real people and their struggles to achieve their dreams, Detroit's homeownership rate was once one of the highest in the nation. Then African American neighborhoods were razed for 'urban renewal' projects while redlining curtailed housing options, Kirshner shows how governmental decisions on the federal state and local level disenfranchised Detroit residents who valiantly endeavor to remain in their homes and neighborhoods, Bankruptcy we come to understand is not just a fiscal issue but hugely impacts individuals' lives, They purchase houses repair them and discover back taxes and water bills follow the house not the resident and they can't pay them. Investors purchase houses and let them stand empty while the family who had been living there are forced out: They can't afford the \$6000 a year car insurance they need to work--and to get their kids to school as Detroit has no school buses. Some are native Detroiters but others were drawn to Detroit's atmosphere and sense of possibility, They are unable to obtain mortgages to purchase empty buildings for development. They are never sure if rent payments are actually getting to the landlord or if the discount car insurance they purchase is legit, House damage remains unrepaired by distant landlords jeopardizing the safety of a woman and her child, Meanwhile state and local governments the private sector and even some non-profits—fails these people, Somehow though every one of the people profiled endures and perseveres[1]

When schools fall apart and when people lose hope. The views given are my own. My review is fair and unbiased. My review is fair and unbiased. Parents with adopted children. A single mother. An late-middle aged woman with a husband in poor health. A late-middle aged single man. The schools and city services are failing their citizens. Broke is a must-read. I was hoping it would have narrative type stories. A lot of our information input lives in statistics. It doesn't seek to gain pity however. Thank you to Jodie Adams Kirshner St. As always all opinions are my own. Cindy fights drug use prostitution and dumping on her block. Lola commutes two hours a day to her suburban job. Detroit is emblematic. I had high hopes for Broke by Jodie Kirshner. So what did I like about the

book?It was educational.The book attempted to personalize a city-wide crisis.So what didn't I like?It was slow.I didn't like how the individuals in the book were covered. I was excited to follow the lives of people in Detroit. Martin's Press for the Arc. That's why I chose to read this book. I want to be informed. Broke definitively educated me about subjects unknown prior.) is shamefully disproportionate. And around and around this cycle goes. *Thank you to NetGalley for an advanced copy. Dad loved his job at Chrysler. heading to Detroit. The city's legacy of racist policies had birthed rebellion.Homeownership is the American Dream.These six people's stories are moving and devastating. They dream of owning the home in which they live. I can't help but wonder if that is by (cruel) design. I find that remarkable.I'm glad that I read this book. It's going to resonate with me for a long long time. 1250220637

