In an interview with Mike Gousha at Marquette University on March 12th 2016, Matthew Desmond said

***“Moms like Venetta have to choose between paying for rent or stocking the fridge.”***

**Priorities and Perspectives**

You are a 27 year old single mother or single father with 3 children. Your part-time job where you get 20-30 hours a week earns $11.75 per hour. That’s your only cash income, with no child support from your ex. Your children are ages 8, 6, and 5. All are in school, but when you work after hours, you pay a neighbor $7.00 an hour to baby-sit. Your rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is $650.00 not including utilities. You receive food stamps in the amount of $220.00 per month. You have BadgerCare Plus for your family.

It’s the last week of the month and you just received your pay check, which is $250.00. You have $475.00 saved up from past checks. Your monthly rent is due tomorrow, and you are already 2 months behind. The landlord is threatening eviction because you’ve been behind on your rent before.

You have a phone shut-off notice and must pay $125.00 by tomorrow. You have work tonight and already owe the babysitter $140.00 from the past 3 weeks. She won’t take the kids unless you pay her half. Your car must be inspected by the end of the week; that is $30.00. Plus you need gas to get to work. Finally, your youngest child’s birthday is this week and you promised a gift and party.

Paycheck $250.00 plus savings $475.00 + $725.00

Food Stamps + $220.00

Rent $650 x 3 = - $1,950.00

Phone - $125.00

Sitter owe $140.00 and must pay half tonight - $70.00

Car - $30.00

Gas - $40.00

Child’s Birthday - $ ?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - $ ?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - $ ?

**What do you pay today?**

***“Eviction is a cause, not just a condition, of poverty.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“Our cities have become unaffordable to our poorest families, and this problem is leaving a deep and jagged scar on our next generation.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“Evictions were deserved, understood to be the outcome of individual failure. They “helped get rid of the riffraff,” some said. No one thought the poor more undeserving than the poor themselves.***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“For many landlords, it was cheaper to deal with the expense of eviction than to maintain their properties; it was possible to skimp on maintenance if tenants were perpetually behind; and many poor tenants would be perpetually behind because their rent was too high.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“It is hard to argue that housing is not a fundamental human need. Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter,***

***everything else falls apart.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“But equal treatment in an unequal society***

***could still foster inequality.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

***“If poverty persists in America, it is not for lack of resources.”***

― Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City