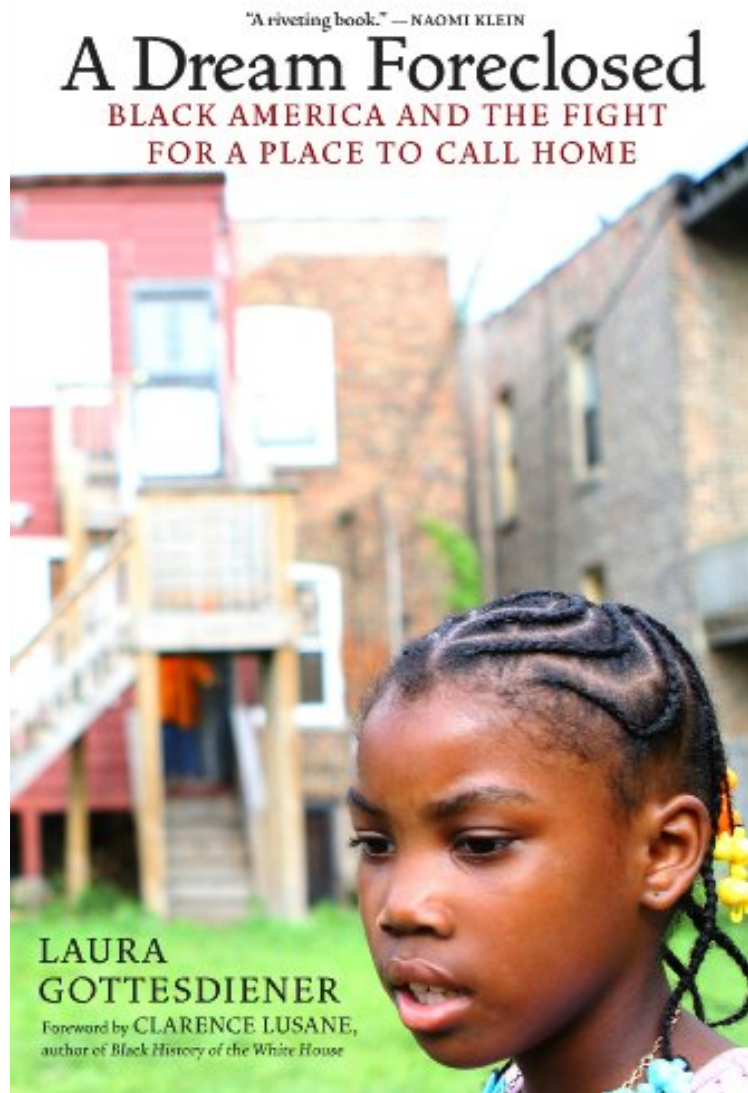


(Free download) A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series)

A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series)

Laura Gottesdiener

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Laura Gottesdiener : A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series):

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Powerful and important narratives By Fred Strebeigh I could not

stop reading *A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home* (Occupied Media Pamphlet Series). It opens with a battering ram coming through a family's door at the start of an eviction. To me, the book stayed that powerful throughout. This is a book of sharp analysis based on powerful narratives told brilliantly by Laura Gottesdiener--focused on four families caught in the foreclosure chaos created in large part by the recent mortgage crisis. The stories of these families, and their efforts to fight through a crisis that should not have hit them, are impossible to stop reading. This is thrilling story-telling that makes the reader feel, painfully, the experience of being captured by predatory lending and other forces that drive people from their homes. (Although I've had the good luck to read Laura Gottesdiener's work since 2008, when she enrolled in a Yale course I teach, I believe every reader will find this book, her first, utterly gripping.) These are harrowing stories--and thrilling ones because they do not end in despair--that will change how people understand the mortgage crisis and its ugly impact on America. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. *Dream* By Boston Mom After the seemingly myriad books on the housing crisis written from the perspective of banks, investment banks, and hedge funds, who wagered billions of dollars on a heads we win, tails you lose playing field, finally an author has demonstrated the courage to shine a spotlight on the real victims of the housing crisis. *Dream* is a thoughtful, thought provoking, and sensitive narrative about real people and how they were manipulated and exploited by the casino that wall street created out of the U.S. housing marketplace. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Do I have a deal for you! By Sue Well written and researched. I appreciated the purity of the dialect or "Black Speak". It touched me deeply. I knew the surface story, (even was a victim of foreclosure myself) but was deeply moved by Laura's the story telling. I really got the depth of despair, fear and boundless courage and strength of the many many families that survived this awful hoax played on ...a generation of, mostly, African American families. Sadly, the crime was committed, and yet we still have not seen the ones that perpetrated the crime punished properly.

Told through the eyes of four homeowners—a grandmother in Detroit, an entrepreneur in rural North Carolina, a man in Chattanooga, and a mother in Chicago—*A Dream Foreclosed* presents a people's history of the U.S. financial crisis and the rise of a people's movement for economic justice, dignity, and freedom from foreclosure. With power and humanity, Laura Gottesdiener bears witness to the ordinary people organizing their communities to challenge the banks and legal system. Their stories are extraordinary but the situation is all too common. The ongoing mortgage crisis has created one of the longest and largest mass displacements in U.S. history. While profiting from government bailouts, banks have evicted more than ten million Americans from their homes, their life savings, and their dreams. As many of the families victimized by bank fraud, predatory loans and other corporate crimes are African American, communities of color have been among the most outspoken and organized in confronting the banks. Woven throughout Gottesdiener's page-turning narrative are clear explanations of the origins of the crisis, the consequences for housing, and how community organizing and social movements are having national impact. PRAISE FOR LAURA GOTTESDIENER AND *A DREAM FORECLOSED* Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Color Purple* "I'm spreading the word about Laura Gottesdiener's FINE book wherever I go and wherever I am. [It's] a wonderful book." Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* "A riveting book." Ralph Nader "Laura Gottesdiener has the acute eye and pen of a young progressive star with extraordinary talent. Her pages should grip you with motivational indignation." Johanna Fernandez professor in the Department of History at Baruch College "From the time of their capture in Africa, through Emancipation and the Great Migration, to the national economic and housing crisis of today, people of African descent in the United States have been defined by their search for home. Using the dreams and aspirations of four families as her point of departure, Laura Gottesdiener narrates a beautifully crafted story about predatory lending, foreclosure abuse, the racial politics of home ownership, and the brave struggles launched by African American communities to keep their dignities and their homes. ... a powerful, impressive and page-turning testimony that ordinary people can fight back and win." Noam Chomsky "The legislation to rescue the perpetrators of the current financial crisis included provisions for limited compensation to their victims...the enormity of the crime strikes home vividly in the heart-rending accounts of those who are brutally thrown out of their modest homes — for African Americans particularly, almost all they have — then survive in the streets, struggle on, and sometimes even regain something of what was stolen from them thanks to the courageous and inspiring work of the home liberation activists, now reinforced by the Occupy movement. All recounted with historical depth and analytic insight." Tim Wise "A brilliant and needed narrative by an insightful and inspiring author." Clarence Lusane, author of *The Black History of the White House* "[a] brilliant discourse on the battle over home and community by African Americans... [w]e owe Gottesdiener a great debt for her research and powerful argument that permeates *A Dream Foreclosed*. ... She takes sides in this battle and gives voice to those who are rarely if ever heard." Mumia Abu-Jamal, *Counterpunch* "A *Dream Foreclosed* finds beauty amidst immense pain and suffering—the beauty of people continuing to fight back against rapacious banks, the politicians they buy and the lawyers they hire. It is a work both beautiful and terrible that deserves to be read by many." Marc Lamont Hill, *Huffington Post Live* "An incredible book...a great set of stories being told here...and more importantly, a powerful narrative about the relationship between black people and ownership"

The Columbia Journalism "Gottesdiener's book is a welcome, mortgage-edition proof for Faulkner's line that the past isn't dead. It's not even past ... The footnotes alone are worth the price of the book." Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Color Purple* "I'm spreading the word about Laura Gottesdiener's FINE book wherever I go and wherever I am. [It's] a wonderful book." Marc Lamont Hill, Huffinton Post Live "An incredible book... a great set of stories being told here... and more importantly, a powerful narrative about the relationship between black people and ownership" Johanna Fernandez professor in the Department of History at Baruch College "From the time of their capture in Africa, through Emancipation and the Great Migration, to the national economic and housing crisis of today, people of African descent in the United States have been defined by their search for home. Using the dreams and aspirations of four families as her point of departure, Laura Gottesdiener narrates a beautifully crafted story about predatory lending, foreclosure abuse, the racial politics of home ownership, and the brave struggles launched by African American communities to keep their dignities and their homes. She demonstrates that amidst the greatest housing crisis the nation has seen, the current struggle among African Americans for economic equality is forcing upon our nation a redefinition of American freedom, one that challenges us to reconsider the fundamental flaw in our national security: the market-driven character of housing. With great humanity and solidarity for those on the front lines of this epic battle, Gottesdiener offers a compelling political analysis, and a way forward in a time of national crisis. *A Dream Foreclosed* is a powerful, impressive and page-turning testimony that ordinary people can fight back and win." Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! and New York Times bestselling author "It's a really incredible book" Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* "Compelling and lucidly told stories a... A riveting book." Ralph Nader "A Dream Foreclosed is a powerful combination of riveting stories about four defrauded families and their fight back together with the broader documentation of Wall Street's corporate crimes that crashed the economy. Laura Gottesdiener, a veteran of Occupy Wall Street, has the acute eye and pen of a young progressive star with extraordinary talent. Her pages should grip you with motivational indignation." Russell Mokhiber, Corporate Crime Reporter "A remarkable book that hits hard against the big Wall Street banks." Tim Wise, author of many books including *Colorblind* and *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority* "A brilliant and needed narrative by an insightful and inspiring author." Noam Chomsky "The legislation to rescue the perpetrators of the current financial crisis included provisions for limited compensation to their victims. No need to tarry on which part of the bargain has been fulfilled. The bare statistics on foreclosures are shattering enough. But the enormity of the crime strikes home vividly in the heart-rending accounts of those who are brutally thrown out of their modest homes — for African Americans particularly, almost all they have — then survive in the streets, struggle on, and sometimes even regain something of what was stolen from them thanks to the courageous and inspiring work of the home liberation activists, now reinforced by the Occupy movement. All recounted with historical depth and analytic insight in this most valuable study." Linn Washington, author of *Black Judges on Justice, Perspectives from the Bench* "Americans need the stories in this book: inspiring resistance to the serialized corporate crimes that crush not only 'Dreams' but the capacity to thrive beyond subsistence." Clarence Lusane, author of *The Black History of the White House* "...[a] brilliant discourse on the battle over home and community by African Americans... [w]e owe Gottesdiener a great debt for her research and powerful argument that permeates *A Dream Foreclosed*. ... Gottesdiener's effort here is a much needed and welcomed counter-weight. She takes sides in this battle and gives voice to those who are rarely if ever heard." TomDispatch "Gottesdiener's new book, *A Dream Foreclosed*, is a people's history of the financial crisis that jolted this country and has never ended. It has been hailed by Naomi Klein as "riveting" and Noam Chomsky as a "most valuable study... with historical depth and analytical insight." Mumia Abu-Jamal, Counterpunch "A Dream Foreclosed finds beauty amidst immense pain and suffering—the beauty of people continuing to fight back against rapacious banks, the politicians they buy and the lawyers they hire. It is a work both beautiful and terrible that deserves to be read by many." Danny Schechter, Al Jazeera "A new book by Laura Gottesdiener, *A Dream Foreclosed* offers deeper context in the socio-economic effects of the housing crash. She shows how foreclosures have devastated America's black community while banks profit. Incredulously, nearly every African American has seen their income decrease - all under the watch of our first black president. She offers first person reports on the trauma and tragedies of families who bought homes with deceptive loans offered by hustlers and conmen who knew they would not be able to afford their payments but sold the properties anyway. These are the people who made large fees from subprime loans even when borrowers qualified for lower interest loans. Her reporting from the frontlines of this battle humanises the issues and highlights the injustices that most of the business media glosses over. Her insights conflict with the president's, most of the media and the banks. "We've already tried policies that benefit Wall Street and massive corporations, and all we've ended up with is more financial consolidation, speculation and criminal activity," she concludes. Eleanor J. Bador, Truthout "An invaluable introduction to a system that has booted more than 10 million US residents out of their homes since 2007."—