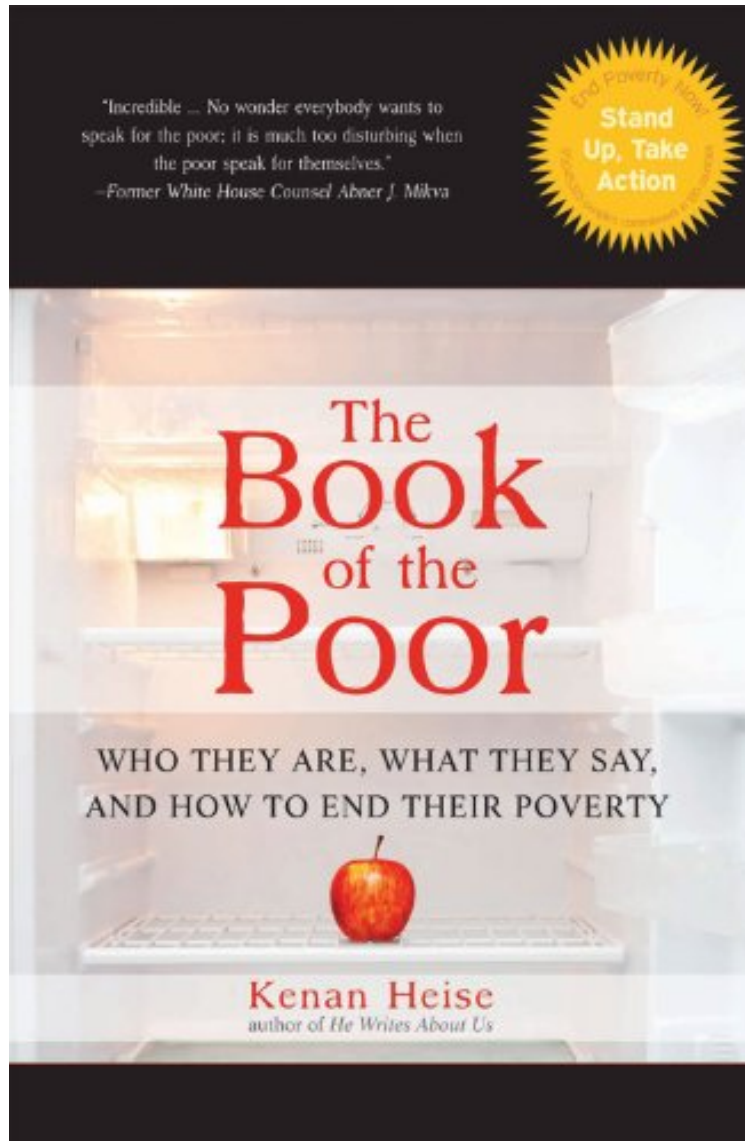


[Ebook free] The Book of the Poor: Who They Are, What They Say, and How To End Their Poverty

The Book of the Poor: Who They Are, What They Say, and How To End Their Poverty

Kenan Heise

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Kenan Heise : The Book of the Poor: Who They Are, What They Say, and How To End Their Poverty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of the Poor: Who They Are, What They Say, and How To End Their Poverty:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Descriptions -- This is a Win/Win for the Entire Country! By Andrew Fisher Great author and "Chicago Tribune" columnist Kenan Heise has combined over 50 years of interviews

with very insightful writing and organization to create this excellent, concise book. True, a lot of it is "moaning and groaning" about how bad the current situation is, but in the last part of the book, giving to the poor is shown as a dramatic win/win for ALL of us which can increase jobs and pull the entire economy out of the recession! Before I heard Heise speak at the Evanston Public Library, bought this book, and started reading it, I had always TOTALLY IGNORED all poor beggars and/or pan-handlers who were rattling a container in hope of any donation, however small. I had always assumed that they were going to waste the money on alcohol and/or drugs, and nothing in this world would be improved by my giving to them. However, after hearing Heise speak and starting to read this book, I've changed and now give to the poor whenever I can not only because it feels good and they often reply with "God bless you", but for two other very good reasons: (1) Heise and the descriptions in this book describe the true situation. True, perhaps up to 20% of the poor who get donations spend it on alcohol or drugs, but the remaining 80% IMMEDIATELY spend it on their daily needs like food, housing, and transportation. But (2) the MOST IMPORTANT reason, which is described very well at the end of this "Book of the Poor," is how the much more rapid economic cycles -- because the poor spend any funds they receive IMMEDIATELY for food and other essentials (instead of burying it by investing it in a mutual fund or Swiss bank account) -- will first encourage small business and retailers, who the poor directly patronize, to start hiring more employees and expanding. When many of the poor, who have been laid off due to the recession, get re-hired, and many other long-term poor get re-trained and hired, this will speed up this positive economic cycling even more and (a) the (formerly) poor will start purchasing more expensive items such as computers, cars, and houses, (b) this will help the medium to large industries that deal in these things so they will hire more professional people, and (c) this will pull the entire country out of the recession! With increased tax revenue, all local, state, and the federal governments can increase their funding in badly needed areas like education, infrastructure, and research! Finally, this shows how TOTALLY WRONG the Republican "trickle down" theory is, which encourages them to support only the very rich. If only government, as well as churches, non-profits, and individuals would give more to the poor, we can quite rapidly rebuild a STRONG US economy from the grassroots up!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Voices of the Poor By C Thale The great thing that Kenan Heise does is bring us the voices of the poor themselves. Their voices tend to get lost in the statistics and jargon of policy experts, and in the knee-jerk condescension or hostility of public debate. Heise has spent decades reporting on the poor, and the core of the book is rooted in that reportage. The poor, in his telling, are sympathetic and engaging people. Stepping aside to listen to their voices, he presents us with stories from the lives of people struggling to scrape by on low wages, inadequate public aid, and the help of neighbors and friends. Sometimes they are ingenious and resourceful, but the obstacles they face in attaining even a minimal level of comfort are enormous. At the same time, Heise takes us on a tour of the historical and policy dimensions of poverty. Arguing that concern for "the general welfare" is deeply rooted in our history, Heise traces this concern from the establishment of the American republic to the present. Perhaps the most unfamiliar part of this comes when he shows that the Confederacy's moral failures included a repudiation of any obligation to attend to the needs of the poor. He also reproduces some choice pieces of Franklin Roosevelt's speeches on the "forgotten man," and discusses Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Heise's own moral sensibility propels the story forward. He reviews the problems of the working poor, the desperate need for decent jobs and health care, finally telling us about some of the most promising organizations committed to ending poverty.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Powerful voices in the struggle against poverty By A J This is a book we should be deeply proud to own and to read. It is highly both personal and scholarly. Its author, Kenan Heise, has reached down to the lowest rungs on the economic ladder and allows those who reside there to describe their experiences in their own words. On our behalf, he has drawn on these voices to take us directly into the homes and lives of the poor: dumpster diving, under a viaduct to sleep, through Chicago's poorest neighborhoods, into a nursing home in Florida, into and out of prison, to rooms where six children sleep hungry and threadbare. We find dignity, resilience and courage in these people and places. But also frustration, anger and weariness with the forces, external and internal, that make it so difficult to break the cycle. And this is a cycle we need to break, but which is being fed by the economic crisis, climate change and corporate globalization. It is a book that I recommend to anyone to read and to let others know about.

This stirring work takes readers on a heartbreaking, illuminating, and inspiring journey into the homes and lives of the 16 percent who live below the poverty threshold. Author and retired Chicago Tribune reporter Kenan Heise culls 50 years of his published interviews with the poor and destitute to allow them to tell their own stories in their own voices to provide a sobering call to action. With full discussions on a myriad of topics including the history of poverty, the use of drugs and alcohol among the poor, the lasting result of Reaganomics, the importance of minimum wage, and the relationship between the media and the poor; The Book of the Poor provides clear and concrete steps that can be taken to end poverty in America.