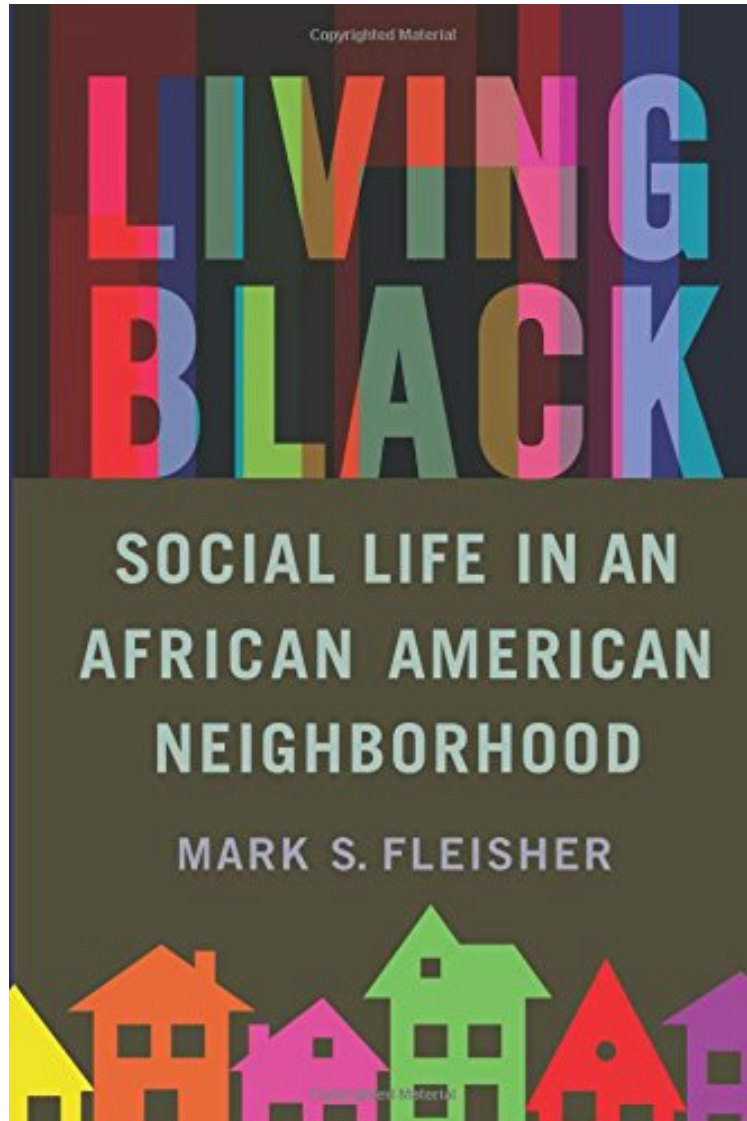


Living Black: Social Life in an African American Neighborhood

Mark S. Fleisher

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Mark S. Fleisher : Living Black: Social Life in an African American Neighborhood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Black: Social Life in an African American Neighborhood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Researcher goes NativeBy Jill BemisOne small neighborhood in the north end of Champaign, Illinois is the setting for Applied Science Research Professor Mark Fleishers look at three individuals lives as they struggle to get out of poverty. He describes the obstacles that he as a white man had connecting with and maintaining impartiality with minority family subjects. The notes are valuable to show researcher

bias and his gradual loss of objectivity. The book illustrates perfectly a pattern that occurs repeatedly throughout the United States as outsiders look at an impoverished neighborhood and decide what is best without recognizing that the people living there have families, relationships, potential, and self-awareness.

Living Black breaks the stereotype of poor African American neighborhoods as dysfunctional ghettos of helpless and hopeless people. Despite real and enduring poverty, the community described here—the historic North End of Champaign, Illinois—has a vibrant social life and strong ties among generations. But it operates on its own nonjudgmental terms: teen moms aren't derided, school dropouts aren't ridiculed, and parolees and ex-cons aren't scorned. Mark S. Fleisher offers a window into daily life in this neighborhood, particularly through the stories of Mo and Memphis Washington, who fight to sustain a stable home for their children, and of Burpee, a local man who has returned to the North End to rebuild his life after years of crime and punishment in Chicago. Outstanding books for public secondary school libraries from university presses, American Library Association

Goes against the common notion that American ghettos are broken places. . . . Brief, accessible . . . suitable for a general readership. Kirkus