



Family Properties: How the Struggle Over Race and Real Estate Transformed Chicago and Urban America

Beryl Satter

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"Gripping . . . This painstaking portrayal of the human costs of financial racism is the most important book yet written on the black freedom struggle in the urban North."?David Garrow, *The Washington Post*

The "promised land" for thousands of Southern blacks, postwar Chicago quickly became the most segregated city in the North, the site of the nation's worst ghettos. In this powerful book, Beryl Satter identifies the true cause of the city's black slums and the ruin of urban neighborhoods throughout the country: a widespread institutionalized system of legal and financial exploitation.

Part family story and part urban history, *Family Properties* is the riveting account of a city in crisis, involving unscrupulous slumlords and speculators pitched against religious reformers, community organizers, and an impassioned attorney?the author's father? who launched a crusade against the profiteers. Satter shows the interlocking forces at work: the discriminatory practices of the banking industry; the federal policies that created the country's shameful "dual housing market"; the economic anxieties that fueled white violence; and the tempting profits to be made by preying on the city's most vulnerable population.

A monumental work, this tale of racism and real estate, politics and finance will forever change our understanding of the forces that transformed urban America.

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