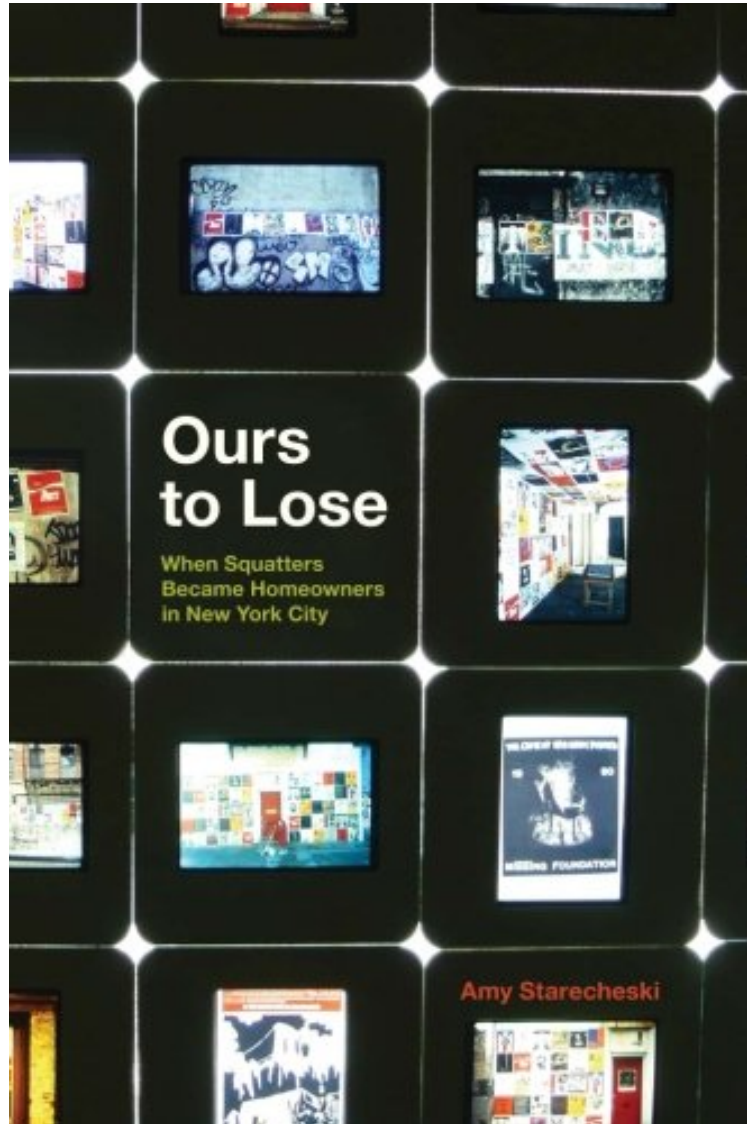


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# Ours to Lose: When Squatters Became Homeowners in New York City

Amy Starecheski

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#461902 in Books Starecheski Amy 2016-11-07 2016-11-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022639994X344 pages Ours to Lose When Squatters Became Homeowners in New York City | File size: 55.Mb

**Amy Starecheski : Ours to Lose: When Squatters Became Homeowners in New York City** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ours to Lose: When Squatters Became Homeowners in New York City:

Though New York's Lower East Side today is home to high-end condos and hip restaurants, it was for decades an infamous site of blight, open-air drug dealing, and class conflict, an emblematic example of the tattered state of 1970s and 80s Manhattan. Those decades of strife, however, also gave the Lower East Side something unusual: a radical movement that blended urban homesteading and European-style squatting in a way never before seen in the United States. *Ours to Lose* tells the oral history of that movement through a close look at a diverse group of Lower East Side squatters who occupied abandoned city-owned buildings in the 1980s, fought to keep them for decades, and eventually began a long, complicated process to turn their illegal occupancy into legal cooperative ownership. Amy Starecheski here not only tells a little-known New York story, she also shows how property shapes our sense of ourselves as social beings and explores the ethics of homeownership and debt in post-recession America.

"*Ours to Lose* chronicles the decades-long struggle of urban squatters in a cluster of buildings on Manhattan's Lower East Side to win legal control of their homes. Using oral history and ethnography, the author recounts the squatters' move into the buildings during the mid-1980s when the city took title over non-payment of real estate taxes. Starecheski takes us into the process, and through interviews and her analysis, we learn that not all is smooth. What is significant is that the author demonstrates how some New Yorkers addressed the housing crisis in an unconventional manner. Recommended."