

### **Book notes**

\*In a certain way, poverty may be more realistic in the morning, when you wake up to it. At night, a version of optimism can take hold, perhaps aided by drink.

\*Embarrassment is an underrated motivator of social change. There are certainly considerations about morals or self-interest, but for the most part a prejudiced society changes its ways because its embarrassing to reveal the truth to those on the outside.

\*It's hard to fear anything from a conventional, mundane person. You certainly can't expect surprises. But this makes them harder to rally behind a new cause or idea.

\*A good way to learn about how you've spent time is to look back and ask - did I say anything worth saying? Do anything worth doing?

\*It's a very lonely feeling to know you don't want to be at home when the phone doesn't ring.

\*It's pretty easy to do the ugly things in protest - throw a brick, smash a window, or devise a new type of improvised bomb. It's easy because it requires very little imagination.

\*Sympathy and empathy are important qualities to develop because they demand imagination, perhaps one of the singular human qualities.

\*People end up dealing with repossession because the only way to feel better about not being able to afford to buy things is to buy things.

\*A great bouncer trick is to just grab someone by the skin near the belly as hard as you can.

\*People will pay very close attention to someone else's vote of no confidence, and give it extra weight to calculate their own self-worth.

\*People with unusual names are often unamused with jokes at their expense.

\*A violent place always has the simple version of local history - people killing other people.

\*People aren't very good at relating to economically depressed areas, unless they personally know someone who lost a job.

\*The dead are often easy to love.

\*People on the outside sometimes struggle to see the differences that are so obvious to those embroiled in conflict. Indeed, in most places long-running disputes are defined by characteristics that have slowly blended and melted together over time.

\*"I wouldn't fuck you with somebody else's dick."

\*Sometimes there is a big mental obstacle in just going home and accepting that the evening will be alone. From this moment, we can agree to do things simply out of boredom or loneliness.

\*People tend to ignore how events affecting one class might have a carry on effect in their own area.

\*Politics and religion always have their resulting divisions, but nothing does more to divide than money.

\*There is love in grief such that tenderness has nowhere to go, particularly the kind that emerges after someone's death.

\*Poisonous politics are one thing, but a policy that harms kids is different from the person who hits kids.

\*Ideology is helpful but nothing has as much impact as the prospect of steady employment.