

The Missing Class

THE MISSING CLASS

Portraits of the Near Poor in America

KATHERINE S. NEWMAN and VICTOR TAN CHEN



Foreword by SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

"A vivid, close-up, and often moving look at the urban 'near poor.'"
BARBARA EHRENREICH, author of *Nickel and Dimed*

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The Missing Class gives voice to the 54 million Americans, including 21 percent of the nation's children, who are sandwiched between poor and middle class. While government programs help the needy and politicians woo the more fortunate, the "Missing Class" is largely invisible and ignored. Through the experiences of nine families, Katherine Newman and Victor Tan Chen trace the unique problems faced by individuals in this large and growing demographic-the "near poor." The question for the Missing Class is not whether they're doing better than the truly poor-they are. The question is whether these individuals, on the razor's edge of subsistence, are safely ensconced in the Missing Class or in danger of losing it all. The Missing Class has much to tell us about whether the American dream still exists for those who are sacrificing daily to achieve it.

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