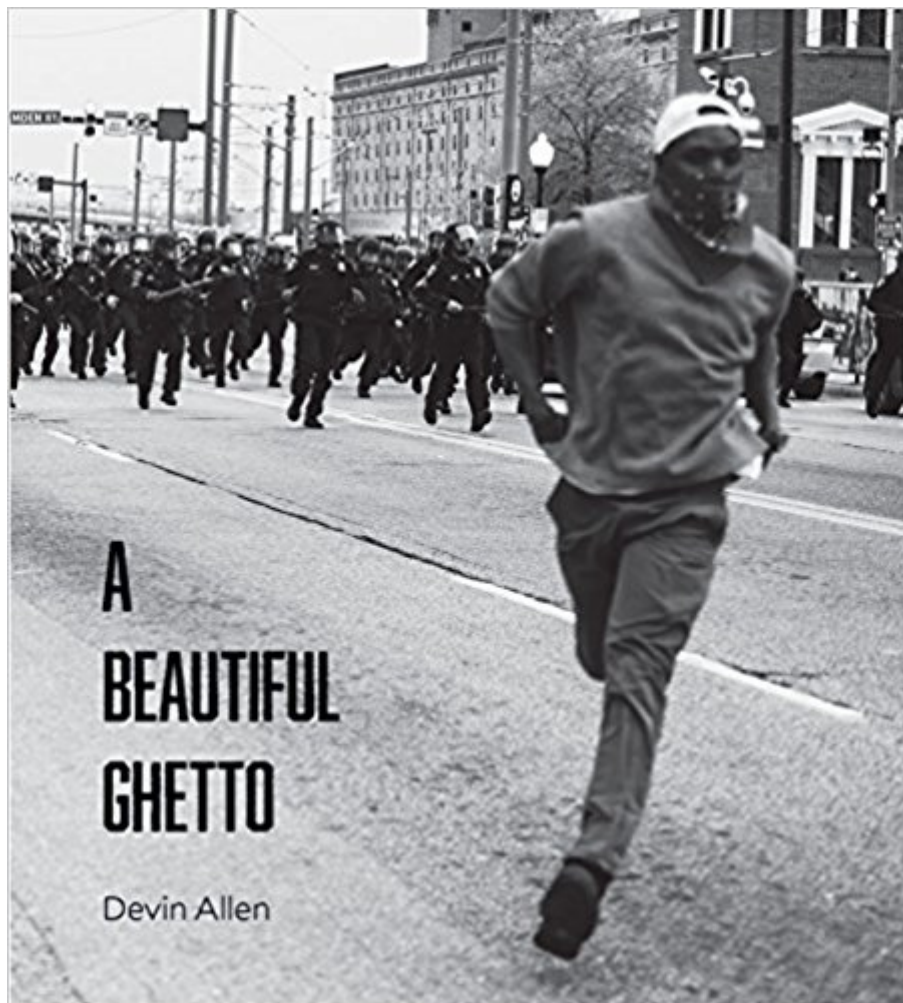




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A Beautiful Ghetto



Synopsis

On April 18th, 2015, Baltimore erupted into mass protests in response to the brutal and heinous murder of Freddie Gray by the Baltimore police. Suddenly, the eyes of the world turned to Baltimore. In nearly 100 stunning black and white photos, Allen documents the uprising, his city, and the people who live there, revealing a world of love, courage, struggle and hope. Each photo reveals the personality, beauty and spirit of Baltimore and those who live there, as his camera complicates the stereotype of a 'ghetto' city. We find smiles where one might least expect them, hope doing battle against a system that sows desperation and fear, and above all, resistance, to the unrelenting pressures of racism in twenty-first-century America. Allen's work demonstrates a connection between resistance as a daily activity, a way of life in the ghetto, and resistance as a political act, as played out in the streets last spring. He documents resistance without judgment, without asking the usual questions that outsiders might: Is it justified? Is it effective? Is it legal? Resistance is represented not as a tactic, but as a fundamental aspect of life. Washington Post Devin Allen is one of the first amateur photographers to have their work featured on the cover of Time magazine. His photographs have also appeared in New York Magazine, the Washington Post, the New York Times, CNN, BBC, NBC News, Aperture Magazine, and Yahoo!.

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"Devin Allen's work demonstrates a connection between resistance as a daily

activity, a way of life in the ghetto, and resistance as a political act, as played out in the streets last spring. He documents resistance without judgment, without asking the usual questions that outsiders might: Is it justified? Is it effective? Is it legal? Resistance is represented not as a tactic, but as a fundamental aspect of life.

• Washington Post "Devin Allen could be the Gordon Parks of his generation."

• NBC BLK "Devin Allen's photographs paint a picture not only of the protests themselves but also of the ups and downs of everyday life in Baltimore."

The collection reenvision[s] the meaning of the term "ghetto," showing vibrancy within a racially divided city.

• New York Magazine "Reminiscent of the work produced by the late Gordon Parks."

• Ebony "Allen's photographs which capture strength and beauty, as well as disparity and decay transport viewers through the protests following the death of Freddie Gray and into the streets and lives of the people of West Baltimore where he grew up."

• Baltimore Magazine "The cumulative effect of Allen's photographs is of a city that's lively, arresting and against the odds."

• Baltimore Sun "Devin Allen has compiled his poignant and sincere images of the real Baltimoreans who are often mischaracterized or neglected in the city's narrative for his first book. A Beautiful Ghetto captures the essence of the city before, during, and after the Baltimore Uprising."

• Baltimore City Paper "Gorgeous."

• Cassius

Devin Allen, a Baltimore native, is only the third amateur photographer to have their photograph appear on the cover of Time. His work has also been featured in New York Magazine, the Washington Post, the New York Times, CNN, BBC, NBC News, Aperture Magazine, and "Yahoo!." Allen's photographs have been exhibited in the Smithsonian.

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