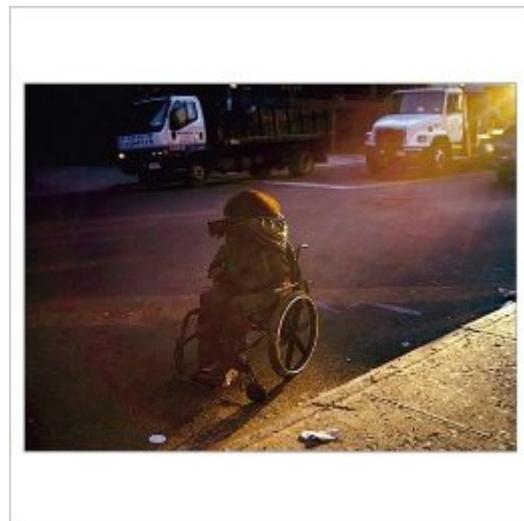


The book was found

# Paul Graham: American Night



## Synopsis

Paul Graham's photographs touch upon the social fracture of America--the great divide between the included and excluded, blacks and whites, haves and have-nots. Taking on a simple topic, of late dealt with only through clichÃ© photojournalism, American Night embraces neglected territory in a series of shocking images that sit on the fence between art and document. Graham's images blind and overwhelm the viewer with a feeling akin to stepping out of a sheltered place and into the sunlight. Drained of color, shadow and form, they resonate with the lives of those they portray... and then the sequence snaps, either to a vibrant full-color image of a freshly minted dream house, complete with a blue sky and green grass of unattainable perfection, or to an intensely dark street portrait... before returning to the endless blinding whiteness of everyday life. Beyond their paucity or wealth of color these images contrast one another in their content: these perfect homes are unobtainable to those walking in the burnt landscape; they are a mirage, a dream or promise that can almost never be reached. Here is the chasm between promise and actuality, hope and reality, dream and truth. Shot between 1998 and 2002 in locations across America, including Los Angeles, Memphis, Detroit, New York City and Atlanta.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ](#) (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is a brilliant book. Graham uses a photography book to make a powerful political and social comment. It is the whole book, not just a photograph or two, that makes the statement. This book is

a true work of art.

Paul Graham's most conceptual volume to date. Outstanding book execution (albeit somewhat inconvenient to store, and possibly more susceptible to long-term degradation), on par with The Present.

Sophisticated and challenging work; exquisitely put together, and very well worth the effort.

Graham has a great idea behind how the photographs are presented but in the end the statement comes out a little flat and simplistic...and this is if you have the stamina to wade through what seems like a bloated edit. The middle photographs are beautiful however and really quite nice on their own as weird street photographs.

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