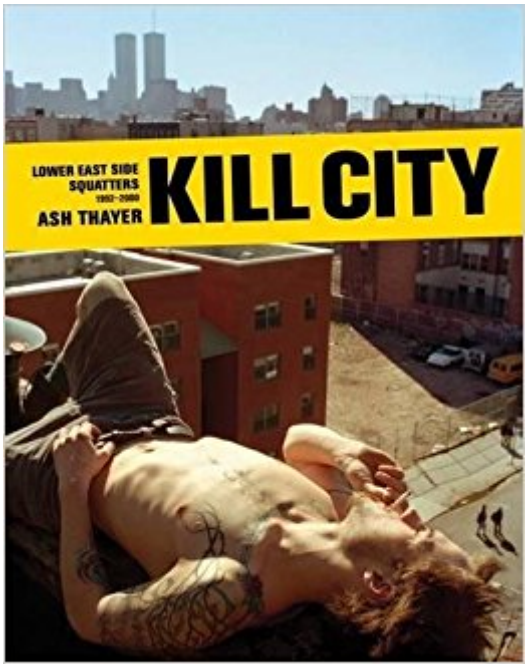
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Kill City: Lower East Side Squatters 1992-2000



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Synopsis

After being kicked out of her apartment in Brooklyn in 1992, and unable to afford rent anywhere near her school, young art student Ash Thayer found herself with few options. Luckily she was welcomed as a guest into See Skwat.New York City in the Ã¢â ¬Ëœ90s saw the streets of the Lower East Side overun with derelict buildings, junkies huddled in dark corners, and dealers packing guns. People in desperate need of housing, worn down from waiting for years in line on the low-income housing lists, had been moving in and fixing up city-abandoned buildings since the mid-80s in the LES.Squatters took over entire buildings, but these structures were barely habitable. They were overrun with vermin, lacking plumbing, electricity, and even walls, floors, and a roof. Punks and outcasts joined the squatter movement and tackled an epic rebuilding project to create homes for themselves.The squatters were forced to be secretive and exclusive as a result of their poor legal standing in the buildings. Few outsiders were welcome and fewer photographers or journalists. ThayerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s camera accompanied her everywhere as she lived at the squats and worked alongside other residents. Ash observed them training each other in these necessary crafts and finding much of their materials in the overflowing bounty that is New York CityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s refuse and trash. The trust earned from her subjects was unique and her access intimate. Kill CityÃ Â is a true untold story of New YorkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legendary LES squatters.

Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: powerHouse Books; First Edition edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1576877345

ISBN-13: 978-1576877340

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.8 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #723,597 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 inÃ Â Books > Law > Administrative Law > Housing & Urban Development #244 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Cities #298 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Anyone wondering about the end of bohemia can consult this book, which documents its

last incarnation, at least in New York City. Few bohemians can ever have worked as hard as the squatters, who earned their homes and their lives; they were rewarded with forcible and violent eviction. Ash ThayerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s remarkable pictures chronicle a time, only two decades ago, that seems impossibly distant now.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Luc Sante, Author ofÃ Â Low Life"Thayer's work here is a time capsule, a vision of a way things were, a city that once was. It reminds us that the DIY spirit is in the heart of this city. We must, against all pressures, show those who come after that there areÃ Â otherÃ Â ways." Ã¢â ¬â •Jesse Bransford,Ã Â Chair, Department of Art and Art ProfessionsÃ Â at NYUÃ Â "Captures a remarkable period in NYCÃ¢â ¬â„¢s recent history"-The Guardian"Thayer's own experience squatting in the Lower East Side is evident in every photo. Hers was a rarefied vantage, one where the lens of an outsider would never have been welcome.Ã Â Kill City is a unique opportunity to experience New York City at a turning point, just before its last revolutionary vestiges faded away."-The Daily Mail"Unlike most journalists and photographers, who often time gave squatters 'bad press,' Ms. Thayer was able to document the movement and her friends through a lens of intimacy that has rarely been captured."-New York Observer"ThayerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pictures document a poignant divide between then and now, depicting a New York thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unimaginable today."-Time Out New York"The photographs, in both hazy color and black and white, are shot with celestial lighting in a direct, candid style"-Fast Company"every so often, images or stories come along that stop us in our tracks "-PaperÃ Â "fascinating"-FlavorwireAs Seen In:The New Yorkeri-DMSNBCBUSTÃ Â HungerÃ Â PlaygroundÃ Â American Photo (Best Photo Books of Spring 2015)Animal New York

ASH THAYERÃ Â is a photographer and multimedia visual artist based in Los Angeles. She received her BachelorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s of Fine Arts from The School of Visual Arts,Ã Â and a Masters of Fine Art from Columbia University in New York. Thayer has exhibited her work at venues including The Lawrence Miller Gallery and TheÃ Â Proposition Gallery in New York; the Berlin Art Fair; Kean College in New Jersey; The Museum of the City of New York; and The Chicago Art Institute.Ã Â Her work is held in several public art collections including the Saatchi Gallery in London, The Chicago Art Institute, and The Museum of the City of NewÃ Â York. She has taught as an adjunct professor at New York University and Columbia University. She studied acting and directing at the Terry SchreiberÃ Â Studio in New York, and has performed both on stage and in film.

This book, an important docu of history- is facinating. It was a time of youth and important lessons, and struggle for so many and a time where the neighborhood was raw. I love seeing Ash's tour with the book, caught her in 2 cities and was interested in the q and a as well as people's reactions to holding this book. It was like a yearbook in some cases. Made me smile.

Powerful images capture a moment in history that many won't believe happened in NYC not even 25 years ago. Opening the book was like opening a time capsule from my childhood, but it also tells a story of fighting for your rights and not conforming to the system. It will be featured on my coffee table for years to come.

For the sake of making sure everyone just goes out and buys this book, I will keep this review short (see Goodreads for my full review). This book is a stunning glimpse at a particular American subculture and thus an important part of this country's history. Thayer's eye is full of heart.

Just gorgeous. Absolutely love this book and enjoyed looking through it with my kids, who have long heard tales of my days on the LES in the 90s. Highly recommend.

Beautiful and intriguing Thayer gives a unique perspective on the covert lives of the squatter of the 90s, unseen by any else. Documented truthful to their lives and showcasing both the beauty and the squalor, it is truly an immersive experience.

Beautifully done book of a crusty time.

This is an absolutely beautiful book.

A beautiful glimpse into an important movement and time in NYC. So glad these images exist. Ash is an outstanding photographer. I hope to see more books out by her soon!

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