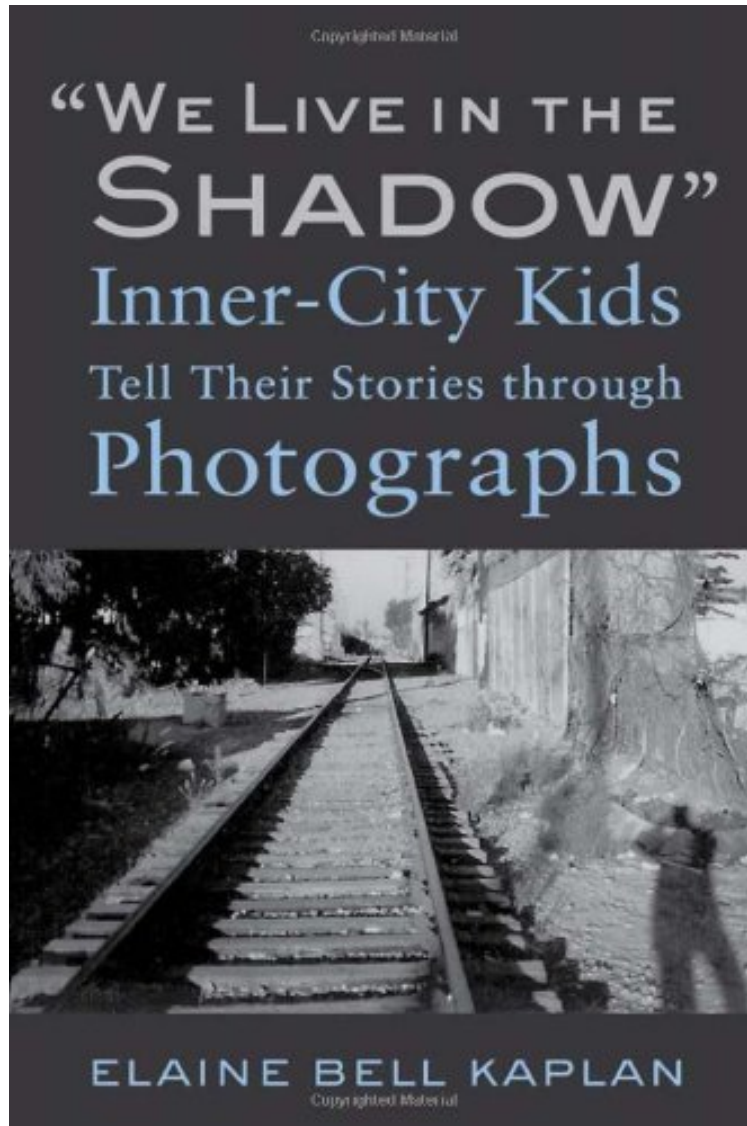


## "We Live in the Shadow": Inner-City Kids Tell Their Stories through Photographs

*Elaine Bell Kaplan*

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**Elaine Bell Kaplan : "We Live in the Shadow": Inner-City Kids Tell Their Stories through Photographs** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "We Live in the Shadow": Inner-City Kids Tell Their Stories through Photographs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What the NAI program does is lay the foundation for these scholars to go off into the world and change things for the better. By CustomerNever in my life have I learned so much about

myself than from this book. I am a USC NAI scholar from the first class and graduated from SC in 02. Since graduation, I've lived in Wisconsin and Maryland; and, I've had to heal and make peace with everything that came from living and growing up in South Central Los Angeles during the 80s and 90s. A decade after leaving L.A., I've realized that the "shadow" follows you even if you don't have a name for it or quite understand it. It traps you into thinking that you do not deserve the fruits of all that academic and professional labor, and it breeds guilt for choosing to walk away from the mess and into the unknown. Kaplan's work has recognized it, named it, and encouraged readers to see it through the photographs of these young scholars. On a personal level, "We Live in the Shadow" has made me clear see how these urban experiences under constant support from educators, mentors, family, and friends can produce real change. What the NAI program does is lay the foundation for these scholars to go off into the world and change things for the better. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. These kids also give voice to their desire for better education and for teachers

By Sherry Patterson Elaine Bell Kaplan uses photographs and interviews of middle and high school students living in South Central Los Angeles to provide an important and often overlooked insight. These kids, who are often perceived as ghetto thugs see and articulate the neglect and disparaging attitudes that pervade the ghetto environment that also happens to be their home. Kaplan helps unveil the tragedy inner city kids face when no one believes in them or provides appropriate care or support. Through her research, they share the lack of respect they feel because of filthy school toilets and teachers who would rather eat burritos than teach, as well as the violence and danger most youth face in school and in their neighborhoods. These kids also give voice to their desire for better education and for teachers, administrators and city officials who care about them and their future. I would have learned more about the photovoice method she used to help the kids articulate the issues they confront in their community on a daily basis. She does capture the complex social realities of these middle-school inner-city kids. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, eye-opening, important piece of work

By Ms Jay "We Live in the Shadow" provides the reader with a touching, eye-opening, and impressive insight into the lives of inner-city kids through their eyes, voices, and Kaplan's research, observations, and personal reflections. The reader will be captivated by the insightful expressions from these kids about their community, their schools, their educators, their city leaders, and their strong desire for education and change. Their insight is not only eye-opening, but also thought provoking. The inclusion of photovoice enhances the reader's ability to become more engaged in the world, the homes, and the lives of these kids. Hopefully through works like this more dialogue will be opened to help facilitate change in perceptions, and more importantly help to develop strategies, provide opportunities, and enable children like this to reach educational goals that will enable them to excel in society. This work is well put together and leaves you with a better understanding on how children, who some view as ghetto thugs, want nothing more than a safe place to play, and to live as well as receive a quality education with opportunity for a higher education.

The inner-city world of at-risk teens through their powerful photos and stories

"Kaplan gives a group of preteens from South Central L.A. the chance to document their lives in this moving work. After telling them to 'take pictures of anything you want to show me about your experiences,' Kaplan uses the results to assemble a well-researched narrative examining how the subjects 'experience and react to the social problems associated with South Central,' their reflections on living there, and how they deal with daily challenges, including gang violence and drug warfare... [Kaplan] interweaves her subjects' stories and pieces from their photo essays with her research, reflections, and observations, confronting issues of class, race, and identity. Even casual anecdotes point to larger problems - teachers who don't care and schools that don't work."--Publishers Weekly , April 2013

"Sociologist Kaplan uses a photovoice methodology to tell the experiences of at-risk youth in South Central Los Angeles in this thought-provoking narrative of youth voices combined with research. The black-and-white photos tell the story of courage, resilience, and hope amid poverty, crime, community violence, and social disorganization. The author incorporates her research about South Central into the narrative and offers readers an understanding of South Central's history and its impact on the lives of its youth. The photos and writings of the youth and Kaplan confront race, class, and identity. This visionary photovoice approach is a must-read for youth counselors and other professionals looking to engage youth in society and decrease the likelihood of delinquent behaviors. Summing Up: Highly recommended." - Choice "Adopting a photovoice methodology, Elaine Bell Kaplan provides an engaging account documenting why a group of disadvantaged Latino and Black kids want to succeed academically, and transcend their 'ghetto' backgrounds...The main strength of the book is that it offers many insights into how socially excluded youth are keenly aware of the structures that govern their lives... [A] rich and insightful piece of work." - Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books

About the Author Elaine Bell Kaplan is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California and author of Not Our Kind of Girl: Unraveling the Myths of Black Teenage Motherhood.