



WILKES UNIVERSITY



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VANESSA TAYLOR

Judged by author Diane Raptosh

The Ghetto is A-Live, Man!

(Part I America)

Just outside sophisticated suburbia. Ghet-to
crack heads with college degrees. Ghet-to
the place where cops don't protect but deceive. Ghet-to
basket ball courts in the middle of the streets. Ghet-to
souls lost in systematic poverty. Ghet-to
block booking, foreclosure, American history. Ghet-to
boys walking around with pants down to their knees. Ghet-to
true genius'. Ghet-to
Common, Mos Def and Talib Kweli. Ghet-to
the message we never hear because it uplifts the Black woman. Ghet-to
waz up mah nigga? Ghet-to
me. Ghet-to
you, because the Ghetto
is not a what; it's a who.

The Ghetto is A-Live, Man!

(Part 2 - Jamaica)

Right dung-town, below the mansions on the hill. Ghet-to
zinc fences, white skwal and screw faces. Ghet-to
Jamaica no problem, but a yah so it deh! Ghet-to
white collar tief bringin messages of peace. Ghet-to
di rass claat dons and di Garisons they oversee. Ghet-to
16 year old owning an M16. Ghet-to
dandy shandy in the middle of the street. Ghet-to
great potential but no opportunity. Ghet-to
boat a float, but too much mouth deh yah fi feed. Ghet-to
passa, passa, tight pants wearing jobless youts. Ghet-to
out of many one; nuh matter weh yuh live di Ghetto
will Ghet-to
you.

“Nothing attested, everything sung”

- H. L. Hix