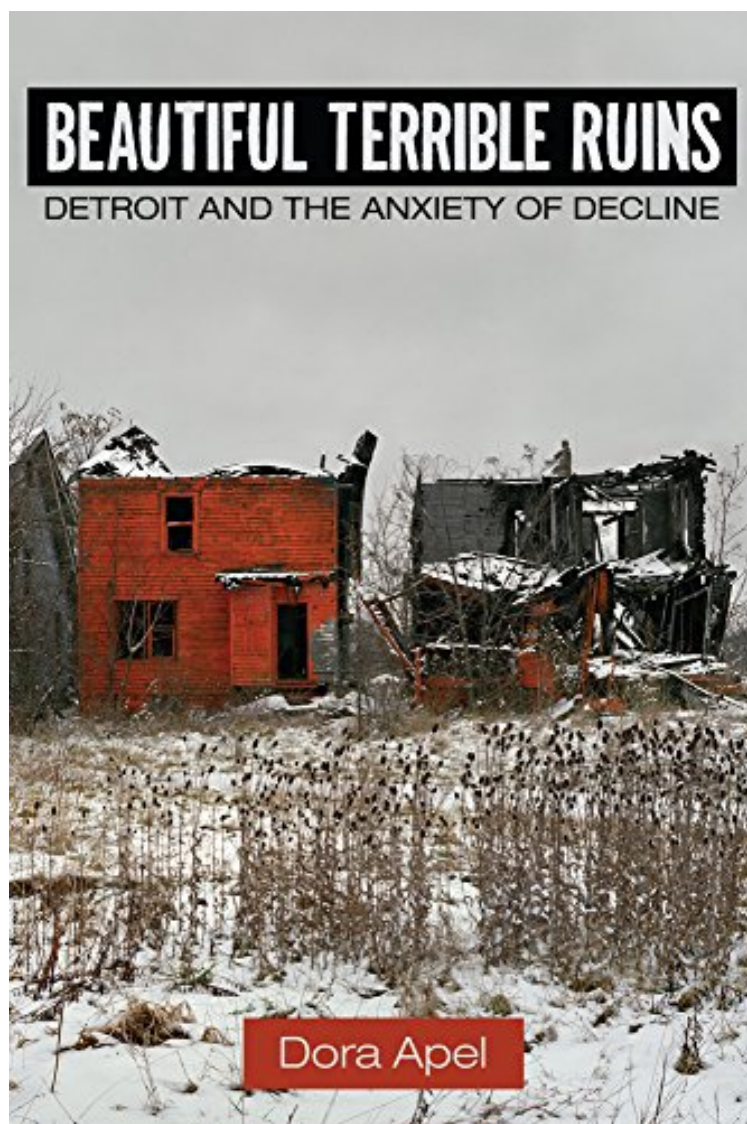


## Beautiful Terrible Ruins: Detroit and the Anxiety of Decline

*Dora Apel*

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**Dora Apel : Beautiful Terrible Ruins: Detroit and the Anxiety of Decline** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beautiful Terrible Ruins: Detroit and the Anxiety of Decline:

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Terrible RuinsBy KarenRachellLast week I received my usual daily email from a digital magazine that is in the forefront of creating and reporting political news. In the center of the page was an advertisement called Nine Scenes from A Changing Detroit. It is full of optimistic and promising chatter about the new Detroit that is emerging due to business and government coalitions. Whole Foods, a charter school (and the privatization that comes with that), a central market and much more all powered by a \$100 million

investment from JP Morgan Chase and CO. I had just read *Beautiful, Terrible, Ruins* so I viewed this with a different lens than I might have otherwise. While I live in a city that has gone through its own machinations with gentrification and the suffering and anguish that comes with it, *Beautiful Terrible Ruins* makes it clear that the winners blame the losers and that this is just the way of crony capitalism. The concept of "ruins" is new for me and I appreciated how clearly Dora Apel defined it and her critiques of it. I felt challenged by the book and wholly immersed in it. The art demonstrated her theoretical perspective and gave life to it. Now when I am walking in Boston, in an area that has been almost fully gentrified I see the new construction of multi-million dollar condos as the ruins and it's pretty heartbreaking. I thank Edelweiss for giving me the opportunity to review this book for an honest opinion.

Once the manufacturing powerhouse of the nation, Detroit has become emblematic of failing cities everywhere; the paradigmatic city of ruins; and the epicenter of an explosive growth in images of urban decay. In *Beautiful Terrible Ruins*, art historian Dora Apel explores a wide array of these images, ranging from photography, advertising, and television, to documentaries, video games, and zombie and disaster films.

"In *Beautiful Terrible Ruins: Detroit and the Anxiety of Decline*, Dora Apel goes on the offensive against the myriad myths and delusions peddled about the Motor City; not only that, she rebuffs the blame and shame that have traditionally been directed at the Detroit citizenry, and redirects our attention to the corporations and bureaucrats who have abandoned it. The result is a work that seems to invigorate a depressed debate and ask timely questions about social values in America and the world it influences."