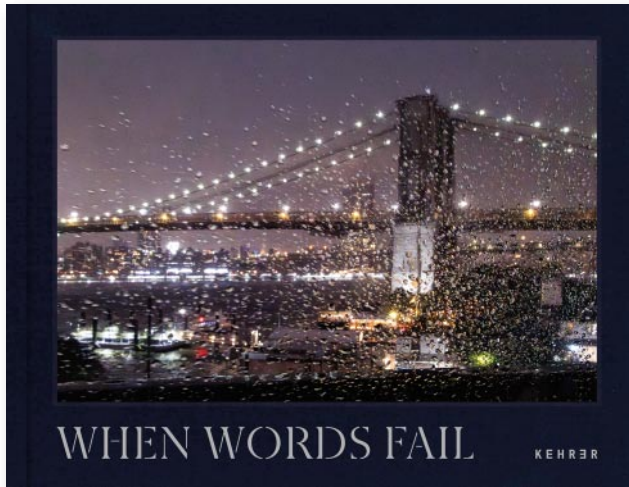


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A mourner's quest through New York City at dusk, looking for the light

Pamela Thomas-Graham
When Words Fail
A Photographic Journey through
New York City

Texts by Pamela Thomas-Graham, Carla Williams
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The French expression for twilight is »entre chien et loup«: the hour between dog and wolf. Between the familiar and the frightening.

Pamela Thomas-Graham found herself in such a place when her husband, author Lawrence Otis Graham, died suddenly just days after their 29th wedding anniversary. Searching for solace, she decided to take a photography class. For her entire life, she had excelled at expressing herself with words. But sometimes words fail.

This is the journal of a novice photographer, traveling by twilight throughout New York City, looking for light. A journey illuminated by streetlight, neon light, and candlelight. A journey from grief, fear, anger, fatigue, and longing to acquiescence. Complete with little firefly moments of grace.

Night falls and twilight comes for everyone. What we make of it is up to us.

From the essay *Memorial is Remembrance* by **Carla Williams**:
How can mere words convey the emptiness, anxiety, and pain of losing one's life partner without warning at such a young age? In search of a means to both communicate and process her grief, Pamela turned to my medium, photography. Traversing New York City with her camera, she chose twilight—that liminal space between day and night, waking and dreaming—during which to compose what would become her visual memorial.

Memorial is remembrance. To commemorate is to remember. To revivify what we have lost. Through each of the images presented here, Pamela pays homage to memory while welcoming anew the ever-shifting landscape of the living.

From the text *When Words Fail* by **Pamela Thomas-Graham**:

I never expected to end up in New York City. I had my heart set on building a life in Boston after graduate school. Then I met my husband and the plan changed. And so, with some trepidation, I left Cambridge, Massachusetts for New York. After we lost Lawrence, I had to decide: was it time to leave this city that had never been in my plans in the first place?

As I considered all the places in the world I could live, I learned that I, too, have become unable to live anywhere other than New York. At some point, when I wasn't looking, I seem to have become a naturalized citizen of the city. I'm not sure when it happened. Was it after my first Nathan's hot dog? Or the time I got stuck on the 6 train? Maybe it was the day we walked across the Brooklyn Bridge for the first time, or when we took our kids to see Santa at Macy's. Who knows when lightning struck? All I know is that when given the chance to leave, I realized that I'd fallen hard for New York. And I remain besotted with it, despite its flaws, edges, and endless inconveniences. Out of all the places in the world I could live, I want to be here.

Pamela Thomas-Graham is an avid photographer who has studied at The International Center for Photography and Parsons The New School for Design. She serves on the Photography Committee of the Whitney Museum of American Art and holds undergraduate, law, and business degrees from Harvard University. A businesswoman, mystery novelist, art collector, and founder of the lifestyle blog Dandelion Chandelier, this is her first book of photography.

See more of her work on Instagram (@newyorktwilight).

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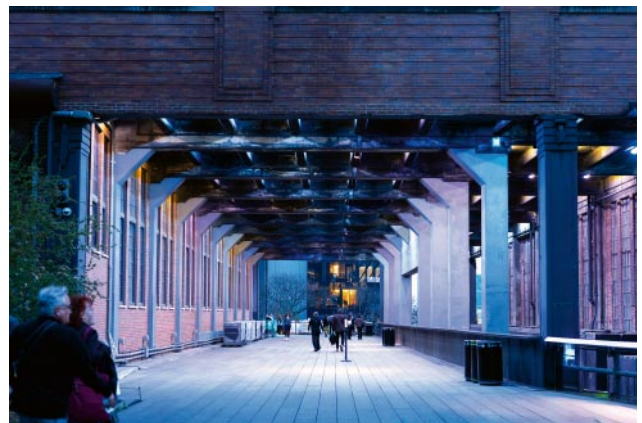
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