



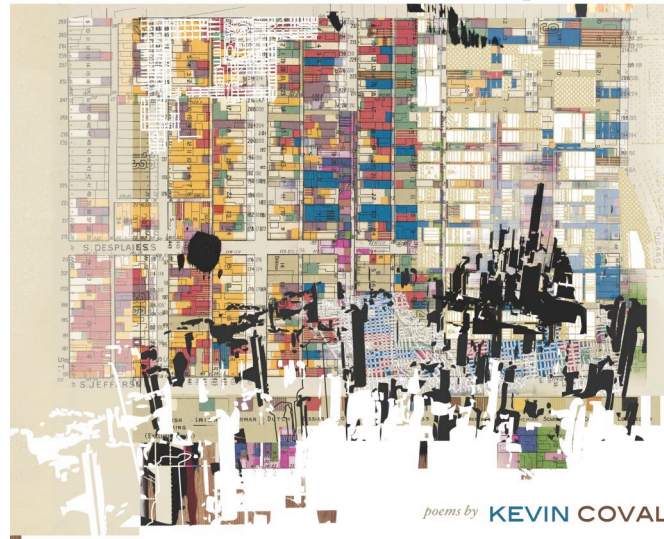
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHICAGOAN AND POET, KEVIN COVAL, BRINGS THE PEOPLE,
THE ENERGY AND THE RHYTHMS OF CHICAGO ALIVE IN NEW
BOOK OF POERY, *EVERYDAY PEOPLE*
National Book Release is November 3.**

EVERYDAY PEOPLE



**“Kevin Coval is a new, glowing voice in the world of literature.
In [his] voice is our hope for a new world of
peace, grace and beauty.” – Studs Terkel**

CHICAGO –Educator, four time-HBO Def Poet, “American Book of the Year finalist” and founder of “Louder than a Bomb: The Chicago Teen Poetry Festival” Kevin Coval has captured the energy and spirit of 21st century urban living in a new book of poetry *everyday people* (EM-press; \$15.00) released nationally November 3. Coval also makes numerous appearances throughout the Chicagoland area, complete listings of appearances at kevincoval.com.

Written in his personal style with strong influences from hip hop, Coval continues the traditions of Carl Sandburg and Gwendolyn Brooks in creating an image through words of a Chicago that reflects a gritty realism with glimmers of hope and heart for a promised future. Coval’s *everyday people* provides its reader with snapshots of a modern city, Chicago, where the common, daily locations, people, emotions and interactions become something to look at again with a new set of eyes. From riding the train to meeting a lover to the strangers one sees on the bus to the people just trying to make a living any way they know how, *everyday people* explodes with the vitality of the city and the power of the written word.

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"[Kevin Coval is] the new voice of Chicago...brilliant, funny, magnificent and intensely personal...[His work] should stand up there with the work of Carl Sandburg, and I don't say that lightly." Rick Kogan, WGN-TV/*Chicago Tribune*

"Coval echoes Allen Ginsburg in his spiritual revolt, cosmic vision and longing for multicultural transcendence. In boldly beautiful and outspoken hip-hop manifestos...and a Studs Terkelesque openness to humankind's countless stories, fuel Coval's percussive calls for compassion and connection." Donna Seaman, American Library Association Booklist

"This is one of my favorite poets." Mos Def

Kevin Coval is the author of *everyday people* and *slingshots* (a hip-hop poetica), named Book of the Year-finalist (2006) by The American Library Association. Coval has performed at hundreds of universities, high schools and theaters on four continents in seven countries including; The Parliament of the World's Religions in Capetown, South Africa, The African Hip-Hop Festival: Battle Cry, Poetry Society of London, University of the West Indies in Jamaica, St. Xavier's College in Bombay, India, and four seasons of Russell Simmons' *HBO Def Poetry Jam*, for which he also served as artistic consultant.

Coval's writing has appeared in *The Spoken Word Revolution* and *The Spoken Word Revolution: Redux* (Source Books), *Total Chaos* (Basic Civitas), *I Speak of the City: New York City Poems* (Columbia University Press), *The Bandana Republic* (Soft Skull Press), *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Reporter*, *Cross Currents*, *Crab Orchard Review*, seen on C-Span, WGN-TV, and can be heard regularly on Chicago Public Radio, where he is resident poet and hip-hop correspondent. Founder of "Louder Than A Bomb: The Chicago Teen Poetry Festival," the largest youth poetry festival in the world, Coval is poet-in-residence at The Jane Addams' Hull House Museum, faculty at The School of the Art Institute and University of Illinois-Chicago and Minister of Hip-Hop Poetics at The University of Wisconsin-Madison. For more than ten years has been teaching hip-hop poetics in high schools and colleges around the country.

EM Press founded by Mark Eleveld and Ron Maruszak, two high school English teachers interested in spreading contemporary voices in cutting edge literature among a wide and diverse audience. Influenced by the literary philosophy of Slam Poetry founder Marc Smith, and grounded in the classical roots of the English cannon, EM Press seeks to print, reprint, and translate writings of very high quality.

Coval will tour cities throughout the United States, between September 2008 and January 2009, and will make appearances on radio and television shows nationwide. For the current list of engagements go to Kevincoval.com.

* Author's website is kevincoval.com.

everyday people can be ordered directly from kevincoval.com (Oct. 1, 2008) and nationally at em-press.com, amazon.com, book stores and all performances (Nov. 3, 2008).

Title: *everyday people*

National publishing date: November 3, 2008

ISBN: 978-0-9708012-7-2

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Book Distribution: Baker & Taylor

Category: Poetry

Format: Paperback

Trim: 8.5" x 8.5" (perfect bound)

Page count: 94

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