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The picture I have chosen came from an album by Kendrick Lamar called To Pimp a Butterfly. Listening to the album then looking deeper into the cover shows the bigger meaning of the stories in the songs posted. From racial struggles to dealing with problems back in the city of Compton California. The picture tells it all at once.

When I first saw this cover, it stood out to me. It caught my eye with the joy and rage shown by those in the picture. When I started to look closer at it, everybody in there was showing a different emotion. To add on to those in the picture, there is a politician with Xs in his eyes lying on the ground. If that does not draw you to look closer into an image, then I do not know what will. Fans of the album put the image in color so that what is in it will stand out more.

Based on the music and meaning of the album, the cover is in black and white. This points out the racial struggle he faced while traveling around the world. Being a black man and coming out of one of the most dangerous cities in California put a large stereo type on your back. It would not matter if you were not a part of a gang. If you are in an area run by a gang, you are considered a part of it. He mentioned this in a past album called, Good Kid Mad City. On top of

that, in the area he is from the minority is more targeted by police. Adding to the struggle talked about in the album.

When Kendrick Lamar met with the photographer Denis Rouvre, he wanted to highlight his people. Vlad Sepetov designed the cover for Kendrick like times before. After setting it up Denis did his magic after taking the photo. By darkening the corners of the picture and adding highlight to the center, you can see the people in the middle are showing more. Now that the people are more visible, you can see their facial expressions. From looking excited to wanting to express anger. Seeing the expression the people are making made me question a lot of things going on in society.

Looking at the photo, it makes me think of my people. Dating back to when slavery started. Just sitting there and reading the stories of the horrific things that had happened to slaves while under owners. Even after slavery, my people are treated with disrespect. Even civil rights did not change anything. The expressions of rage and joy stand out the most. Mostly because they are all young. Young black men at that. You cannot find a black man over their thirty's being as energetic as a young man in their early 20s. It shows me that for us to change, we must educate the youth. When you start with youth, they will grow up knowing what we told them, and they will pass it on. Then the trend will continue for generations.

This picture means looking into the problems in yourself, then after you solve them, do the same for your community. For you to move forward, you need to be real with yourself and those around you. Change cannot happen overnight. Change will forever and always take time.

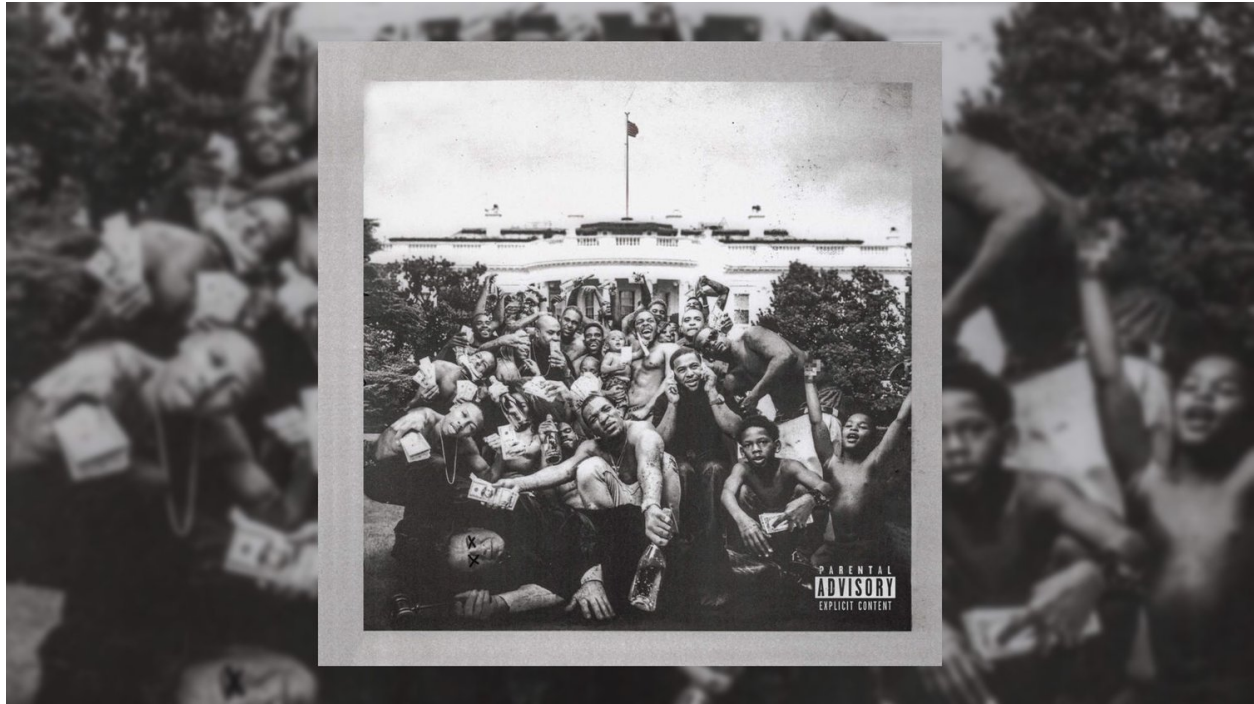


Fig 1. To Pimp a Butterfly by Kendrick Lamar. Taken by Denis Rouvre

Willis, Marcus. "The Best Albums of the 2010s: Kendrick Lamar's 'to Pimp a Butterfly.'"

Albumism, Albumism, 15 Mar. 2024, [albumism.com/lists/110-best-albums-of-the-2010s-](https://albumism.com/lists/110-best-albums-of-the-2010s-kendrick-lamar-to-pimp-a-butterfly)

[kendrick-lamar-to-pimp-a-butterfly](https://albumism.com/lists/110-best-albums-of-the-2010s-kendrick-lamar-to-pimp-a-butterfly).