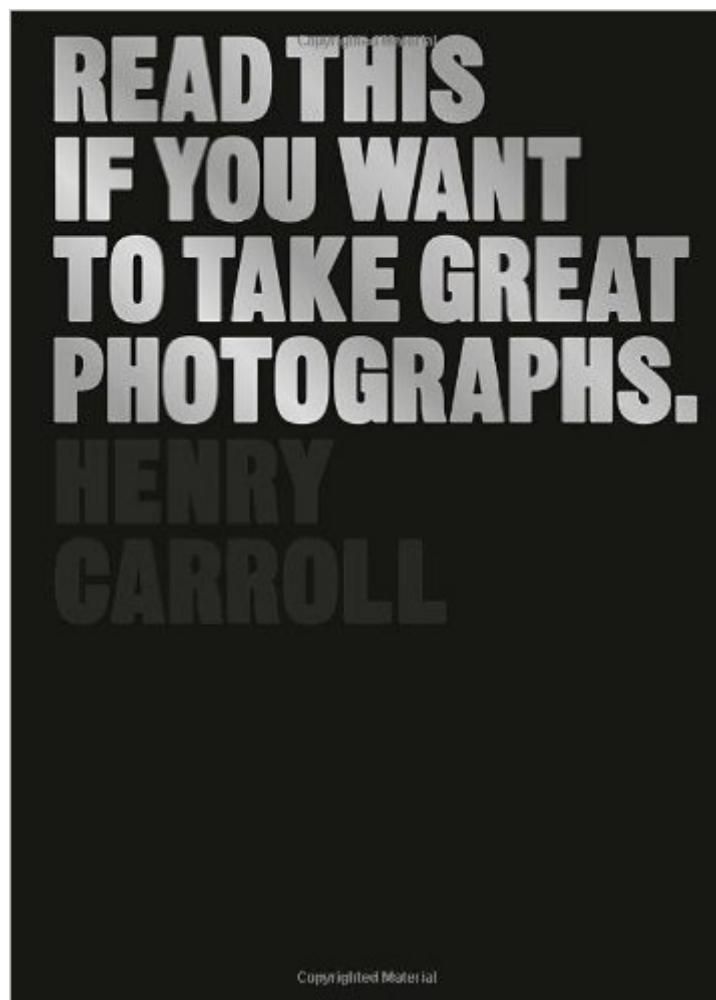


The book was found

Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs



Synopsis

Photography is now more popular than ever thanks to the rapid development of digital cameras. *Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs* is for this new wave of DSLR dabblers and users of compact system, and bridge cameras. It contains no graphs, no techie diagrams and no camera club jargon. Instead, it inspires readers through iconic images and playful copy packed with hands-on tips. Split into five sections, the book covers composition, exposure, light, lenses, and seeing. Images taken by master photographers – including Henri Cartier- Bresson, Sebastião Salgado, Fay Godwin, and Martin Parr – serve to illustrate points and encourage readers to try out new ideas. Today's aspiring photographers want immediacy and see photography as an affordable way of expressing themselves quickly and creatively. This book answers that need, teaching readers how to take photographs using professional techniques.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The back cover of this book has the following description: "No scary graphs. No techie diagrams. No camera-club jargon. Read this if you want to take great photographs walks you through the fundamentals of composition, exposure, light, lenses and the all-important art of seeing without drowning you in technobabble." Does the book fulfill this description? The answer is yes. There is a brief description of the main (and basic) elements of photography such as aperture, shutter speed and ISO along with many photographs that illustrate these concepts well. However, in this reviewer's opinion, many of the photographs could have been more explicit in that there could have been photographs showing the impact of incremental changes in these on the photograph. For example, a series of photographs of moving objects that show how high shutter speed freezes

action and how, as shutter speed is slowed, it is blurred. The same applies for aperture (on depth of field impacts) as well as the impact of higher ISO speeds (on noise). Nevertheless the book does illustrate these concepts fairly well with the included photographs. It's just that subtleness is lost by looking only at extremes and not incremental minor changes. The book also discusses well some of the major factors behind composition such as framing (i.e., rule of thirds), symmetry and flow of lines and curves across pictures. However, due to the books very short length, these discussions are very short (2 pages each if the accompanying photograph is included). Again, however, the basics are brought across. The last part of the book focuses on "seeing" as an art. The coverage in this area, as the rest in the book, is again quite short. The basics are brought across again, in a clear and concise manner.

As both a parent and published pro photographer, I secretly harbor a desire that my kids will one day grow to love photography as much as I do (I may be holding my breath for a long time on this one). Sure, I've taken them on photo-specific excursions hoping to light a fire and have attempted on numerous occasions to pass on my knowledge and insights. But I might as well be speaking to a brick wall. If you have kids, you probably know what I'm talking about. Try and explain the basic foundation of exposure (the triad of shutter, aperture and ISO) to them for example, and they'll think you're speaking Mandarin. All joking aside, kids always think that they're experts in every subject and the last people they want advice from are their parents, regardless of our level of expertise. Often, the best learning comes from outside sources and many kids are turning to friends, social media (like Instagram or YouTube) to gain much-needed knowledge. That's not to say that today's kids can't learn something from a book that doesn't have to do with school as many do enjoy reading. You could try getting them to read a tried and true photography book like Bryan Peterson's, "Understanding Exposure" but truth be told, teenagers really don't have the patience. It's a great book for people starting out, but it's way too technical for today's kids with short attention spans. Today's youth are more likely to pick up a copy of "Hunger Games" than any book on photography. So yesterday I was with my 14-year-old daughter in one of those ultra-hip clothing stores, and saw an intriguing book on the shelf. Like any good father who is utterly obsessed about photography, I purchased it.

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