



# Simply Beautiful Photographs

*Annie Griffiths*

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National Geographic's *Simply Beautiful Photographs* takes readers on a spectacular visual journey through some of the most stunning photographs to be found in National Geographic's famed Image Collection. Award-winning photographer Annie Griffiths culled the images to reflect the many variations on the universal theme of beauty. Chapters are organized around the aesthetic concepts that create beauty in a photograph: Light, Composition, Moment (Gesture and Emotion), Motion, Palette, and Wonder.

Beyond the introduction and brief essays about each featured concept, the text is light. The photographs speak for themselves, enhanced by lyrical quotes from scholars and poets. In the chapter on Light, for example, we read these words of whimsical wisdom from songwriter Leonard Cohen: "Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the lights get in." And then the images flow, of light entering scenes via windows, clouds, and spotlights, from above, alongside, and behind, casting radiance upon young ballerinas and weathered men, into groves of autumn trees and island-dotted seas, revealing everything it touches to be beautiful beyond expectation.

To illuminate the theme of Wonder, Griffiths chose a wish from Andre Bazin: "If I had influence with the good fairy...I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life." This thought is juxtaposed with an exquisite vision in white, a frame filled with the snowy-pure dots and rays of a bird's fan tail. And on it goes, picture after tantalizing picture, alive with wondrous beauty.

When she created *National Geographic Simply Beautiful Photographs*, Annie Griffiths set two goals: to maximize visual delight, and to create a book unique in the world of publishing--one in which many of the photographs could be purchased as prints. She has succeeded on both counts. Many of these stunning images are available for order, and there can be no doubt as to the visual delight. You must open this book for yourself, and take in its radiant beauty.

## Simply Beautiful Photographs Details

Date : Published October 19th 2010 by Focal Point  
ISBN : 9781426206450  
Author : Annie Griffiths  
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## From Reader Review Simply Beautiful Photographs for online ebook

### **Davide Frezzato says**

Un'opera piacevolissima e di grande qualità. Il mondo visto attraverso gli occhi dei più bravi fotografi di National Geographic.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Two words sum up this book. Gorgeous photographs. I loved the images in this book and the quotes. This book just made me yearning to travel more. 5 stars!

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### **Lyndsay L says**

Simply Beautiful Photographs is beyond simple. It is brought to us by National Geographic and Annie Griffiths; both the embodiments of supreme talent. Anything by Nat. Geo. is amazing, in my book, and Annie Griffiths is a stellar photographer and writer.

The whole book is divided into sections; Light, Composition, Palette, Time, & Wonder. Each section is introduced with beautifully written introductions. These introductions portray the different aspects of photography in a wonderful light and show people the true art of it. The true skill it takes to make these images.

I think Simply Beautiful Photographs is a must have coffee-table book, especially if you're a photographer.

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### **Holly ? says**

I was using this for reference for my photography project. The pictures are absolutely stunning!

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### **Rinusha says**

The quotes in this one are as brilliant as the shots !

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### **Daniel says**

Another nice collection of photos, esp. the Moment part is interesting as it captures that particular moment....!

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### **Meghan says**

I enjoyed many of these photographs. If 500 pages seems like a lot, skip right to the final section: wonder. You will not be disappointed.

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### **Jan Polep says**

Awesome is an overworked word, but fittingly describes the photographs in this 10 pound coffee table book. Want to escape the worries of the world? Lose yourself viewing people and places from National Geographic's Image Collection archives.

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### **Amanda says**

Title says it all - beautiful photographs. Really nice book.

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### **MsMood says**

Any page you turn to is amazing! Beautiful!

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### **Yosef Shapiro says**

Some of these photographs are very good. But, many do not live up to expectations.

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### **Becky says**

An amazing collection of photographs showcasing our incredible, beautiful world. This book is a keeper. It brought me to tears.

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### **Delores says**

I absolutely loved the book! I loved all of the pictures. They were beautiful. I liked the quotes throughout the book and the short segments about various aspects of photography. This book is a book that should be treasured highly!

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### **Paul Bryant says**

This book is an antidote to the other stuff I have currently lumbered myself with – an uninspiring novel (so far) which I had been looking forward to and now don't understand why; a turgid study of English folk music (I'm on a mission to reread all the essential books on that so it's a must); and a horribly written academic book about the horrible subject of torture porn movies (it's the only book on the subject).

Yes, the title of this book is rather pass the sick bag please. It was actually a present to Georgia who was 18 recently (imagine that!).

But now, a warning. Innocent leafers-through in bookshops should be aware that at many points during this book their eyes may spontaneously gush forth with founts of unaccustomed boohooing, so have a hankie or three at the ready. It is because we are not ready to be ambushed by joy in public places.

My own favourites were the three utterly scruffy goofy insanely-grinning Irish kids from Leinster, a dog which can't work out what to do with a very unexpected frog in a pool in Yarmouth, Maine, a young couple on a street in Buenos Aires (it says they're dancing, but I don't know about that), a girl wrapped up warm in the autumn chill with a great wicker basket, she's passing a castle and down a lane of trees in Ile-de France, a woman in Bihar carrying some huge bowl on her head in a red and orange sari (how many women through the world carry stuff on their heads, millions it seems), three nuns playing volleyball in Arequipa Peru, they got their full nun costumes on but they're having such a great time, they don't care, volleyball is now part of their religion, an old woman in a field wearing an enormous industrial-sized protective apron laughing her head off (it says "while harvesting sugar beets") (I don't know why old women smiling and laughing should always make such great photos), a woman resting her head on her horse's neck with her eyes closed, you can tell she really loves that horse ...

Well, I could go on. You get the picture. All these photos and more can summon forth strange emotion.

I found the old woman. Here she is, a little diminished but still wonderful.

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## Jocelin says

This book was really a work of art. The photography was absolutely beautiful.

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