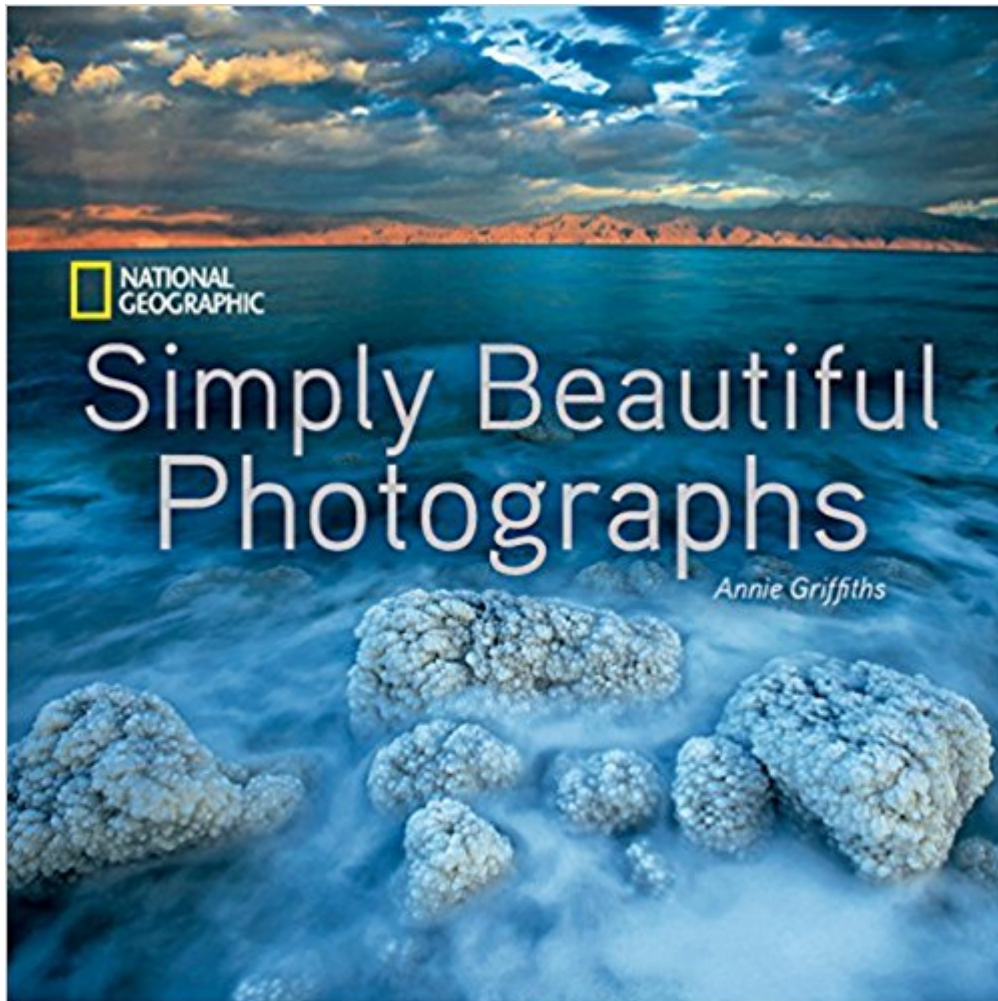




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National Geographic Simply Beautiful Photographs



Synopsis

National Geographic 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 through 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. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I know I definitely should have seen this from the description, but it is a very small (albeit heavy) book. It came up in a search for coffee table books so I thought it would be larger. I also agree with another reviewer that the print quality is not sharp. It reminds me of photos printed off of your home printer. It was a fine "filler" gift for a family member, but not the "wow" item I thought it would be, especially being by NatGeo.

Never again !! Had a few of these in my cart,too.. Much too small to enjoy..Beautiful pictures,split onto two pages.. Why not three or four ??But,I haven't finished it yet..Unbelievable !! Shame on you,National Geographic and Annie Griffiths...You couldn't possibly care as you should...

Unfortunately I've yet to look through this impressive book of photographs as it was purchased for a special friend who lives 1000's of miles away...I understand, being a photographer, he's certainly enjoying it. Only wish I could have looked inside online as you can w/ many of the books.

got this as a Christmas gift for an uncle who's a camera/photography buff, and he just told me that he's picked this up several times since he received it, and has really enjoyed looking through it. price was more than fair, the quality of the photos are up to NatGeo standards, and I think it's a real nice compact-sized coffee table book. I was going to buy this originally through the NatGeo catalog, and then found it here on for slightly less with free shipping. I'd definitely recommend this.

Beautiful photography from all over the world. This shows us that there is beauty every where, you

just have to find it.

If you're an aspiring photographer, the best lessons that you could pick-up from this book are 1) composition, 2) patience in waiting for the right time to get the perfect picture, 3) perspective and the tug to really go way out there (not your usual places, time, subjects) to take a picture. Other than these, don't expect much of a "teaching book." There is an essay, to start every chapter, which somehow broaches on theory (like 'Light') and how some of the pictures were taken, but in terms of diagram, showing aperture and shutter settings, there's just none in this book. So this book serves as eye candy more than anything, and it does a good job at that. The editor really did dig deep inside NatGeo's archive, and I only see very few repeats, few familiar pictures. The book touches the heart. It will make you realize the smallness of what you've seen and experienced of this planet. The printing quality though could have been done better--the page is a bit muddled, even grainy to the touch, unlike the detailed sharp quality of photo books by Peachpit Press for example. (This is the main reason why I scored 4 instead of 5) But a good buy nonetheless at 20 USD. A perfect coffee table book, at the very least.

Purchased for doctor's office where I work. Patients love this.

Stunningly gorgeous photos! Aptly titled book!

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