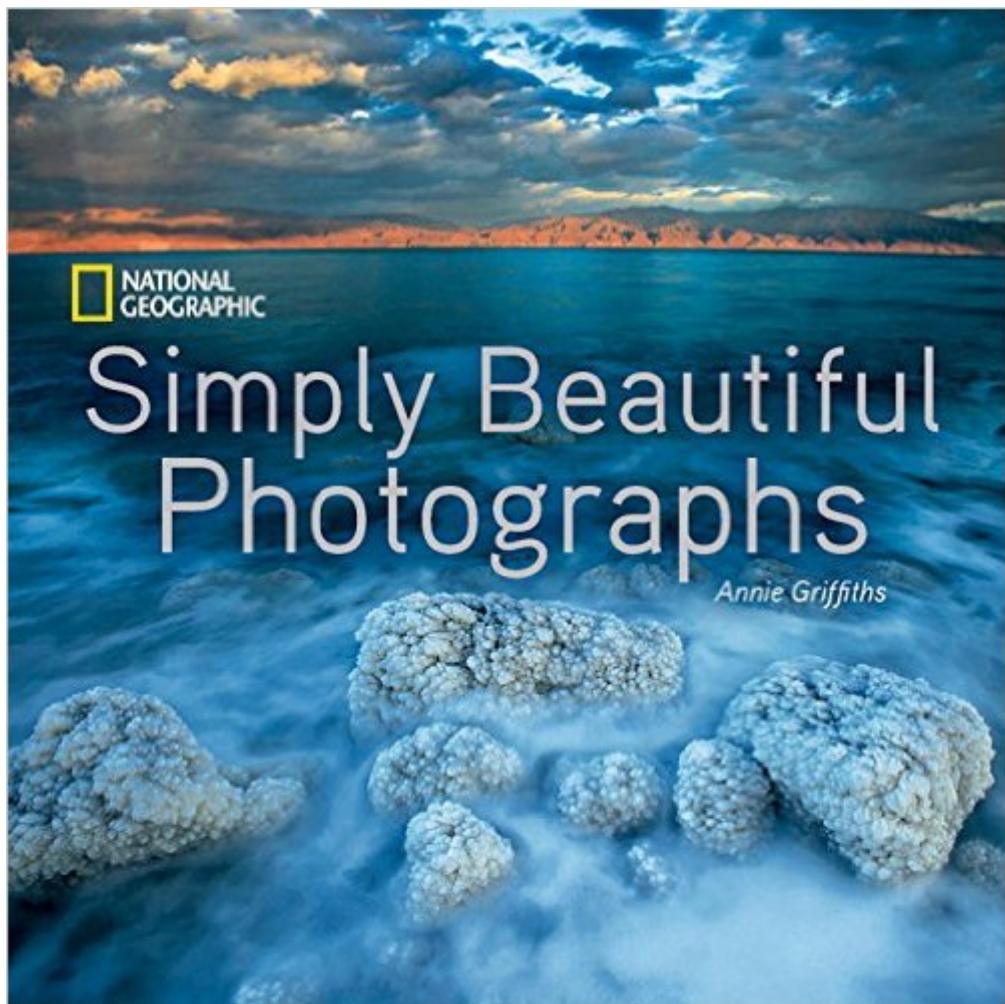


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# National Geographic Simply Beautiful Photographs



## 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 André 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the most exciting books that National Geographic has published in recent times. One stunning image after another it lives up to its representation by showing the best photos found in the National Geographic archives. There is little text in this book and it relies heavily on the quality of the images selected. The sample photos and the video only give you a taste of what is between the covers. I must admit that I am biased, because one of my photos is in the book. It was an honor to have one of the only photos I ever sent to National Geographic to be selected by Annie Griffiths to be included in the book. As a photographer, I will be learning from this book for years to come. What makes beauty in a photograph is a question this book answers. It may seem like a small trivial question to some, but Annie gives an elegant answer with some of the most beautiful photos that represent the best of our world. This book helps reaffirm to me that photography can be a medium of how to view this world and live our lives in the simple pursuit of beauty. What greater purpose could a photographer or a person have? It is no wonder to me that the popularity of this book is rising, and I applaud Annie Griffiths for the theme of beauty that opens before your eyes with each turn of the page. When I sit for awhile with this book a quote from George Eliot comes to mind: "The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone." I treasure the moments that each photographer has brought to my eyes.

National Geographic has prepared a collection of "Simply Beautiful Photographs" into a nicely sized coffee table book. One of the few times, the title of a book perfectly sums up its contents. The book is quite heavy, mainly because of the heavy stock paper and over 500 pages contained there in. The pictures have been divided into examples portraying : light, composition, moment, time, palette and wonder. Many are a two page size, beautifully composed , with no print over them and a small description of the photographer and the place - given either on following pages or on a white border. They are stunning pictures. Turn the pages and they can take your breath away both from form and

picture and content. This is indeed a book for lovers of beauty, of photography and the world around us.

I was very excited when I saw this book arrived at my desk. The front and back covers are really vivid and beautiful as the book's title. However, once I turned the page over. I was very disappointed! Although the book contains a number of beautiful photos, the quality of the printing is very low. It is like looking at the book from the 70's from my parent's bookshelf. Most, if not all, photos are pale and grainy. With printing technology today, I believe National Geographic could have done much better job, still at this reasonable price, in giving these great photos a respect they deserve. Seriously, my small ink jet printer at home can produce much better printing quality than what are in the book.

Without any doubt, the book consists of beautiful photos. What displeases me, as in many other books, is that a picture fill two pages and the meeting of both the center, greatly vex the composition of the photograph by which the book was produced. I do not understand where is the art direction or production of the book not see this failure as destructive of photography. [...]

National Geographic Simply Beautiful Photographs by Annie Griffiths will inspire all budding photographers. As an amateur photographer who has never had any training, works such as this provide not only a classroom in which to study the work of those who are professionals, but also a statement of the beauty around us providing we have the eyes to see it. With 500 pages of photographs and a minimum of text, Simply Beautiful Photographs is a generous peek at the holding of National Geographic. The beginning of each chapter is headed by a quote from a notable person that relates to photography if not directly, then at least tangentially. Photographs are clearly labeled and provide the name of the photographer. If I have any criticism for this work it is that the date of the photograph is not provided. There are several pictures that are culturally interesting and the date might have provided some context. Still, this is a five star book from any angle you can think of. Priced at \$35 is also a plus. Normally books such as this are \$50 or better. I highly recommend. Peace always and bless us all.

I also found the photos in the book to be dull and murky. I'm finally fed up with all the 5 star reviews saying how fantastic this book is. I just received mine and I'm so disappointed I could cry. This is another book printed in CHINA. It was a big hope that this would be quality but pages aren't even

smooth. I think needs to stated where the book is printed and National Geographic should be ashamed to put this out.

I was very excited about this book after I heard Annie Griffiths comments in an interview. The book arrived and I look forward to reading more about what Annie writes on photography. That said I was very disappointed in the quality of the printing. It is not the high quality print/photo book that I was expecting.

Lives up to it's name. I like that it is broken into categories such as "Lighting" "Composition", where the photos in that category emphasize that aspect of a beautiful photo. The narrative is both interesting and informative.

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