

**READ THIS  
IF YOU WANT  
TO TAKE GREAT  
PHOTOGRAPHS.  
HENRY  
CARROLL**

## **Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs**

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# Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs

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## Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs Henry Carroll

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.

## Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs Details

Date : Published March 25th 2014 by Laurence King Publishing (first published 2014)

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Author : Henry Carroll

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## From Reader Review Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs for online ebook

### Samhain says

As someone who has learned by watching my father take stunning photographies, and by fumbling with his cameras, I found this little book really useful. I do realize it doesn't replace a proper formation, but anyone self-taught can benefit from it in my views. It's a great first step to understanding how a camera and how pictures work, without spending hours taking nice pics only by chance and figuring out why they're good ones. People with more knowledge might not find it useful, though.

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### F says

Great little book from urban outfitters  
Basics and easy understanding of photography

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### Victoria says

This book is perfect for beginners at photography! Everything is explained in a simple way with an example on each page. Most importantly it's not the type of read where some too-full-of-oneself photographer is trying to tell you that what he/she does is the right and only way to shoot. Because there really isn't such a thing in photography.

You are given useful information in an easy to remember way. You're being shown your options and encouraged to try them! Most importantly this book inspires you without trying to change the way you personally see and take pictures.

I already knew most of the things in there and I wish I had this book two or three years ago - would've saved me so much confusion. But it's still a useful thing to have so you can remind yourself how much you can do with a camera!

I would recommend highly to everyone! Especially to people just looking to enter the world of photography. Honestly, why doesn't this just come in the camera box?

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### Aist? Ožalinskait? says

Duoda patarimus, ta?iau nemoko. Man taip patinka. Skaitydama jau?iausi lyg s?d??iau bare su autoriumi ir klausy?iausi k? jis sako, ži?r??iau kokias funkcijas pasirenka kameroje. Labai savita kalba, aišk?s pavyzdžiai, paaiškinimai, mažai termin?, tiesiog paprasta suprasti. Gal kiek trikd? puslapi? vartymas, kai prie vienos temos priskiriami keli pavyzdžiai (fotografijos), kurie išsim?t? visoje knygoje skirtinguose puslapiuose. Smagu, kad knyga kompaktiška ir labai dailaus dizaino, gera toki? tur?ti kuprin?je ar iš?jus fotografiuoti atsiversti, paskaityti konkret? fotografavimo atvej?. Kas ieško metodin?s knygos – netiks, ta?iau

kam tokios pabodo ir norisi draugišk? patarim? – itin patariu :)

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### **Adam says**

This book was good for me since photography is an occasional hobby that I don't dedicate a lot of time to. It was just enough to remind me of what aperture does and some basic settings to get desired effects. To the disparagers out there: you are what the author refers to as camera club people. Basically you look down upon the average person who doesn't want all the detail. If we wanted that, we would join a club.

Not for a professional photographer.

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### **Alex says**

it is a good book, more technical than "Seeing things" by Joel Meyerowitz. A nice collection of photos. Highly recommended.

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### **Laura says**

(Esto es medio trampa, empezado en 2015 y terminado en 2016).

Muchas cosas que explica el libro ya las sabía, pero siempre viene bien un recordatorio técnico. No te enseña 'cómo hacer buenas fotos' paso a paso, sino que te da las bases y te anima a explorar por tu cuenta. Y la portada es guay ❤. Qué ganas de salir a la calle cámara en mano.

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### **Peter Derk says**

Great book about the craft of photography.

And I use the word "craft" very intentionally.

Art books that focus on a how-to are always problematic. Because there's too much to the formula of what makes great art. You can do what Ansel Adams did, but then you're just doing what Ansel Adams did. You might paint a great painting with very little experience because your lack of experience also equates to a lack of preconceived notion of what is and isn't a painting, but on the other hand your lack of technical skill can hold you back too.

Art, to me, is all about finding sweet spots. Experience, technical know-how, personal excitement, and just what happens to be in the room when. There's so much to it, it's hard to make a helpful guide.

Buuut, I think this book does a great job of opening the world of photography to people who aren't well-acquainted. And it focuses on craft, the idea of doing something with the express purpose of doing it and improving as opposed to the doing of something to create Art. The book promotes the importance of

TAKING PHOTOS over fiddling with a camera, and it recommends settings that get people out there taking pictures. It shows the masters, and it shows how the masters break the rules and why.

More than anything, it espouses the value of committing to the form, getting out there and taking a lot of pictures.

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### **Brooke says**

I don't think this book will turn me into a great photographer but I liked reading the mildly technical descriptions of famous photographer's work.

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### **Esther says**

Highlights:

"Perfect is often imperfect" Robert Capa.

"See with your eyes, not your camera" Edward Weston

"Good photographers are contortionists"

"The power of the photography lies in its mystery, and photography keeps the secret."

Features:

- Hiroshi Sugimoto, Baltic Sea, Rugen, 1996.

There is sublime beauty, the smooth subtle gradations of grays, luminosity of sky and water.

Seascapes with name of place as stamp.

HS relationship with the sea as "a voyage of seeing"

and these deep, detailed images become a metaphor for personal adventures.

"mystery of mysteries, water and water are right there before us in the sea. Everytime I view the sea, I feel a calming sense of security, as if visiting my ancestral home, I embark on a voyage of seeing".

- Weegee, The Critic, 1943.

Straight on flash during night time (trademark approach) harsh light, brash illuminates faces as 'deer caught in headlight'. Unexpected and serendipitous contrast or rich/poor, through quick scan of appearance, body posture, identifier, etc etc.

More features photographers however this book is essentially a manual of photography 101, with examples of tips from other photographers:

- . technical lens, shutter, aperture, ISO, etc
- . ways of looking
- . narratives through composition, symmetry, asymmetry, rules of thirds, etc
- . to observe lights around you, whether natural/artificial
- . postures/captures/instinct

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### **Thomas Johansson says**

Every budding photographer should read this book. It's a fast read, it makes you think and then if you want to get deeper into something, there's a great index to point you toward other books. It really teaches you a lot about capturing images.

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### **Looseleaf says**

This is one of those you-dont-need-to-know-anything books for those that really dont want to know anything. It is not a book for photographers, its for those that dont want to be. I'd like to see anyone improve as a photographer after reading this. Henry mis-interprets many of the photographs (none of them his by the way)and seems to have a odd understanding of operating a camera. He certainly doesn't understand the use of manual mode and clearly doesnt use it himself. It would be nice to say his advice is another view and the reader could finally understand their camera but its just a foolish book and I'm not sure he can even take a photograph himself.

A page(pg84) picked at random ...

Focal Length; put simply focal lengths are either short or long

His advice could be applied to how your read the book ...just set your brain to auto, now turn the page.

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### **Fatema Al Fardan says**

4.5

This book is great for amateur photographers.

I learned so much about elements of photography that I thought were luck, but it turns out they're skill.

The book is divided into five parts: composition, exposure, light, lenses and seeing. Each section edifies the reader about certain techniques and essential ideas.

The only down side is that it's not camera specific. I think if it were camera specific, even if the camera was different than the readers. The reader would have an idea of where to go and what to click. I found it troublesome to find some of the things Carroll referred too.

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### **Graeme says**

If you are taking your first step into photography as a hobby, then is probably as good as you could do. He will give you a quick grounding in the numerous aspects that make photography an art form.

He gives you key compositional concepts; from leading lines and framing, to rule of thirds and depth of field. Really making you think about your photographs while helping you develop your photographer's eye. There is an excellent chapter on light which every photographer should be thinking about constantly.

Also covered are the technical aspects such as the trio (aperture, shutter speed and ISO) and details of the various lens types and their differences.

There are some stunning pictures throughout which exemplify all the points made in the book which I found inspiring. They were helpful in solidifying the different concepts in my mind.

All things considered, I think this book is a damn good introduction to photography. Gives enough information to get you out taking good photographs without drowning you in formulas and jargon. Admittedly, further reading will be required as you develop as a photographer; but that is true of your journey into any art form.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Simply constructed as an intro to understanding photography, Carroll includes short and comprehensible chapters, complete with images, to model the ideas. He helps photography feel approachable and an expression of art, not a display of technique. For anyone hoping to better understand manipulating shutter speed, aperture, and ISO to create unique images, this is the book for you. I'm carrying it around in my camera bag!

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