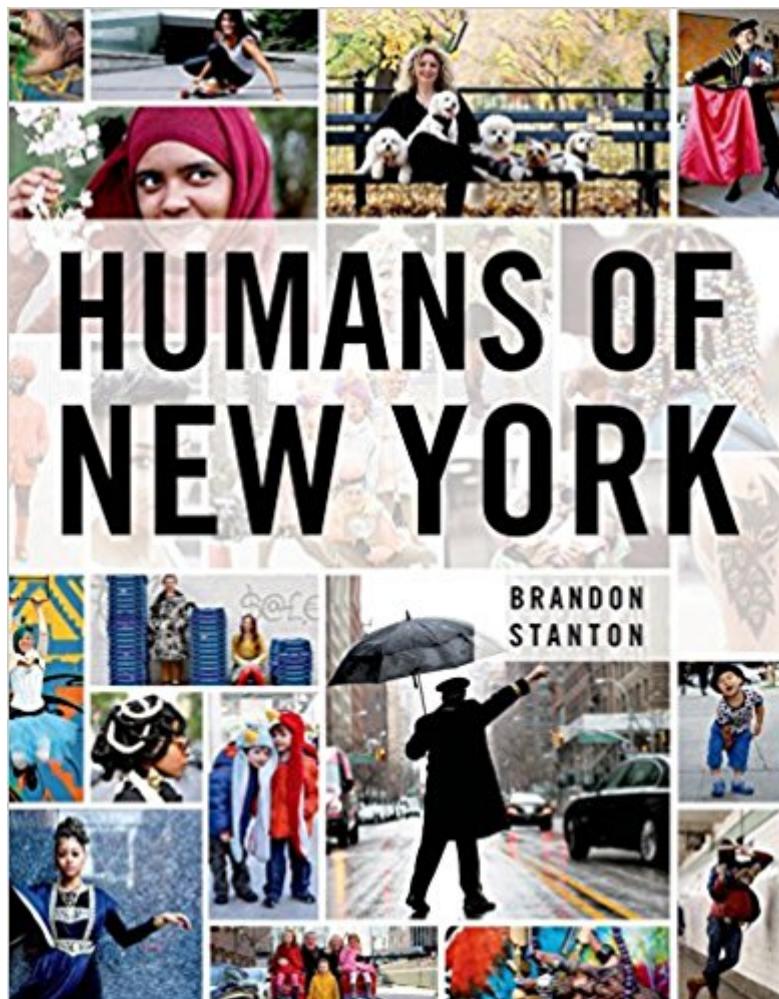


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# Humans Of New York



## **Synopsis**

Based on the blog with more than four million loyal fans, a beautiful, heartfelt, funny, and inspiring collection of photographs and stories capturing the spirit of a cityNow an instant #1 New York Times bestseller, Humans of New York began in the summer of 2010, when photographer Brandon Stanton set out to create a photographic census of New York City. Armed with his camera, he began crisscrossing the city, covering thousands of miles on foot, all in an attempt to capture New Yorkers and their stories. The result of these efforts was a vibrant blog he called "Humans of New York," in which his photos were featured alongside quotes and anecdotes. The blog has steadily grown, now boasting millions of devoted followers. Humans of New York is the book inspired by the blog. With four hundred color photos, including exclusive portraits and all-new stories, Humans of New York is a stunning collection of images that showcases the outsized personalities of New York. Surprising and moving, printed in a beautiful full-color, hardbound edition, Humans of New York is a celebration of individuality and a tribute to the spirit of the city. With 400 full-color photos and a distinctive vellum jacket

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Top 5 Humans of New York Brandon Stanton's thousands of not-quite-candid street portraits of New Yorkers (and accompanying captions, usually from the subjects themselves) have made his Humans of New York blog both poignant and extremely popular--as well as garnering him recognition as one of Time magazine's "30 People Under 30 Changing the World." This book of the

same title collects 400 of his best portraits, telling small stories that are outsized in their humor, candor, and humanity. It was also our number one pick for the best books of the year in Photography. Here are Stanton's own top five favorite images, accompanied by his own words. Click on the images to see larger versions, and learn more about Humans of New York. It also makes a wonderful gift for any of the humans in your life. -- Jon Foro

1) Ironically, some of the best quotes come from the people who have the least amount of time to talk to me. She told me: "I can't talk, because these shadows are changing every second." Normally I'm a bit downtrodden if I'm unable to interview a subject, but I thought her 'brush-off' was the perfect complement to the photo. [Click here for a larger image](#)

2) I always cite this photo as representing the most emotional interaction that I've ever had on the street. I came across this 100 year old woman just south of Central Park. She was walking in a rainstorm with a very bright umbrella. After I took her photo, I got under the umbrella with her, and asked her for one piece of advice. She said: "I'll tell you what my husband told me when he was dying. I asked him: 'Mo, how am I supposed to live without you?' And he told me: 'Take the love you have for me and spread it around.'" [Click here for a larger image](#)

3) I was walking through Chelsea one morning when I noticed someone rolling around in the middle of the street. Of course I started running toward the scene, and when I arrived, I found this drag queen. Apparently she had been performing a song at a nearby bar, and at the climax of her performance, ran into the street and threw her tips into the air. I joke that this photo captures more elements of New York than any other I've taken. [Click here for a larger image](#)

4) I love this photo because of the variety of expressions that I managed to capture. I found these kids in the Lower East Side, making the most of a hot summer day. Right before I took the photo, one of the kids leaned a little too far forwards and started spilling water from the pool. This created a variety of different responses from his fellow swimmers. [Click here for a larger image](#)

5) The young boy seemed so unwilling to participate in the portrait, that at first it seemed like a photo would be impossible. But his shyness ended up coming through beautifully, creating a portrait of the relationship between mother and son. [Click here for a larger image](#)

An Best Book of the Month, October 2013: The thing that always amazes me about New York is that it works at all: so many people, stacked on top of each other in apartments or wedged side-by-side on the streets, that it once seemed--to my admittedly West Coast eyes--that there could be no room to breathe, to stretch, to be human in such a seemingly inhumane environment. Even the garbage (the literal garbage; no Travis Bickle allusions here) is pushed to the

sidewalk--there's not even space between buildings to hide it. But once I'd been there--admittedly late--I understood that it's the people themselves that make it work; that diversity and self-expression (not to mention the necessity) create a kind of space on their own. Brandon Stanton gets it. His thousands of not-quite-candid street portraits of New Yorkers (and accompanying captions, usually from the subjects themselves) have made his Humans of New York blog both poignant and extremely popular. And now, his book of the same title collects 400 of his best portraits, telling small stories that are outsized in their humor, candor, and humanity. As it turns out, inner-space is a dimension all its own, and it counts, too. --Jon Foro

New York City is many special things to different people. For some it's museums, for others the New York Public Library. For some it's performances at Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater or any number of Broadway plays and musicals. For others it is the world-famous landmarks: Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building or thousands of other places, too many to mention here. But New York City is really about one other thing: people. Photographer Brandon Stanton has captured this in *Humans of New York*, his debut book... and it has skyrocketed on the various book charts since its publication in October 2013, and for good reason. Based on his HONY blog, which now has over two million followers and fans, this book is a visual delight of about 400 photos of the people that he has encountered in his travels across the five boroughs that make up New York City. His people images make a gorgeous, sometimes funny, truly genuine, and often moving compilation of photos that capture the spirit of the city through its diverse people in often inspiring ways. Brandon Stanton did not start his career with the goal of becoming a photographer, as he explains in the introduction of this book. He noted that while working as a bond trader in Chicago, he spent his weekends with a camera that he had acquired in 2010, and that photography "felt like a treasure hunt." After losing his job as a trader, he traveled to various American cities, but his first impressions of NYC were unforgettable, as he notes in the intro: "I remember the moment my bus emerged from the Lincoln Tunnel and I saw the city for the first time. The sidewalks were covered with people. The buildings were impressive, but what struck me most were the people. There were tons of them. And they all seemed to be in a hurry. That night, I created a photo album for my New York photos. I called it 'People of New York.'" From that simple beginning, the rest became photographic history; from his early attempts at a Web page, he discovered social media in the form of Facebook and Tumblr. Fans of his images reacted, and soon became regular followers. At first it was hundreds, then thousands, and zooming forwards to today, his Facebook page has over two million loyal followers, and hundreds commenting on his

images daily, with many of those sharing his people photos to their own pages. Each of these is a capsule of a moment in time. On these pages we see everyday people as encountered by many of us on the New York streets; subway images, people in Central Park, in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, by the Strand Book Store in Downtown Manhattan, at the Brooklyn Museum and at Manhattan's iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art. We see a young well-dressed girl in the lobby of the Plaza Hotel, a well-dressed older woman at the Waldorf-Astoria, people carrying boxes of pizza as gifts for the firefighters (the owner refused payment), people at Union Square on 14th Street, and a Marine recruiter in uniform on the street in Downtown Manhattan. Some are camera shy, while others are striking a pose. And there are some that stand out, strikingly so. We see the full-page view of the model in her black and white striped evening gown at Lincoln Center, the chess players at Washington Square Park, people with their pets, the Sikh gentleman whose gentle smile is hidden behind his iconic mustache and beard, and the two page image of two ballet students captured in a lunchtime pose, standing in front of a steam grate in Tribeca. It is this same image that has served as the iconic avatar on HONY's Facebook page. There are people at play, at work, sleeping on benches in parks, dancing, eating, kissing, hugging, and frolicking in the water gushing from fire hydrants. We find people of all ethnic backgrounds, and of all ages, from teenagers to folks in their nineties, to children. There are many superb images of children here, and they must captivate Stanton, as it is said that he will be publishing a children's book, "Little Humans" in 2014. There are captions, though they are limited and to the point. Maybe because Stanton is upbeat and not condescending, so his captions never stereotype, even when he photographs people that close-minded individuals might think of as "sketchy" or strange. His book radiates his own natural curiosity, along with diversity, appreciation and respect for the people that he photographs. For open-minded people watchers, this book is a treasure. It's difficult to classify this as a traditional coffee table photo book, if just by size alone. My copy is 304-page hardcover first edition printed in the U.S. and published by St. Martin's Press on October 15th, 2013. It measures 9.2 x 7.3 x 1 inches, which is hardly a coffee table book like another favorite, *The New York Times Magazine Photographs* by Kathleen Ryan. That Aperture edition measures 12.2 x 10.5 x 1.8 inches, a good bit larger. On a personal basis, I rank Brandon Stanton's book right up there with Robert Frank's *The Americans*, a powerful book in post-WWII American photography. First published in 1959, his black and white photos were remarkable for their distanced view of both high and low strata of American society of the time. In contrast to Stanton's book, there is an element of sadness, even despair, in some of the images, but there is joy as well. To many, New Yorkers are standoffish, cold and impersonal. For those of us who have spent time on the streets here, this is generally not

so, and as a relative newcomer to the city, Brandon Stanton has proven that to be a myth. I am reminded of this quote that was written down when it was passed on by a friend:"My favorite thing about New York is the people, because I think they're misunderstood. I don't think people realize how kind New York people are."~ Bill Murray, Moviefone interview, April 27th, 2010What makes Brandon Stanton's "Humans of New York" so different is that it is not about high-profile celebrities. It features people who aren't normally documented, who one might find anywhere on the New York streets if one just looks. It's a book that I have already gifted to some special friends, ones who also enjoy real people in everyday settings. It's not just a personal favorite, but one that may well go down in books of NYC street photography as a landmark chronicle of this era. Time will tell.JW AfAcA 1/2/2014

Wasn't quite what I expected, but still a nice book.I bought this for part of my dads retirement gift. He worked in NYC for 46 yrs and loves to read about NYC. I follow HONY on social media and LOVE the pictures with the stories behind them. They really give you a sense of emotion behind the people and pictures. I have often cried after reading some of the passages and getting into the heads of other people for a brief moment. I thought I would buy him this book so he could enjoy the same. I knew he would love it. When the book came, I was excited to read some stories I had not yet seen online. I opened the book and rummaged through the pages to find nothing but pictures. No stories. If I was lucky, there were a few quotes or excerpts from stories on each of the pages, or every few pages. Nothing in detail and sadly fell very short on the emotion that was able to be captured on their online page. The book itself is of high quality. Nice hardcover, beautiful pictures and lots of them.Seller: Please add example pages of the book to your listing. It will help others see what they are getting & decide if it's for them. This way they can see that this is mostly a picture book with a few sentences.Bottom line: Don't buy this book if you are expecting it to be like the HONY social media page. There are no stories.

Brandon Stanton has done so much to help people SEE each other. Little Humans is fun, funny and wonderful. It is a Christmas present for all four of my grown daughters who are now also watching HONY and Stanton's photographer daily right along with me.

I absolutely love the photos in this book! It is so important to me that my kids recognize that there are all types of people in this world, our differences are what makes the world beautiful, and despite our differences, we have many things in common. This book allows me the opportunity to have that

conversation regularly! Thank you, Brandon. You have done beautiful work! Side note: Other reviewers have noted displeasure in the 'storyline' or lack thereof. If you're looking for a good read-aloud text, this is probably not it. It is more a phenomenal picture book that lends itself to some great discussion.

This is a fantastic book that captures the soul of New York City in photographs. Brandon Stanton manages to portray in photographs what many writers have tried to do in prose. Through his photographs, you really get a sense of the diversity of personalities living in this incredibly interesting city. The pictures range from the normal to the wildly eccentric and cover a very wide range of emotions. The pictures truly do tell a story of the humans of New York. In addition to the photographs, there are lots of captions & very short stories about many of the people highlighted in the book. The only thing that I would recommend is to purchase the print version, as the Kindle version has some annoying problems. I purchased it for use on my iPad, but found that many of the captions failed to display properly, and many of the pages failed to turn when I tapped the screen. This is not a reflection of the book, but rather the format. The book itself deserves a high 5 stars.

I've been a follower of 'Humans of New York' for a while. When I saw that Stanton was publishing this book I was excited to share it with my almost 3 year old. I was surprised when I received it to see that there's a story underneath the pictures. Honestly, when I look at the book with my daughter I don't read the story. Instead, we talk about each of the photographs and discuss what is happening. She loves looking intently at each picture and studying it. I only wish there were more photographs and no words in this book! Otherwise, a great way to expose a young one to different cultures and people!

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