



Dear Photograph

Taylor Jones

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“Taylor Jones has found a new way to tell our stories. *Dear Photograph* is digital nostalgia of the highest order—it will make you smile, maybe cry, and go find your old family photos.”

—Frank Warren, founder of PostSecret

“*Dear Photograph* is a nostalgia bomb-bursting, brain cell-twisting, heartstring-pulling roller coaster ride into the emotional unknown. Taylor Jones taps into our secret fears, quiet dreams, and loving pasts.”

—Neil Pasricha, author of *The Book of Awesome*

Based on the hugely popular website DearPhotograph.com—the internet phenomenon that was named one of the 50 Best Websites of 2011 by Time.com and selected as the #1 Website of 2011 on CBS TV’s “The Early Show”—*Dear Photograph* by Taylor Jones is a charming, heartwarming celebration of the memories we all cherish. Including more than 70% of new, never before published photos, *Dear Photograph* is a gift of love and remembering.

Dear Photograph Details

Date : Published May 8th 2012 by William Morrow (first published April 16th 2012)

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Author : Taylor Jones

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From Reader Review Dear Photograph for online ebook

Vivian says

Fascinating idea... You put your hands on an old photo, go to the place where the photo was originally taken, and snap a new photo (making sure your hand holding the old photo lined up with the location is in the shot). Next you upload your photo and add a note. Apparently this idea has gone viral. The photos in this collection are from all over the world. You can read this in one sitting. I'll admit that a lump formed in my throat while reading many of the notes. It was very touching, and makes you contemplate what notes you might write.

<http://dearphotograph.com/>

Becky says

This collection of old family photos juxtaposed with/incorporated into new photos of the same spot provides some fun, sad, sweet, touching (etc) glimpses into folk's lives and the passage of time. I found myself alternately smiling and on the verge of tears, and I don't think it's just because I'm pregnant! A cool concept and nice collection to flip through. Makes you think about doing your own.

Paul says

Like many of the other reviewers, I must say that Jones' idea was a very interesting one, and for that reason I decided to read the book.

How you react to the book is very much how you deal with being steeped in personal nostalgia and sentimentality. For me, the pictures and the sentiments attached to the photos more often than not felt like saccharine navel gazing.

I'm certain others would disagree and find the photos and sentiments heartfelt and meaningful.

In other words, it's a matter of taste, and this is not mine.

Molly says

This book is a result from a Tumblr page of the same name. The idea was the inspiration of Taylor Jones who realized he was sitting on the same chair in his parent's kitchen that he was sitting on in a photograph he was looking at. Basically, people take old photographs to the location they were originally taken, hold them up and take a second photograph. They then post them with captions starting with "Dear Photograph." This book is a collection of several of these posts.

I found myself surprised by how moved I was by this book. It captures so much genuine emotion and thought with so little. I actually found myself feeling the feelings expressed by others: longing, nostalgia,

sadness, regret, fondness, happiness, love and so much more. I actually found myself tearing up. It reminds you of the power of memories, the emotions they can spark, and the role photography plays in that. I truly enjoyed this book.

I.D. says

This book can wreck you.

Although is it fair to give authorship to Jones when he doesn't take the photos or caption them? Shouldn't it be more "edited by" or "compiled by"?

Doesn't change the power of some of these shots though.

Jenny says

a unique concept....made me reflective about my past--wonder what photograph I might choose to use

Kelli Bragg says

I enjoyed the heartfelt sentiments from the contributors, and although some sentiments are tear-jerkers, I didn't feel any were mawkish - they're merely heartfelt feelings/longings the images evoked. Makes me wish I actually had photos from my youth to see what returning to those physical places would bring to mind for me. Definitely recommended, and I appreciate that Taylor Jones came up with an idea I've not seen in a book before. It's a great reminder to hold on tight to those you love (many photo subjects are either deceased or estranged family) because in the short time we spend on an orb spinning around the universe, nothing is more important than the relationships we have with others.

Laura says

This idea is so cool! While looking at old photographs in his parents' home, the author realized one birthday photo was taken from the same chair he was sitting in at that moment. He held up the photo, lined it up to match the actual kitchen cabinets and table in the background, and then snapped a new photo showing his hand holding up the old photo in the exact same location where it was originally taken. (You have to see it to really understand.) He posted this photo and others like it on his blog and received an overwhelming response. Now he has published a book of these photographs from all over the world. Each has a short message accompanying it. Some are funny, but most are sentimental, lovely thoughts. Rosa and I enjoyed looking at all of these pictures, exclaiming over which we thought were the best. They are all great.

Leonard says

Shallow gimmicky photographs that could have been improved with better and more creative captions but the opportunity was completely missed. It didn't really click with me. There seemed to be something

missing.

Tom says

I had visited the dear photograph website, where people retake old photos in the same location as the original photo while addressing the photo ("Dear Photograph..") reminiscing about the time when the photo was taken. I then saw this book on display at the local library and picked it up. This book gathers together some good examples from the website, and they are often touching or poignant. It's interesting how much stays the same for the people's lives who contribute to the website and the book. Does it say anything about how stable they are that they can retake a photograph decades after they originally took it? That they live in the same city, neighborhood or even house? We don't get much of a sense of the people taking the photo, as they often only write a sentence or two addressing the photo. I'd have liked to have more context for a lot of these pictures.

It's still an interesting book, with some nice photos.

Robyn says

Take an old favourite photograph. Go back to the same spot from which it was taken, and take another while holding the old photograph within the frame. Add a dedication to the resulting picture. What you get is a small wormhole that brings the past into the present, and a book full of such photos from submissions to the website DearPhotograph.com, taken all over the world by people willing to share their memories. Some photos seem sweet, some are nostalgic, some are full of regret, and some of the photos are giddy with the foolishness of youth. Some of the captions are straightforward ("Dear Photograph, Can you tell him to turn around? I wanna see that cute little baby face again. -Nicole") and others are intriguingly enigmatic ("Dear Photograph, You're the only memory I have left of this. -Louis") – and all are fascinating in both their familiarity and mystery. (One very familiar photograph was taken in a post-tornado Goderich town square.) A picture is worth a thousand words, is what they say. The photographs and captions in this collection are worth a thousand questions. They have their own histories and tell their own stories but each one is really a secret - except to those who recognize them. Part confessional, part photograph album, Dear Photograph is an enchanting and captivating peek into the hopes, regrets, dreams and memories of others; a thought-provoking book that is sure to start discussions, bring back memories and to inspire new ones. Find it and other titles reviewed in this column at <http://spl.bibliocommons.com> under the tag shelf life reviewed.

~Robyn Godfrey, Collections Librarian

Dhanashri Matondkar says

What a beautiful concept!! Fell in love with it when I came across the facebook page for Dear Photograph.. And was even more excited when I found the book.. Each image brings forth feelings of poignancy, happiness and nostalgia... Some were heart breaking too...What an incredible collection indeed!

Morgan says

There wasn't a whole lot to judge with this book, so it was an easy five stars. It's a compilation of some submissions to the Dear Photograph website, but I am in love with this idea. Seeing the photos is one thing, but reading the messages people included with them puts this book on a whole different level. There are a few that made my heart skip a beat, including the one on page 128 of the boy running past the cemetery. The caption says, "As he ran by, looking at the cemetery, who would've known that one short year later he would be buried there?". Chills! Anyway, if you haven't heard of this project, I suggest you check out the book or the website.

Jim says

As interesting as many of these photographs are, the real power of the book are the captions by the people employing the technique of matching the picture to location where they were taken years ago. Many are touching and sad, often recalling a beloved family member who has passed. Some of the captions are more cryptic. Though some scenes are recognizable, most are simply family pictures that almost everyone has been involved in to some degree.

Mark Winner says

My grandpa and I are in this one!
