



# Humans of New York

*Brandon Stanton*

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## **Humans of New York** Brandon Stanton

*A beautiful, heartfelt, funny and inspiring collection of photographs capturing the spirit of a city*

In the summer of 2010, photographer Brandon Stanton set out on an ambitious project: to single-handedly 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.

*Humans of New York* is the book inspired by the Internet sensation. 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, *Humans of New York* is a celebration of individuality and a tribute to the spirit of the city.

## **Humans of New York Details**

Date : Published October 15th 2013 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9781250038821

Author : Brandon Stanton

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Genre : Nonfiction, Art, Photography, New York

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# From Reader Review Humans of New York for online ebook

## Whitney Atkinson says

This book was an unprecedented experience. I've been a fan of HONY for as long as I can remember, and this book definitely delivered priceless stories, quotes, and, obviously, photographs. I cannot recommend Brandon's work enough: he is brave and a master at collecting detail and eliciting emotion through his work. I highly anticipate getting my hands on his second book!

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## Carol says

Many of my GR friends have exclaimed about the talent of Brandon Stanton and his project Humans of New York. Suzanne's Review finally convinced me I needed to experience this book.

Photographs record moments in time that otherwise would be lost forever. Nothing portrays the personality of an individual as their photograph. In this collection Brandon Stanton set out to capture through his lens the people he calls "*The Humans of New York*". He captions each photograph with a story, either his own or that of the person in the photo.

Humans of New York can be read easily in one day but warrants a look back to study the faces and character of Stanton's subjects.

My favorite story depicts a young girl walking through her hurricane-damaged neighborhood with hat, flowered raincoat, colorful boots and her trick or treat Halloween pumpkin.

*"I FOUND THIS GIRL A FEW DAYS BEFORE HALLOWEEN, WALKING THROUGH A HURRICANE-DAMAGED NEIGHBORHOOD. NOBODY WAS HANDING OUT CANDY, SO I ASKED HER DAD WHY SHE WAS CARRYING A BUCKET.*

*'SHE'S AN OPTIMIST,' HE REPLIED."*

My favorite photo? I can't pick just one and my bet is that you won't be able to either.

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## Kirstine says

*"As a people photographer, my first response to something new is not aesthetic judgment, but rather thankfulness. Without the risk takers, I'd have nothing new to photograph."*

I've been a fan of Humans of New York for a long time now. Seeing Brandon's pictures in my facebook feed or on tumblr is one of my favorite things. He's himself stated that the blog didn't truly take off until he started adding the quotes and the commentary to the pictures, and I can understand why. It adds so much extra depth to a picture. It tells us a little snippet of someone's story and leaves us to imagine the rest.

*"When my husband was dying, I said: 'Moe, how am I supposed to live without you?' He told me: 'Take the love you have for me and spread it around.'"*

What he does is a beautiful thing. He roams the street of New York with only a camera and a humble desire to catalogue, not the people, but the *humans* of the city. Humans with everything that entails, the good, the bad, the tragic, the hopeful. It's astounding what a brief meeting, a photo and some conversation can unearth.

*"It was easier than I thought it'd be."*

It's, truly, one of the most beautiful websites on the internet. A lot of that is Brandon's doing. He comes off as an extremely down to earth guy, who will ask the people he meets, who strike his eye, if he can take their photograph. And then he talks to them and let's them tell about themselves, and he doesn't discriminate. Not with the people he photographs or the stories they tell. Anything goes.

If you've ever been to his facebook site, and looked at the comments on his photos you'll be surprised how positive it is. It's amazing, really, but perhaps not really surprising that such an honest site, should encourage such a positive attitude among its followers. We sympathize with the people behind the screen, we understand, we see ourselves in them. He invites us to look at everyone we pass with an open mind, and he shows us that you never know quite what to expect.

*"They're the coordinates of the cabin in Arizona where I almost died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Just a reminder."*

Taking all that and putting it into a book? What daunting work to undertake. But it's gorgeous. Both its physical appearance, from the cover to the glossy paper and beautiful full-color pictures. There are plenty of new portraits to feast your eyes upon, as well as new thought-provoking comments from those same people, and some you might have seen before (but who will complain about having them to be admired in physical form?). Not all my favorites are there, but I still love this book. I love that it exists, that he got to make it and going through it was an absolute pleasure.

I will continue to admire and follow Brandon's work. This is without a doubt one of my favorite releases of the year. It is, in short, a book that shows us, in a most peculiar way, what it means to be human.

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## **Elyse says**

I had not even considered writing a review of this book ----[its easy to forget to publicly acknowledge books like these, when I mostly read novels].....and I have not taken the book into my own house.

I don't own a copy --nor did I check it this out from the library ---(I cheated I suppose).....but I have read through this book a half dozen times since it first was released it stores). Its been my 'go-to-keep-me-company', book in the coffee shop in my neighborhood book store while having tea. They know my name at this book store ---(the staff does not seem to mind when I 'borrow' their books for a few hours). I spend money there too!

When I first looked through "Humans of New York", I thought back to approx. 25 years ago (at least), when the photo books of AMERICA were so....."one of a kind" "A Day in America".

Seems to me, we don't get the pleasure of seeing books like these often. I must be outrageously expensive to print. I hope those who can afford it --BUY it ....(its beautiful) ---

People are beautiful ---The author captures the human spirit with his photos in New York.

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## Nat says

*"Photography felt like a treasure hunt, and even though I sucked at it, I'd occasionally stumble upon a diamond. And that was enough to keep me wanting more."*

This was exactly the kind of photography book I've been looking out for. 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.

Looking at the pictures and putting together a story when there weren't any captions was such an exhilarating experience.

However, when there were captions featured it was at times both funny, inspiring and heartwarming.

It was seriously impossible to put down, and I think I nearly took a picture of everything because I didn't want to forget anything.

Brandon Stanton captured New Yorkers and their stories in the most heart-rending way. And it's truly an incredibly crafted collection.

Of course, as a result it was pretty hard trying to figure out which pictures to feature, but I managed to narrow it down (out my 80+ pictures):

(I have a huge fear of pigeons, so the above picture amazes me to no end.)

Overall, this heartfelt collection took me on a journey in just over 300 pages, and I'm still in awe.

I highly recommend giving this one a go.

*\*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Humans of New York**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!\**

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## **Margitte says**

*A beautiful, heartfelt, funny and inspiring collection of photographs capturing the spirit of a city*

I just wanted to add this to my GR shelves. I don't think I need to introduce this internationally sensational book to anyone.

I received the book as a Christmas gift in 2014. What can I say ..... THRILLED BEYOND BELIEVE would probably be accurate.

Believe me, you have ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA what I am talking about.

Me and New York. You don't understand! God struggles too and I don't blame Him. :-))

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## **Trudi says**

It seems I'm always late to these things. Humans of New York had long existed as a blog with tens of thousands of loyal followers by the time I discovered this book. It was a thrilling discovery all the same, and better late than never as the saying goes.

When I found out about the book I checked out the blog immediately starting about 10:30 at night. At 2 am I was still riveted. I literally could not stop looking. It's since become one of my newer addictions/obsessions. It appeals to the people watcher in me, to the girl who truly believes the right picture can be worth a thousand words, and the small town Canadian who imagines New York City as the epicenter of all that is gritty, inspiring, crazy and authentically *human*.

I think HONY is an inspired project by a beautiful mind. History told through the photographic lens has always been one of our most powerful, evocative mediums since its invention. I also love that Stanton has tried to put these photographs into some sort of context by the very human questions he asks of his subjects (and the illuminating -- sometimes heart-wrenching -- answers he receives).

If I'm ever stranded on a desert island, I want my copy of HONY to keep me tethered in some fundamental way to my human life and what it means to be human.

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## Gene Hult says

The three stars is not for Stanton's HONY photographs, which are fascinating, gorgeous, heartbreaking, humbling, and yes, human. Rather the lower score is for the layout and format of this book. It seems like the designer had no idea how to present photographs, the publisher lost a battle over the format, and an editor cut the captions with too heavy a hand. Too many beautiful pictures are broken awkwardly over the gutter, destroying their impact, and the squat, vertical trim is all wrong for showing photographs. Even the paper sucked up the colors which are often so dazzling online. Most hurtful, though, were the truncated captions, which often reduced the sentiment to jokes, or worse, mockery of the subject . . . which is something alien to the spirit of Humans of New York. So five stars for Brandon Stanton's photographs, and a mere three stars for their physical presentation. I sincerely hope they fix the issues in the next collection. (And meanwhile, I'm buying a few copies of this book to present to friends.)

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## Carol. says

I've been following Humans of New York on Facebook for some time now. As a long time NYC-ophile, it captures everything I love about the people-zoo that is my vision of New York. Although I've become a devoted library user in the interests of space, economy and the minimally lived life, I recently decided I needed to make both space and budget for those I've been following for free on-line (The Oatmeal, Hyperbole and a Half and Sylvia, to name some others) and Stanton's newly published collection from his HONY work was at the top of the list.

Humans of New York is a collection of a wide range of his works, both 'earlier' in his photography career and more recent. The only word I have for the variety of images is 'amazing.'

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I love Stanton's work, which is why I've reviewed here. But you can catch my full, forever uncensored review at:

<http://clsiewert.wordpress.com/2013/1...>

AND

<http://carols.booklikes.com/post/7380...->

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## Mariah says

I now have officially read all of the Humans of New York books! My favorite book was the Humans of New York: stories. I also enjoyed this book (the first one), but it did not have explanations with every photo, which I prefer it did.

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## Christine Zibas says

*"Every time I force myself to go outside, something wonderful happens."*

This extraordinary book of photographs will renew your faith in the human spirit, and make you see things with new eyes. The beauty of his subjects -- and their often quirky commentary -- is a delight, and it's amazing the wide range of personalities Photographer Brandon Stanton has been able to capture here.

Stanton didn't begin life as a photographer, but instead as a trader in Chicago. The switch from focusing on money to focusing on his environment is a gift to us all. He began with a camera in Chicago, taking photos largely of buildings (a great place for that), then decided to do a cross-country tour. When he got to New York, however, something changed. Images of people replaced landscapes (although many of his subjects' backgrounds are worth examining closely).

Then came a website, then social media, and the next thing you know, Stanton had an online following of hundreds of thousands of people. And this book deal. He's moved from collecting images to collecting stories, both on his blog and in book 2 (which I am looking forward to) called *Humans of New York: Stories*.

Speaking for this book, however, I assure you that you will get so much pleasure from these photos. Even if he had never produced another image, or book, he would have accomplished something to be proud of, something great. These photos help Stanton followers (as well as those who simply stumble upon this book) experience the joy of what it means to be an individual, alive, and making your mark on the world.

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## Suzanne says

10 stars plus more. I was a happy customer when I stumbled into an independent bookstore on a recent trip to Canberra. I went for a quick stroll whilst waiting for a food order at an eclectic little café. I didn't even realise it was on my TBR when buying it, such is my book obsession.

This book is based on the premise of the author's blog, which being anti-social media I didn't realise, and I guess, most people are aware of the blog and not the book.

I love New York so this was good for me, and even though I'm terribly non creative, I appreciated this and can see how clever he is and how he 'gets' people. To capture not only the picture, he must be a gentle soul.

Here are some favourites from me, and I do most highly recommend this book. It would make a lovely gift and a striking book for display.

The author travels and takes pictures, and sometimes adds the story. I loved them all but would like to tell you about these ones. This book is for owning, not borrowing. I had tears.

*"I always work my dog's name into my closing argument.  
That's so awesome."*



*Yeah, but you never want me as your lawyer.  
Why's that?  
Cause that means you're in deep, deep fucking trouble"*

*"I've been married fifty years. If it was to give one piece of advice to young couples, it'd be this: Never lose your temper at the same time. If somebody's really mad, the other one better make a retreat"*

*"I found these two hunched over on Broadway, just like this. It seemed like an interesting moment, so I quickly snapped the photo, then approached them to find out what was so interesting about today's paper. The man seemed sheepish when he answered: 'My film just got reviewed by the New York Times,' he said. 'So I'm showing my daughter.'"*

*Of a young couple in love: "They were happy with how this photo came out, if the shrieking was any indication".*

*"I never had any family growing up, but I still went to school every day. One day, when I was in the eleventh grade, my English teacher came up to me and said 'If you graduate, I'll adopt you. I'll show you the life. You'll do things you never dreamed of.' And he kept his promise. He made it legal and everything. On the day I graduated, he was the only family I had there. He's taken me everywhere since then. I've done all kinds of things."*

*"After they finished kissing, she took off the blue cape and laid it over a woman sleeping on a nearby bench. It was such a poetic moment, I actually chased them down to fact-check. 'Excuse me' was that your blue blanket?' 'Yes' 'And you just gave it to her?' 'Yes, why?'*

*An older couple, one with light skin, one with dark. "He does absolutely everything for me. I'm completely spoiled" "I used to be a butcher she used to come into my store. Every week I would set apart the best piece of meat for her. And look how it turned out – I ended up with the best piece of meat of them all."*

This one is lovely. Let me know what you think by leaving a comment if you wish. Sometimes we need to chat about the 'good' things out there.

*I discovered a photogenic vacant lot in Soho, but was unable to convince anyone to pose in it. After several minutes, I finally came across this father and son from Paris. They barely spoke English, yet agreed to park their wheelchair and stand for a portrait.*

The gorgeous maybe 8 year old boy with radiant carrot coloured hair is beaming - standing as tall as his legs would allow next to his dad, proud as anything. The boy is radiant, dad serious. So so so great. I am thrilled that this author/photographer has put his stuff out there for us to witness.

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## **Lauren Cecile says**

I read this in one sitting. I was engrossed in every story. Real people. Real stories. Authentic thoughts and feelings and interests. You never know what someone is or has been going through. It was like people-watching with Cliff's notes. I'd love to see another edition and I'd love to see this done in other cities. What an outstanding project!

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**Kevin Kelsey says**

Fantastic. Interesting people doing interesting things.

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**Kelli says**

I should begin by acknowledging that I did not realize when placing this book on hold that it was a book of photographs. (In fact, for some reason I was under the impression that it was a book of short stories.). I also failed to realize it was connected to a blog. (Historically, blogger books haven't worked for me.)

At first glance, I didn't love this book. It reminded me a little of the popular eighties photojournalistic series *A Day in the Life of...* but more posed. After going through the book a second time, I have decided that it is the set-up that I find lacking. I don't feel the layout showcases the photographs or the project well. The mix of captions didn't work for me. Many simply identified where the picture was taken (but always with "Seen in..." preceding the location or "Seen on the subway", with the latter in most cases being pretty obvious). Other captions were either what seemed to be the photographer's comment or title for a particular photo OR a story about or a quote from the person photographed. My challenge was figuring out which type of caption I was reading...did the subject say that or was it a title for the shot? This often was unclear. I also found many difficult to see.

All in all, as a body of work, this is a fun idea. The photographer captured a diverse collection of images and certainly has an eye for that. I also respect the time that went into this endeavor. I just wish it had been laid out differently. 3 stars.

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