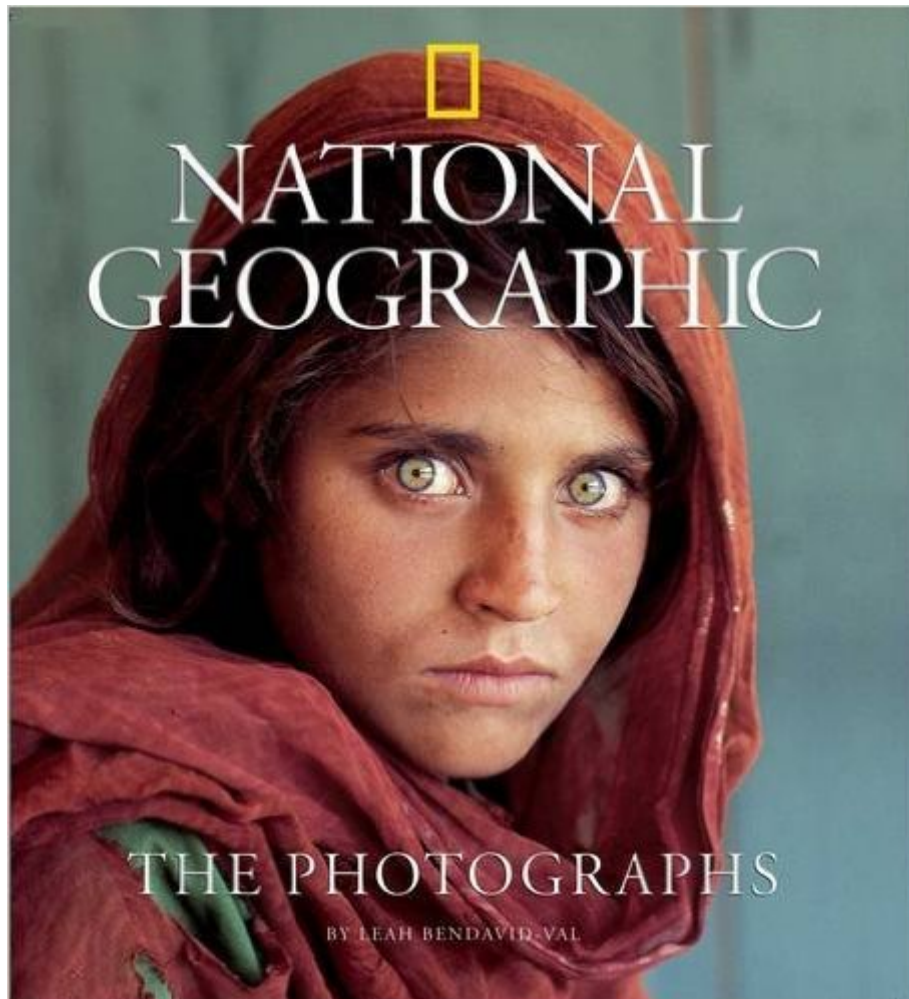


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# National Geographic: The Photographs (National Geographic Collectors Series)



## Synopsis

This stunning volume was the gift book of the year when it first published, and the images that grace its pages remain iconic. From the famous Afghan girl whose haunting green eyes stare out from the book's cover, and her poignant story that captured the world's interest, to award-winning photography culled from the Society's vast archives, *The Photographs* offers readers an inside look at National Geographic and a sharp-eyed view of the world. The book showcases the skill and imagination of such notable Geographic photographers as David Doubilet, William Albert Allard, Sam Abell, Jim Stanfield, Jodi Cobb, Jim Brandenburg, David Alan Harvey, and many more. They share their techniques, as well as personal and colorful anecdotes about individual images and their adventures in the field—sometimes humorous, sometimes terrifying, always vividly compelling. Author Leah Bendavid-Val writes about the photographers' achievements from technical, journalistic, and artistic perspectives. Five chapters cover core National Geographic themes—wildlife on land and water; cultures in the United States and around the world; and science, from astronomy to archaeology to the human senses. The photographs in each chapter capture rare moments in nature and the lives of animals, along with defining events in the lives of people everywhere. This exquisite collection is as elegant as it is timeless.

## Book Information

Series: National Geographic Collectors Series

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: National Geographic (September 16, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1426202911

ISBN-13: 978-1426202919

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 1.3 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (76 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is not just a coffee table picture book! This is a compilation of stories and pictures which you

read page by page to get amazing world and cultural perspectives over the past 100 years. National Geographic did an great job compiling the most comprehensive set of photographs taken since the early 1900's. The book features breathtaking pictures of foreign lands, wildlife, people, etc. divided into sections which are narrated in story-like form. For examples, the first section in the book explores the history of photography and the role that the National Geographic played in the development of the technology and the art. I liked the story/photograph format and especially liked the mix of photograph size/style published. Overall, it's a great deal for the price!

I love National Geographic and its photos. This book is filled with great photos and descriptions but the book is really small.... I was thinking it would be more like a coffee table book which it would be if your coffee table is tiny. The print is small and I actually bought as a gift for my dad, but I'm not sure he'll be able to read much of it - even with his glasses. So while I do like the photos, I should have paid more attention to the dimensions. I just really had never seen a photo book, especially a hard cover Nat Geo one, so small. And yes, it does say it's 8"x6" in the details but it just seems smaller, maybe because you want to see bigger images.

The strength of the photographs in National Geographic is that they are often gorgeously-shot and expertly composed by professionals who clearly know their craft. Their weakness is that their perfection sometimes masks a banality of subject matter and narrative, often sinking them beyond the level of illustration. "National Geographic: the Photographs" embodies both aspects of the magazine's photography. While more than a few photos barely rise above the snapshot level, most are thoughtfully (if a bit too artfully) composed, though a few are absolutely standouts. Steve McCurry's haunting 1984 shot of Sharbat Gula, the green-eyed Afghan refugee girl, is the classic example. The girl's haunted expression speaks volumes about the hardships she has experienced. The photo graces the book's cover, while her updated portrait, shot 18 years later, adorns the back. Now a wife and mother, the same hauntedness appears in Gula's eyes, now encased in a face grown older and wearier. Another standout -- an overhead shot of camels traversing the wastes of Djibouti -- is disconcerting until one recognizes the camera's vantage point. The straightforward grace of some photos belies the difficulty with which they were taken. It takes only a second to flip past an underwater picture of an approaching hippo; but the photograph cannot capture the hours of patience and luck it took to take it. "National Geographic: The Photographs" includes the expected pictures of wildlife, nature and human cultures from around the globe as well as several topical spreads -- Spain, sleep, and the Titanic. The book's large format helps many photos communicate

the grandeur of their natural subjects. When the subject and composition coincide, the photographs are strikingly beautiful.

The book is way too small for a photographic book. the detail of many pictures is completely lost. regret not having read the description more closely, assuming the dimensions were even supplied. In short, a disappointing waste of money. Also inadequate packaging. rattling around in an over-large box with another book, all the corners were dented when received.

I have long admired the photographs in National Geographic, but this little book was really disappointing. It is very small and the text is so tiny you need a magnifying glass to read much of it. The biggest disappointment is the photographs. They are muddy, sometimes blurry and dark. They certainly don't have the impact that they initially had in the magazine. The editors were wise to use the two photographs of the Afghan woman on the covers. They are the best of any in the book, and even they are not as good as the originals in the magazine. This book will end up in the dollar bin soon, I think.

The only reason I bought this book was because of the 'Afghan Girl' on the front & back covers. I did read the warning that the book was quite small but thanks to the people who wrote that.....I didn't get a shock. I used to have that issue of the magazine and somehow misplaced or lost it. I most certainly hope she was compensated for this beautiful photo. I'd be a total shame if she was not. I talked to the people at Nat. Geo and they were out of that issue and if I could get it the price of \$10.95 when it came back in.

A book of fantastic photography, it covers 25 years of work by National Geographic photographers. An oversized book (as it should be in order to appreciate the full beauty of the photography), it is organized into five parts: The Land, Underwater, Science, The United States and The World. Leave it out for guests to leaf through and enjoy because they will once they see it. Of course it is not all just pictures, if you've ever wondered about those photographers behind the pictures it includes informative comments about them and their achievements. I have noted that there are several reviews with negative comments about the size. This is a coffee table style book at 12 inches by 10.5 inches. Some have noted that their copy is 6 by 5 inches. I reviewed the hardcover version which is large. There may be another smaller version available or perhaps the paperback is smaller. Make sure you are ordering what you want.

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