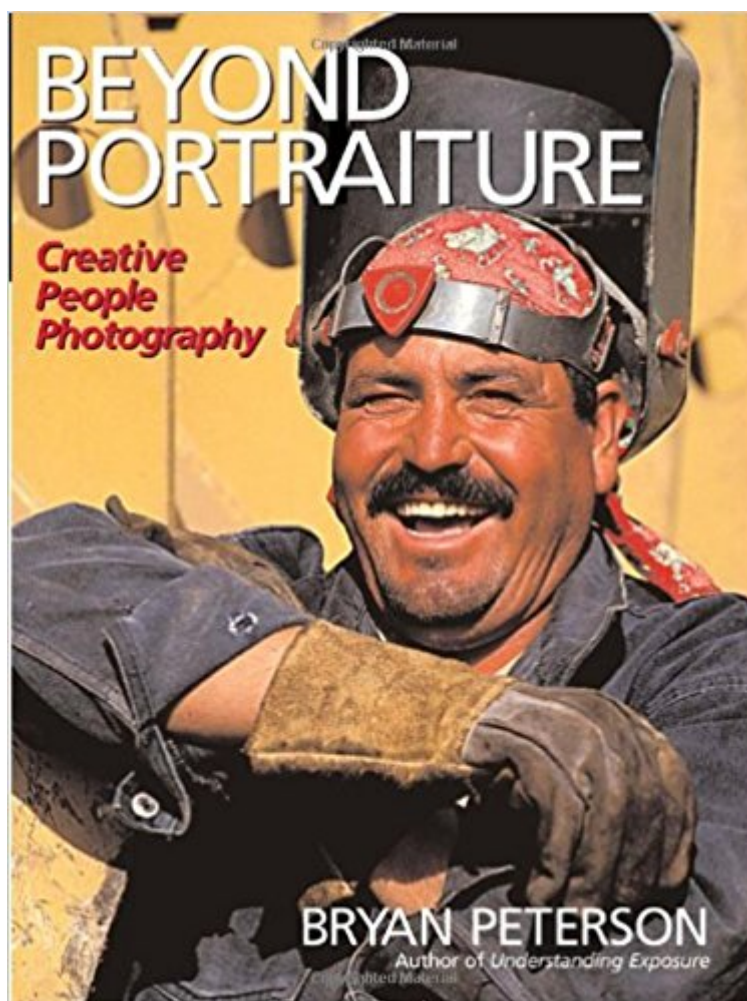


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# Beyond Portraiture: Creative People Photography



## Synopsis

Great portraits go beyond a mere record of a face. They reveal one of the millions of intimate human moments that make up a life. In *Beyond Portraiture*, renowned photographer Bryan Peterson shows how to spot those "ah-ha" moments and capture them forever. A teary child...old people laughing together...a smiling girl with big, big hair. Everyone remember pictures like these, usually taken by a mother, a father, a friend holding a camera, forever preserving small yet revealing vignettes of our personal histories. But we always relied on pure luck and chance to catch those moments. Peterson's approach explains what makes a photo memorable, how to spot the universal themes that everyone can identify with, and how to use lighting, setting, and exposure to reveal the wonder and the joy of everyday moments. *Beyond Portraiture* makes it easy to create indelible memories with light and shadow.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bryan Peterson is a well-known photographer, writer, and teacher. In addition to his many books for Amphoto, he writes a column that appears in *Popular Photography* and contributes to prominent magazines. His workshops and online photo course at PPSOP.com are invariably sold out. He divides his time between Seattle, WA and Lyon, France, and New York City.

This reviewer's main criticism of this book is that it does not provide as much in-depth advice as it should regarding the many portraiture techniques (i.e., lighting, angles, etc.) covered. Each section

should have been expanded a few pages. This is primarily due to the fact that the book is only 160 pages in length but also due to the fact that the author spends too much time on subjects such as how to get model releases. Nevertheless, the book does provide many useful hints and advice relating to portraiture techniques. Subjects such as lighting, shadows, angles, flash, etc. are covered and much of this advice is especially useful to those just starting out in portraiture photography or seeking useful hints or advice in this field. This applies to photographers who are over and above the beginner level as well. But, as stated previously, this advice should have been a little more in-depth.

First off, let me advise Bryan Peterson fans that "Beyond Portraiture" is not a totally new book, but a revision of his 1993 book "People in Focus" with some digital photos, hints and a Photoshop chapter added. A lot of the text is word-for-word from "People in Focus", complete with grammatical errors and typos that have not been changed. Many of the pictures are the same. So, if you already own "People in Focus" and you're shooting film, or you are into digital but already have a good knowledge of your photo editing system, you may be greatly disappointed to find you are reading a lot of the same text and seeing a lot of the same pictures. In fact, I think many of his photos in the earlier book are better than a lot of those he's replaced them with. That said, I'd highly recommend this book to people who are interested in improving their people photography outside the studio. The strong point to this book - as it was in "People in Focus" - remains the section on how to approach people at home and abroad and get them to let you take their photograph; and in overcoming one's own shyness about interacting with potential photo subjects. And, Peterson's writing is always entertaining.

Peterson does it again! I'm a dedicated, yet still learning amateur, and Peterson's books always stretch the imagination with what is possible. I started with "Understanding Exposure", followed by "Composition", then read this book (Portraiture). I have found all to be excellent. I still go back and reference/reread them, as it takes a while for so much information to sink in. I'll still be learning, and find returning to these books helps me each step of the way.

If you are familiar with any of Bryan Peterson's books and you liked them, you're not going to be disappointed with this one. Bryan shares tips in his usual charismatic way. In Beyond Portraiture, he shows other portrait opportunities that do not require studio settings. He provides both technical and artistic ideas and tips, which is the reason why I prefer most of his books over other photographers's

work who cannot or would not get out of the conventional. With this book, you will learn technique, as well as creative thinking. Highly recommended it for those who are getting started and more advanced photographers. Professionals and well-established photographers may not find it as enlightening as those who are first starting. However, if you're going through a dry spell, it might help you get out of it.

As another bestseller from Bryan Peterson, the book contains a variety of information centered loosely around "portrait". These include tips on exposure, shutter speeds, lenses, post-processing, workflow (as a single page) and so on. The print quality is good. The selected photos are all annotated; some including info on the context as well. The writing style is easily accessible. There are many repetitions; some inevitable, some made on purpose to stress a point. The coverage also overlaps slightly with that of "Understanding Exposure". The author shares his knowledge gathered from the workshops. As a result of this, the reader finds him/herself treated like a participant or a student, which is, I believe, just fine. My only quibble is his frequent talks on "stock photos" as if many if not most of his readers consider earning money from selling their photos. I doubt this. As a reader, I would be happier if portraits from other photographers were also included to discuss certain points and provide info on personal styles. I guess, such a book would not only be better but also be more expensive. "Beyond Portraiture" can be a fine starting point for those who want to be able to take satisfactory portraits. Even a starter can enjoy the examples and can reproduce some of them. Just, do not expect the book to carry you to your destination; no book can do that!

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