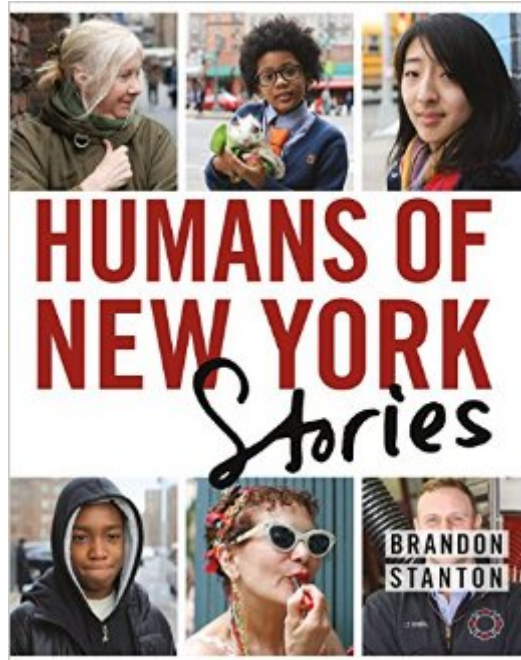


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# Humans Of New York : Stories



## Synopsis

Now a #1 New York Times Bestseller. In the summer of 2010, photographer Brandon Stanton began an ambitious project to single-handedly create a photographic census of New York City. The photos he took and the accompanying interviews became the blog Humans of New York. In the first three years, his audience steadily grew from a few hundred to over one million. In 2013, his book Humans of New York, based on that blog, was published and immediately catapulted to the top of the NY Times Bestseller List. It has appeared on that list for over twenty-five weeks to date. The appeal of HONY has been so great that in the course of the next year Brandon's following increased tenfold to, now, over 12 million followers on Facebook. In the summer of 2014, the UN chose him to travel around the world on a goodwill mission that had followers meeting people from Iraq to the Ukraine to Mexico City via the photos he took. Now, Brandon is back with the follow up to Humans of New York that his loyal followers have been waiting for: Humans of New York: Stories. Ever since Brandon began interviewing people on the streets of NY, the dialogue he's had with them has increasingly become as in-depth, intriguing and moving as the photos themselves. Humans of New York: Stories presents a whole new group of humans, complete with stories that delve deeper and surprise with greater candor. Let Brandon Stanton and the people he's photographed astonish you.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3,794 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

View larger "On the outside I'm a peaceful and diplomatic person, but on the inside I have a lot of rage. It's hard to walk around and not have a lot of issues. There's too many

morons in this world. People are just living in alternate realities. Yesterday there was a crazy homeless man on the subway. I mean really crazy - he's grunting and waving his arms around. And some twenty-one-year-old white girl walks up to him and tries to explain how positive thinking can turn his life around. "You don't have to be homeless," she said. "You can do anything you want if you put your mind to it." She really had no idea that positive thinking was not going to get the schizophrenic man off the subway."

View larger "This morning I took a bunch of water and soap and put it in plastic bags and shook it up because I wanted to make a store that sold soap. Then I put some toilet paper and water and soap and cake inside a container because I wanted to make an experiment. But Mom said that was not the right way to make soap and if we wanted to make some soap we had to find a recipe online so I made an apology note with invisible ink and it had a flower with a smiley face and zigzag hair and heart hands and it was holding a balloon and I drew the sky and I wrote, "I love you, Mom."

View larger "My parents had me young, so my grandmother raised me. She was already retired when I was born, and started working again just so she could provide for me. Her favorite thing to say is: "I've got your back." Whenever something really good happens, or something really bad happens, she will send me a card that says: "I've got your back." We live together, but she actually mails the cards to me."

While Brandon's first release was an excellent book of photography, it lacked many of the stories behind the individuals. I came to find HONY on facebook and feel the story behind the photo is half the experience. With his newest release, it all comes together to give you the full HONY package that most people have come to know and love. This book is a bargain for all the passion and work that Brandon puts into this project. If you are deciding on whether or not to buy the book, consider the following, which Brandon posted on the HONY facebook page: "I want to take a quick opportunity to remind everyone that HONY is advertisement free and almost entirely financed by book sales. (The only exception being income from a handful of speeches I give every year.) Proceeds from books have been used to pay for trips to twenty different countries over the past year alone. Even when working with large organizations like the United Nations or UNHCR, I'm always very careful to cover all costs and reimburse any expenses. I do this so that the content on HONY can remain entirely independent, self-directed, and transparent. By purchasing a book, you

can help HONY continue to grow in a way that remains focused on telling people's stories--- and nothing else. Thanks to everyone for your continued support."Connect with real people. Get out of your box and learn about people different from you. Get to know their story. Support the project. Buy the book!

I hate to break the 5-star roll, but the honest truth is that the blog is better. I was super excited to have a curated set of Brandon's absolute best photos and quotes, but most do not include anecdotes and just say "Seen in \_\_\_\_\_". As a native New Yorker, I would also add that several neighborhoods were labeled incorrectly: a hot dog shop in Gowanus was wrongly labeled as Red Hook; a corner in Gramercy was labeled "Lower Midtown" (a term Brandon or his editor invented-- it is used neither on maps nor colloquially). Furthermore, there are too many similar photos; there is a limit to how many times I can be captivated by women with half-shaven heads. He's also included a lot of low-quality photos that don't tell a story and are trying too hard to be aesthetic: a plain woman in a red coat against a red and white background for instance. These seem like earlier amateur works. They would be interesting to see on the blog as evidence of how the project has matured, but in a book where each page is precious real estate, these photos lack depth and feel like filler. In the blog, oftentimes the quotes speak louder than the photos, and that is why I follow HONY. So I can meet the people of my city through his interviews. The stories humanize the subjects; they allow us to go beyond the surface of skin and cloth. But as I said, most of the photos in the book do not have those accompanying quotes. I find myself moved by a much, much larger percentage of photos on the blog than in this book. But I commend Brandon for making his book dream come true. I think the next edition will be better. Stick to the format of the blog! Photos and anecdotes and no filler! :)

This book. THIS BOOK. I've purchased all three Humans of New York books and have loved them all, but in Humans of New York - Stories, it all comes together. The photography is expressive, and the stories are equal parts soul-crushing and uplifting. The masterful way that Brandon interviews his subjects really shines through. I've followed Humans of New York for 4 years and am just in awe of it's revolutionary transformation and it's power to do good in this world. Even something went unspeakably wrong and against all odds the book was garbage (it isn't) you STILL should buy it, if for nothing more than to cast a vote of support for the JOY, LOVE, and EMPATHY that HONY provides. This is a voice of hope and kindness in a world that can occasionally strip you of both. In HONY there is no "Us vs. Them" - there's only WE and Brandon has shown us that together, WE

can do anything.

Brandon's work is something really special. I've only been following his blog for a handful of months, and his photos and stories are incredible on their own, but that's not even the most surprisingly special part about this project. Read the comments on his Facebook and blog, the positive to negative ratio is unlike anything I've ever witnessed on the Internet, a place I thought only ever brought out the negative and judgmental side of people. People relate to these individuals in ways that each one of us, on our own, might never have imagined. This book, to me, represents more than just a fabulous addition to the "art world", it represents a movement of humanity and all of the positive qualities it possesses.

By far the best money I have spent on any book in the past few years. I recommend the Humans Of New York Stories to anyone and everyone. In fact, it will be the go to Christmas gift for my family this year. Elegant, original and pure, this book represents humanity at its most candid and lovable.

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