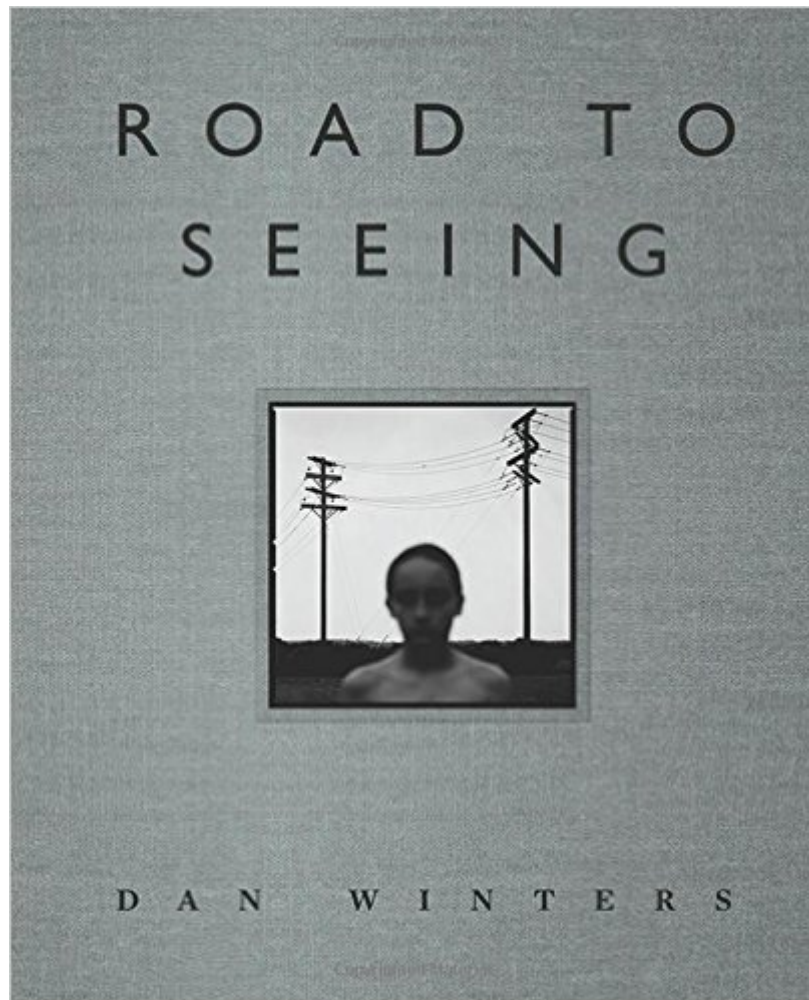


The book was found

Road To Seeing



Synopsis

After beginning his career as a photojournalist for a daily newspaper in southern California, Dan Winters moved to New York to begin a celebrated career that has since led to more than one hundred awards, including the Alfred Eisenstaedt Award for Magazine Photography. An immensely respected portrait photographer, Dan is well known for an impeccable use of light, color, and depth in his evocative images. In *Road to Seeing*, Dan shares his journey to becoming a photographer, as well as key moments in his career that have influenced and informed the decisions he has made and the path he has taken. Though this book appeals to the broader photography audience, it speaks primarily to the student of photography—whether enrolled in school or not—and addresses such topics as creating a visual language; the history of photography; the portfolio; street photography; personal projects; his portraiture work; and the need for key characteristics such as perseverance, awareness, curiosity, and reverence. By relaying both personal experiences and a kind of philosophy on photography, *Road to Seeing* tells the reader how one photographer carved a path for himself, and in so doing, helps equip the reader to forge his own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am at a loss for a quick way to describe Dan Winters' just-shipped book, *Road to Seeing*. That's because it defies nearly any category of photo book I have seen to date. It's nearly 700 pages long, and is far and away the deepest journey into the photographic process I have ever read. It includes technique, but in the context of the journey covered in this book technique is almost an afterthought.

And appropriately so. Best way I can put it: Road to Seeing is not so much a book as it is a mentorship. THE "WHY" PRECEDES THE "HOW." THIS, I BELIEVE, SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF ALL ART. (pg. 439) Part of me wants to do the standard run-through of Road to Seeing, to give an idea of its breadth and depth. To talk about the huge number of images it contains—only about half of which were shot by Winters himself. About how it is a wonderfully detailed manual (a personal journal, even?) of one man's life path to becoming one of the greatest illustrative portraitists of his generation. About its significant nod to the history of photography and to so many influential photographers who have come before. About its deep journey into the internal process of photography and creativity and craft. About its deep journey into the internal process of photography and creativity and craft. But another part of me says to just keep it vague and to not ruin the reader's experience by mapping out the book before they begin it. So instead I'll just say this. The book starts in Winters' childhood and from there explores the decades of layers and experiences that made him into the person he is today. Like anyone's path, his has its moments of randomness.

The description of this book really doesn't accurately cover the true contents of this book. This 600+ page behemoth is partly an autobiography; partly a collection of diary entries about life and art; partly behind-the-scenes look at memorable photographs (both made by Winters, and others; and partly a history book. Inside, the book is divided into four major sections, each that contain short chapters with clear, thoughtfully-written text about some particular topic. The text is then usually followed by a collection of images related to (or described in) the given chapter. Many of the images are not even photographs, and of the photographs included, many are not particularly remarkable, although they are certainly meaningful in the context of the text. You'll read about many stories about Winters' that influenced his life and career, and get an intimate look at his philosophy and approach. The stories are simple and honest (although perhaps at times, may feel overly sentimental). Among the most interesting chapters for me was the one on portrait collaborations, where Winters shares images and stories about making celebrity photographs. This section isn't meant to be instructional (so you won't see any technical details about making the shot), although outside of that, has a similar feel to Gregory Heisler's excellent book "50 Portraits" or Brian Smith's "Secrets of Great Portrait Photography". The portraits themselves were enjoyable, and the print reproduction is relatively good. Things start to get more random towards the latter half of the book. There's a chapter on illustration that while mildly interesting seems disconnected. A chapter on personal work contains some interesting images.

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