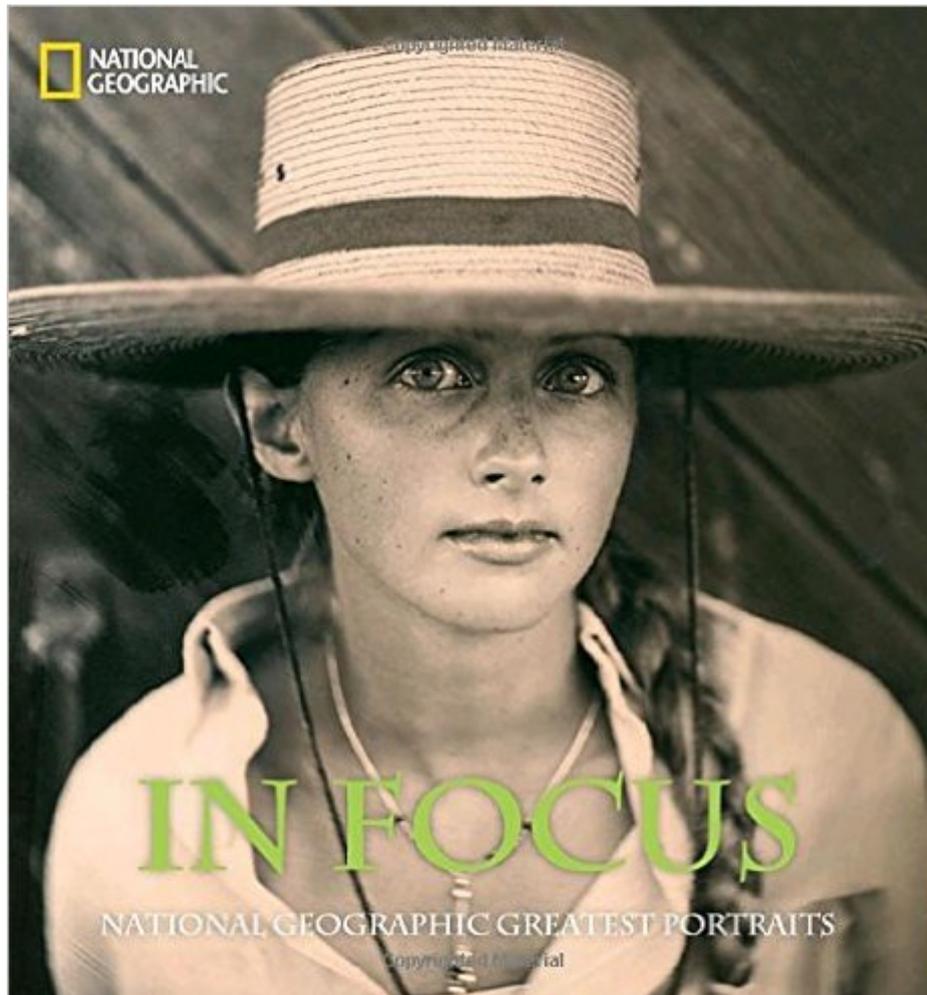


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# In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits (National Geographic Collectors Series)



## Synopsis

The Collectors Series edition of In Focus is simply the existing book at a smaller trim size. This magnificent collection of 280 photographs by many of the world's greatest photographers tells the tale of portrait photography over time in page after page of arresting images. Each photograph stands proudly on its own, yet taken together, they tell a much more complex and subtle story of the ever-evolving art form in constant creative response to new ideas, new eras, and new technologies.

## Book Information

Series: National Geographic Collectors Series

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #117,458 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism](#) #106 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Collections, Catalogues & Exhibitions](#) #128 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is truly one of the great books of people pictures, a treasure chest of images truly deserving the self-imposed subtitle of "greatest portraits". Trust me on this. Having spent almost 40 years in the news business as a reporter, photographer and editor, I have some experience in recognizing good pictures and hiring people who can produce good pictures. By any standard, these are great pictures. A "great picture" hinges on an intangible called the moment of peak action. Let me explain that by referring to a photo not in this book; the angry defiant look of Sir Winston Churchill in the portrait by Yousouf Karsh of Ottawa, Canada. Churchill was angry because Karsh had just taken away his cigar, which Churchill had just lit of relax after a speech to the Canadian parliament. It's probably the most famous portrait ever of Churchill. Had I taken that picture, instead of the angry portrait I'd have waited and asked Churchill to "smile". As everyone knows, it would have been a lousy picture of a great man. Karsh had the genius to recognize the precise moment of peak action;

likewise, in picture after picture in this book, I saw the same superb talent in capturing the most evocative expression of the subjects. This is the heart of great photography; I think I can recognize it, just as an art critic can recognize a great painting without being able to do it. Photography is the most accessible of the arts; every parent wants "great" pictures of their children, every lover wants "great" pictures of their beloved, every tourist wants that memorable vacation memory.

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