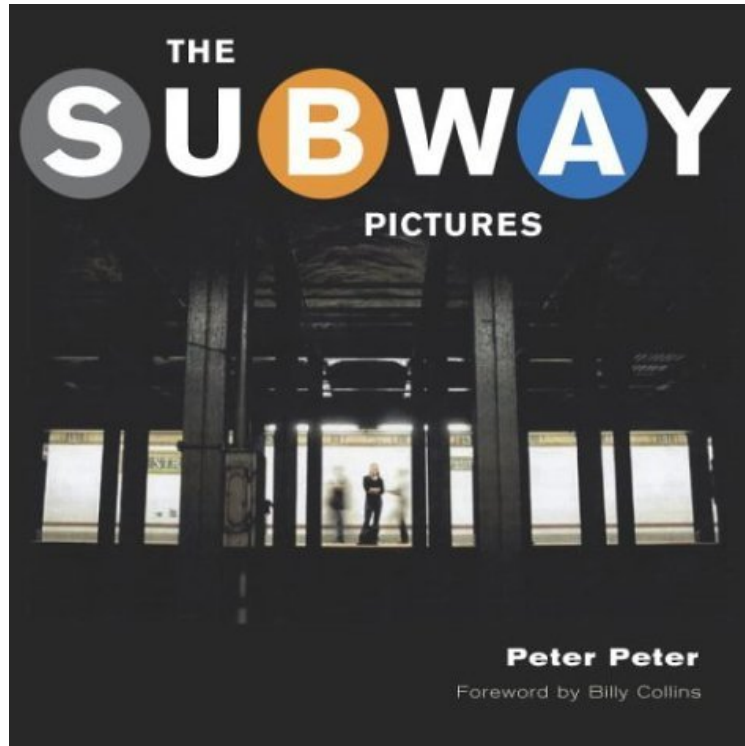


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## The Subway Pictures

*PETER PETER, BILLY COLLINS*

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#3620061 in Books Random House 2004-10-05 2004-10-05Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.29 x .76 x 9.30l, #File Name: 1400062845160 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**PETER PETER, BILLY COLLINS : The Subway Pictures** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Subway Pictures:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well doneBy DennisBest photos of the NYC subway as you experience it everyday. Peter Peter (what a name) manages to capture some of the most ironic, comical and touching photos of "everyday" people from all backgrounds. Slightly dated now, but if you love NYC this book will resonate.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great PhotographyBy N.GIt's a great book. A must buy for anyone interested in candid photography. Every picture tells a story and the contrast at times is amazing.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Pics, Great TextsBy CustomerNice pics about "true underground people".If you want to know the "feeling" of NY's subway, this is the book...

In The Subway Pictures, Peter Peter shares his extraordinary images of life on the move, capturing ordinary New Yorkers in a remarkable give-and-take with their public surroundings. As Billy Collins writes in his Foreword, Each of these images is a visual report from underground, the testimony of an optical Virgil bringing us news of the travelers below, momentarily stopped figures in the nonstop shuttling that goes on beneath the concrete skin of the city.In the wake of September 11, Peter found the heart of New York City in the subterranean world through which he rode nearly every day for the next three years. It was like being carried along on a river of whispering signs and symbols, he writes. Travelers suspended in contemplation by the steady rhythm of stop-and-go seemed like speechless souls from a

different dimension. The scene reshuffled at each stop and every now and then the elements would slip into a visual story. In the seventy-seven candid color pictures culled from the thousands Peter snapped with his basic 3 megapixel camera, the magic is everywhere. Whether we are looking at a very tall man crocheting with incredible concentration, someone flamboyantly stretching on the platform, or a Jackie Collins look-alike applying makeup, the world that comes across is vibrantly human and defiantly unself-conscious. Published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the opening of the fabled New York City subway system, *The Subway Pictures* is an unforgettable tribute to the individuality of all those who ride underground in New York, and to every urban American.

From Publishers Weekly It's not the trains that are featured here, but the people on them. The Czech-born Peter's portraits follow in the tradition of Walker Evans's bw shots of New York's underground public transit riders in *Many Are Called* (to be republished this month by Yale), taken in the 1940s with a camera he kept mostly concealed in his coat. Peter put his camera in a bag that he kept by his side, also capturing whoever was sitting across the aisle without their knowledge. (The technique restricted him to shooting when the trains weren't crowded and he was neither blocked by standers nor forced to give up his bag's seat.) Despite being candid, his full-color shots of one or two figures in mostly empty cars are somehow taken with the tacit "I don't care what you do" knowledge of his mostly working-class subjects from New York's panoply of cultures most of whom are exhaustedly internally focused, sleeping, reading, kissing or familiarly slumping over one another. Former poet laureate Billy Collins in his foreword calls their shared expression "subway face" "that look of self-absorption, the middle-distance stare that suggests that life has temporarily been suspended," one that, any New Yorker will report, alters only at the greatest shock. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *The New Yorker* Between 2001 and 2002, Peter rode the subway almost every day, snapping photographs with a little camera hidden in a bag. The product is this collection of seventy-seven color pictures. Most of Peter's subjects are not well-off; some are homeless. All of them, Peter says, "seemed incredibly beautiful to me." Nor is this the Walker Evans-type of craggy beauty familiar in depictions of the poor; the bag lady's bags are a nice green, and clean. One picture, called "Three Kings," shows a weary mother with three little boys wearing paper crowns from Burger King. They have had a good day; one of the boys carefully adjusts his crown. Many of the photographs were shot in the wake of 9/11, and they radiate the tenderness toward the city that marked that time. Copyright 2005 *The New Yorker* About the Author PETER PETER was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, just in time to witness the 1968 Russian invasion. After studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, he moved to England to pursue photography. He lives in New York City with his wife, Helen, a native New Yorker.