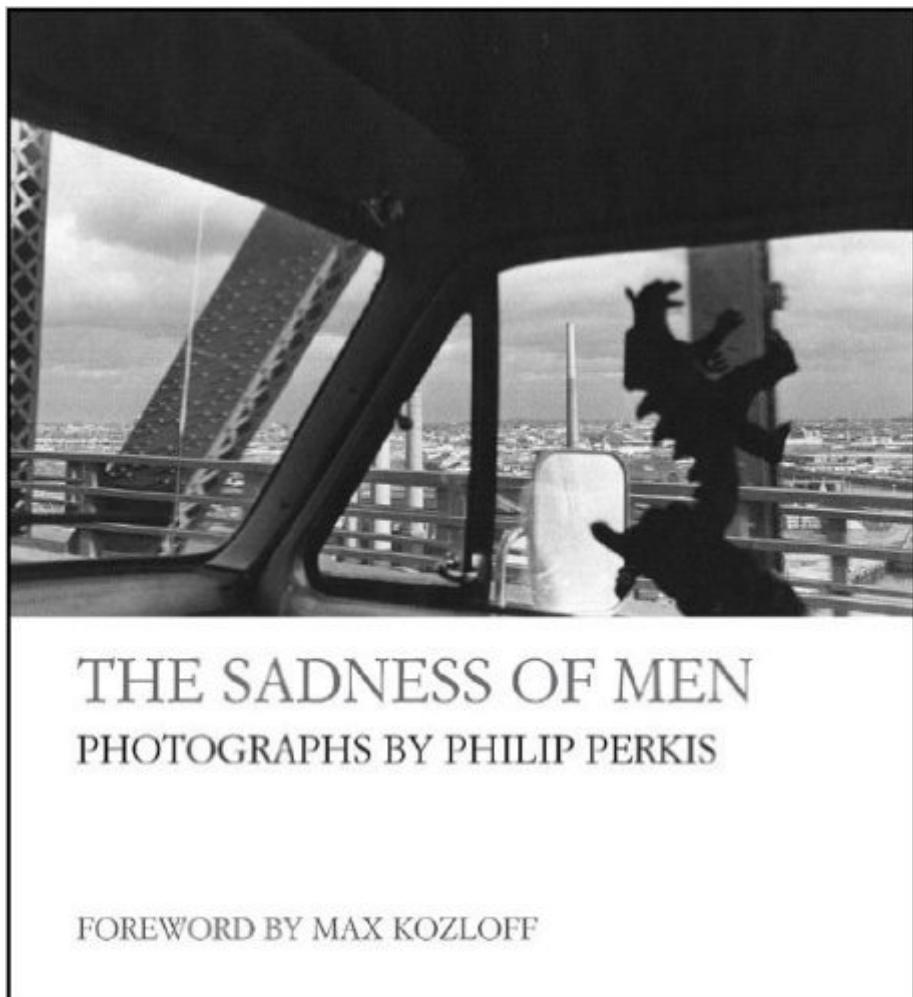


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The Sadness Of Men



Synopsis

Philip Perkis is one of the most widely respected American photographers, yet his work is little known outside of professional circles. In this fifty-year retrospective, and first published collection, his inimitable vision is brought to the public. With a gift for capturing moments of heartbreaking honesty and unparalleled beauty, he presents a world on the brink of transcendence. Taken in the most humble circumstances—snapped from the driver's seat or taken at home—these images are so much more than the sum of their parts. The electric fury of barking dogs in the streets of Mexico, the white stillness of Israel, and the silence of a sleeping mother, carry within them complexities of gray, of raw emotion and metaphor. These images are the gift of a master observer with an eye tuned to the almost imperceptible miracles of everyday life. They are not one-line gags or jaded images of the poor or suffering, rather they are evocative explorations of the lovely sadness of life and the wild, sweet rhythms of the world. 125 duotone photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The name Philip Perkis may not be immediately recognizable as an artist of renown, but slowly leafing through this exquisite collection of photographs from this sensitive humanist and photographer will set his name indelibly in the minds of the viewer. This is one of the most quiet and yet radiant collections of images of the simplest aspects of our world and our lives, and in Philip Perkis' hands these become at once honest and at the same time almost otherworldly. Traveling around the world Perkis snaps his suddenly observed phenomena from a passing car window or

from his stance as a walker to places rarely viewed by others. The results are on hundred twenty-five duotones that jolt the viewers attention to perceive the essence of the photographer's message. From throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Turkey, Israel, Lebanon and other countries Perkis pauses to capture the magic of light on landscapes and water and rocks and fields, explores people and animals at rest and at play, and bizarre realities such as a shop ceiling in Guadalajara, Mexico with transparent packages of cherubs and saints hanging above countless religious images that happen to be for sale, states of Halloween celebrations in New York City, mirror collections in Istanbul, camel markets in Cairo, all intermixed with quite images of deserted roads or feathers floating or a swan - dead but appearing to be sleeping. Perkis, in a fine interview with John Braverman Levin at book's end addresses the title of this collection: 'I make a distinction between the word "sadness" and the word "depression". They're not at all interchangeable in my mind. I think depression is negative. I see sadness as a positive emotion. I see sadness as beautiful. I see sadness as a possibility of transcendence.

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