

NEW RELEASE 2023



Barbara Peacock
American Bedroom
Reflections on the Nature of Life

Text by Barbara Peacock
 Quotes by the portrayed persons
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A cultural and anthropological study of Americans in their most private dwelling: the bedroom

American Bedroom is an unfiltered poetic photographic journey viewing Americans in their most intimate dwelling: the bedroom. The nature of the project is unguarded portraits of individuals, couples, and families that reveal the depth of their character, truth, and spirit. The images are paired with quotes from each subject and are full of subtle details that invite us to contemplate the idiosyncrasies of each enigmatic life. Peacock reminds us that, in an era rife with hot-take, reductionist analyses of the American body politic, her fellow citizens really do contain multitudes.

Statement by **Pepere**, 88, Jay, Maine:

When I wake in the morning, I try to be quiet, so I don't wake her. Then I remember she is no longer here.

Introductory quote by **Larry Fink**:

Barbara Peacock's American Bedroom photographs are a testimony to emotional innocence playing footsie with the devil. With a subject matter such as this, one could almost instantly go toward lurid, voyeuristic admonitions; she does not. Often her subjects are without clothing, in the bed, frolicking around, neutralizing any conventional identity. What is it within her that so magnetizes her subjects in the bed in front of her, that she as an imposing presence, 'the photographer', no longer exists?

From the epilogue by **Barbara Peacock**:

*In the beginning, this project was simply about taking photographs of people. In the end it was about the people, their stories, their lives—and I was the conduit. It began to feel much greater than the sum of its parts and as times goes on, I think it will feel increasingly so. (...)
 The genesis of American Bedroom began one spring morning when I was looking out of my bedroom window into my garden. When I*

turned, I saw my husband wrapped up in bed linens, bathed in low amber light, looking like a Renaissance painting. The caveat was his snore mask, which created a dichotomy of the classical and the contemporary. I chuckled a little. As I sat back in bed with my coffee the concept of "rebirth of naturalism" was spinning around my head. I imagined the scene as a photograph, envisioning where and how I would appear. Then my mind began to consider our bedside tables—covered in books, water, sleep aids, notebooks for midnight thoughts, and coffee rings. (...)

I believe the bedroom is not just a private place, but a sacred place. We build it as a shrine to our lives (even if houseless) and spend nearly one third of our lives in it. It exemplifies our being; it is a place to rest, to love, to comfort, to be, to give life, to restore, to recover, to grieve, to lay sick and to die. The one thing I know for certain is that all lives are important, and everyone has a story to tell.

This is not a look at our differences—although there may be many—it is about our likenesses, our loves, our dreams, and all the threads of commonality that connect us as human beings.

Barbara Peacock is a photographer and director living in Portland, Maine. Since having started *American Bedroom* in 2016, she has won the Getty Editorial Grant, the Women Photograph/Getty Grant, three LensCulture Awards, four Top 50 Critical Mass Awards, and was named one of the Top 100 Photographers in America 2020.

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Press images



01_Jessica, 18, Milford, New Hampshire
© Barbara Peacock



02_Pepere, 88, Jay, Maine
© Barbara Peacock



03_The Kalatas Family, Portland, Maine
© Barbara Peacock



04_Chloe, 18, Lake Worth, Florida
© Barbara Peacock



05_Laverne, 72, and James, 74, Big Stone Gap, Virginia
© Barbara Peacock



06_Shane, 38, and Carrie, 42, Tchula, Mississippi
© Barbara Peacock



07_Abigail, 4, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska
© Barbara Peacock



08_Micah, 35, and Kody, 40, Omaha, Nebraska
© Barbara Peacock



09_The Mathews Family, Saratoga Springs, Utah
© Barbara Peacock



10_Cai, 28, and Claire, 29, Bliss, Idaho
© Barbara Peacock



11_Breezy, 31, Gila River Reservation, Arizona
© Barbara Peacock



12_Jeremiah, 45, Kauai, Hawaii
© Barbara Peacock



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Quotes

01_Jessica, 18, Milford, New Hampshire
© Barbara Peacock

Sometimes life throws you in all sorts of directions, the most important part about life is to remember you are exactly where you need to be.

02_Pepere, 88, Jay, Maine
© Barbara Peacock

When I wake in the morning, I try to be quiet so I don't wake her. Then I remember she is no longer here.

03_The Kalatas Family, Portland, Maine
© Barbara Peacock

Our world revolves around autism and the whole family struggles to keep up. But it's our hearts that keep us together and our large family bed where every night we reconnect. Nobody can love our family like we do.

Jordan, 35

04_Chloe, 18, Lake Worth, Florida
© Barbara Peacock

I'm considered by many to be an old soul. I feel an overwhelming sense of freedom when I am locked away in my bedroom in front of my drum set, expressing the part of me I can't often communicate in words.

05_Laverne, 72, and James, 74, Big Stone Gap, Virginia
© Barbara Peacock

Finding love late in life has taught me many lessons, including not to be shy or embarrassed by my body. It is freeing to say I am big, bold and beautiful.

06_Shane, 38, and Carrie, 42, Tchula, Mississippi
© Barbara Peacock

Life is tough, but we good.

07_Abigail, 4, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska
© Barbara Peacock

I've got my favorite blanket and kitty sheets. They make me feel happy. I don't get mad. I'm always going to be nice.

08_Micah, 35, and Kody, 40, Omaha, Nebraska
© Barbara Peacock

Love is accrescent. If you choose to love, there is no end to how big and all-encompassing it can grow. We chose to love each other daily and will keep choosing to love as we push on into the future.

09_The Mathews Family, Saratoga Springs, Utah
© Barbara Peacock

Endless possibilities and adventure! We sold our home and just about everything we owned three years ago. Little did we know what awaited us on the open road ... freedom unlike anything we had ever had while on a quest to find a new place and community to call home.
Stephanie, 37

10_Cai, 28, and Claire, 29, Bliss, Idaho
© Barbara Peacock

Dismantle and rebuild (the urge to destroy is a creative urge, a natural reset) build a home in you, a home in me. Together home is always growing, always being redefined-dismantled and rebuilt. We see each other, we make space for each other, and here we are always safe inside.

11_Breezy, 31, Gila River Reservation, Arizona
© Barbara Peacock

They keep sending me back to prison. I hardly ever get to see my son. Mostly I have sex with drugs and alcohol.

12_Jerimiah, 45, Kauai, Hawaii
© Barbara Peacock

I sleep in the grass beneath the trees and sky and by the ocean for six years now. My body and soul are clean. When I go I leave no trace.