

# Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research)

By John G. Morris



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How do photojournalists get the pictures that bring us the action from the world's most dangerous places? How do picture editors decide which photos to scrap and which to feature on the front page?

Find out in *Get the Picture*, a personal history of fifty years of photojournalism by one of the top journalists of the twentieth century. John G. Morris brought us many of the images that defined our era, from photos of the London air raids and the D-Day landing during World War II to the assassination of Robert Kennedy. He tells us the inside stories behind dozens of famous pictures like these, which are reproduced in this book, and provides intimate and revealing portraits of the men and women who shot them, including Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and W. Eugene Smith. A firm believer in the power of images to educate and persuade, Morris nevertheless warns of the tremendous threats posed to photojournalists today by increasingly chaotic wars and the growing commercialism in publishing, the siren song of money that leads editors to seek pictures that sell copies rather than those that can change the way we see the world.



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Amazon.com Review

"I am a journalist," says John G. Morris, "but not a reporter and not a photographer." He is a picture editorthe person who selects which photos get used in a newspaper or magazine--and he's worked for some of the
top names in the industry: at *Life* under Henry Luce, for Katherine Graham and Ben Bradlee at the *Washington Post*, and for Abe Rosenthal at the *New York Times*, where his bold page-one use of a
photograph by Eddie Adams of the execution of a Vietcong suspect by Nyugen Ngoc Loan became one of
the Vietnam War's most enduring images.

Morris, who also served as the first executive editor for the Magnum photojournalist press agency, looks back at his career in this lively memoir. Among the colleagues who turn up in anecdotes are Alfred Eisenstaedt, Lee Miller, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Robert Capa; the book leads with a grainy Capa photograph of the D-day landing, 1 of only 11 shots that survived a freak accident in the London photo labs of *Life* as Morris and his team raced against the clock to get images to America in time for the next issue. There are over 100 other powerful photographs, taken at the Japanese-American internment camp at Manzanar, the Nazi concentration camp at Majdanek, and the front lines of the Vietnam and Gulf Wars, and other locales. In addition to being a dynamic storyteller, Morris is also steadfast in his determination that photojournalists should be given the freedom--both in resources and lack of censorship--to provoke us into a new awareness of what is happening in the world. --Ron Hogan

#### From Publishers Weekly

"Photographers are the most adventurous of journalists. They have to be. Unlike a reporter, who can piece together a story from a certain distance, a photographer must... be in the right place at the right time. No rewrite desk will save him." Morris wasn't on the front line, he was the guy who sent the photographers out and decided on what came back. And he did it for the best in the business. In this enlightening memoir, Morris traces his half-century career from the mail room at Life, and subsequent promotions there, to Ladies' Home Journal, the Washington Post and the New York Times, and as executive editor at the famed Magnum photo agency. Morris worked with and knew as friends the greats of photojournalism, from W. Eugene Smith to the Turnley brothers. His colorful anecdotes have the authenticity of the insider, and photo buffs will finally learn how three rolls of Robert Capa's D-Day film was ruined, leaving only 11 usable shots. Morris also describes his own run-ins with such powerful bosses as Katharine Graham, Henry Luce and A.M. Rosenthal. His book is at its best when he is at the picture desk, making the later chapters Aafter he moves to Paris in 1983 to become a writer and criticAseem much less interesting. Morris could have said more on, say, the impact of newspaper color on photojournalism, but it's enough that he offers a behind-thescenes look at the glory days before the immediacy of television changed the purpose and impact of the field. And of course, it's supplemented by 115 b&w photos. (June) and Flash!: The Associated Press Covers the World (Abrams).

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#### From Library Journal

Morris deserves to be better known by all who love good documentary and news photography. He has led or worked at some of the defining illustrated news magazines (Life, Ladies' Home Journal, and the New York Times Magazine) and media empires of the 20th century, worked closely with the best photographers of our times (Robert Capa, W. Eugene Smith, Cartier Bresson, "Chim" Seymour, George Rodger, and Lee Miller), and now tells the story of how our century's most powerful photographs came to be made. His inside stories

about photographers, editors, and publishers are told here for the first time. Morris describes himself as a journalist and picture editor, not a reporter or photographer. He writes in a forthright and engaging style about his experiences in war and peace with the photographers who created the enduring visual records of the second half of this century. Readers will be grateful that he has finally put his rich memories on paper. Highly recommended, especially for photography and photojournalism collections. AKathleen Collins, Bank of America Archives, San Francisco

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#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Robert Miller:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research). Try to stumble through book Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research) as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So, we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Rose Nguyen:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book entitled Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research)? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

#### **Kelly McDowell:**

This Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research) book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research) without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research) can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism (Crime and Justice: A Review of Research) having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Tracy Painter:**

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