



Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes

By Kyle Cassidy

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As the 2004 Presidential Election was beginning to take shape, Kyle Cassidy took note of the important role the simple concept of gun ownership was playing. Hardly anyone he knew didn't have an opinion in the debate over owning guns. Why was a constitutionally protected right so heavily debated, and who exactly are these folks that own guns? "I began to wonder who these seventy or so million Americans were, how they lived and what was important to them. I set out to photograph as many gun owners as I could and ask them one question: "Why do you own a gun." Cassidy traveled some 20,000 miles, crisscrossing the country to meet with gun owners in their homes. Cassidy's photo essays create a powerful, thought provoking and sometimes startling view of gun ownership in the U.S. These "everyman" portraits, and the accompanying views of gun owners, fashion a riveting and provocative hardcover book. "I made two decisions early on," Cassidy says in his Introduction to the book. "First that I would photograph anyone who was willing, owned a gun, and whom I could physically get to. Secondly, I decided I wouldn't treat these subjects any differently than I would if I were photographing "Lottery Winners" or "Cancer Survivors" - I didn't want to rely on the crutch of controversy to prop my images up. I wanted a good portrait first." "As far as I could tell, there were no politically neutral books about gun owners - they all seemed to be propaganda, one way or the other. My job wasn't to make gun owners look good, or to spin something one way or another it was to take a series of interesting portraits".

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Editorial Review

Review

"...Each picture in *Armed America* could be a pro-gun advertisement - or an anti-gun poster. That's what makes the book so riveting." -- *The Washington Post*, July 29, 2007

"Cassidy's genius... vividly captures the subjects' personalities as well as their widely differing views on gun ownership." -- *Guns & Ammo*, October 2007

"...stunning photos... You can't finish this book and still make blanket judgments about gun owners." -- *The Library Journal*, September 1, 2007

"What we have here folks, between two covers, is that greatest of rarities, a fair picture of who owns guns." - *Field & Stream*, David Petzel, 2007

About the Author

Kyle Cassidy is a photographer living in Philadelphia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Bradley:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

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