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Boston Below



Synopsis

Every day, roughly 720,000 people from all walks of life use the four lines of the Boston MBTA subway system: Red, Green, Blue, and Orange. The T, as it's known, is a vital link to living, working, or visiting in Boston. The subway system acts as the city's arteries. It includes 28 underground and 80 above-ground stations. Over 145 compelling art photographs explore the T-riders, their behavior, their actions when waiting for or riding a train, and their response to the chaotic push of rush hour. With a keen eye, both the T's infrastructure and its many stations with their varied architecture, artwork, and physical layouts are captured. With the first tunnel excavation begun in 1895 and the last station completed in 1985, there is plenty of variation to explore. Interestingly, this volume also offers a rarely seen glimpse of how the trains are kept operational in several maintenance facilities. Here is a fascinating visual journey through one of the nation's oldest subway systems. Whether you are a regular subway rider, a fan of photography, a train enthusiast, or a people watcher, there is something here for you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent photo book. Having grown up riding the T, it was a great collection of photos depicting the subway system. Many interesting photos including behind the scenes shots of the maintenance sheds and inside the subway tunnels. A very enjoyable book to look through again and again. The only thing I thought was odd is how the author put the photo captions at the back of the book. The captions are not usually more than 5-7 words, so not sure why they couldn't have just been printed

underneath the photos alleviating the need to flip back and forth to the rear of the book. However, this doesn't detract from my experience with the book, just kind of curious to me as to why it was done this way.

This book is a tribute to our nation's oldest (and most locally-maligned) subway system! While it opens with an interesting narrative, the beautiful photographs (both in color and black and white format) really tell a story that few people ever see, much less appreciate. It is a wonderful photo "essay" that not only captures the amazing diversity of people who ride the system to get where they need to go, but also speaks to the dedication of the many employees behind the scenes, who work every day to keep it maintained and running smoothly. The photographs themselves offer us a permanent reflection on intrinsic beauty to be found in the "everyday" or "ordinary"; so often overlooked in our rush to be somewhere else. For anyone with any connection to the MBTA and the history of the city of Boston, this book is a real treasure!

Having been a photojournalist for over forty years, looking at the book BOSTON BELOW is a pleasure for eyes and mind. It is an excellent collection of photographs of the connecting force of Boston - the T. It parallels architectural design of the subway stations with its patrons, the people riding it and the workers who keep it running. I personally am very drawn to the Black & White observations of T travelers. The photographers gathered candid moments with a keen eye and a dash of humor at times. I find the images from - behind the scenes - in the maintenance facilities fascinating in contrast but equally excellent. The Colors and actions captured are brilliant. I also like to compliment the publisher of BOSTON BELOW for such an elegantly laid out book and reproducing rich Black & White next to Color imagery. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority can be proud of such a crisp presentation of the Boston Subway System. It is a book for anyone riding the T as well as loving good photography and Boston!

As another former Cantabridgian who regularly rode the T, I thoroughly enjoyed this photo essay of Boston's subterranean transport system. The photos brought back memories of my subway travels and captured both the expectable and the unique aspects of riding the T. Many of the photos were familiar but the eye of the camera also captured unusual and novel views of the journey. The photos are well composed and engaging, inviting the viewer to enter into this netherworld. These two photographers have created an exciting and pleasing work that would be a welcome addition to the photography book library or coffee table of any Bostonian who has ever traveled the T.

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