

A Face in the Crowd

Expressions of Gay Life in America

Edited by John Peterson and Martin Bedogne

Reviewed by Dave Parker

This coffee-table type story and photo book presents brief real-life stories and images of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people living their lives with love, hope, and happiness – as well as fear and oppression. These stories and images of families, friends, and challenges demonstrate that GLBT life in North America does not match the generally accepted stereotypes.

The book features a cover photo by renowned photographer David LaChapelle and a collection of high-quality images of GLBT people from all walks of life. Running along the bottom of the pages are brief biographies of noteworthy gay individuals who imparted the GLBT and larger communities with an ongoing series of photos and comments about homeless GLBT youth in San Francisco and Hollywood. Mixed in with the photos are a number of both pleasant and not-so-pleasant coming-out stories.

Some of the photos take you back into the hidden milieu of the GLBT community of 60 or 70 years ago. Some hark back to the Stonewall rebellion: some display the hate and bigotry of homophobia. Unfortunately, there is no mention of the pivotal role of transgenders in the Stonewall rebellion.

Put this book on your coffee table and the accompanying CD with Randi Driscoll's rendition of "What Matters" and a message from Judy Shepard on your stereo for your next party. They are excellent ways to introduce GLBT topics or coming out stories to your friends and family.

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