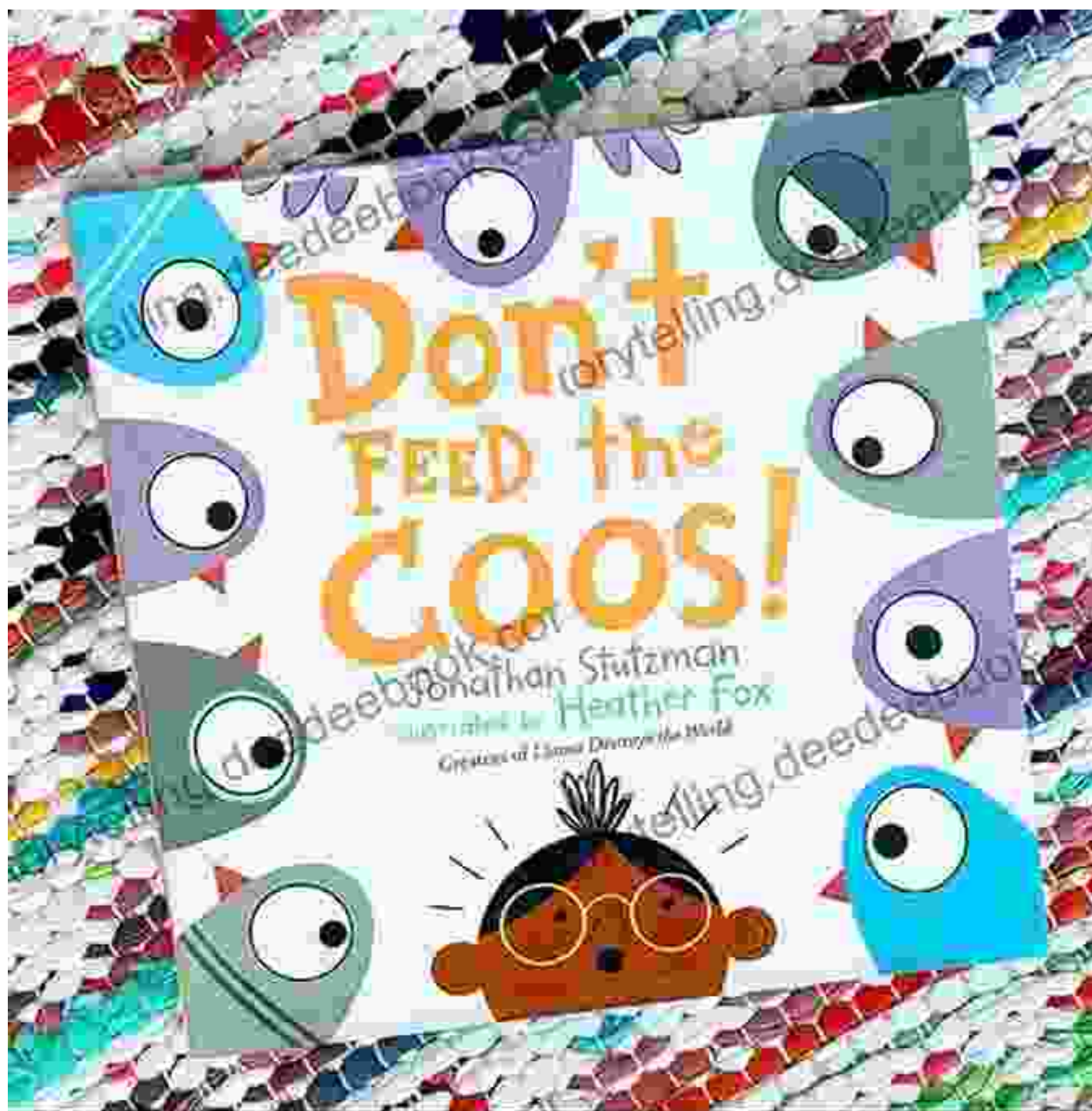


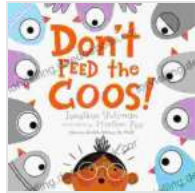
# Don't Feed the Coos: Jonathan Stutzman's Artistic Exploration of Human-Animal Relationships



**Don't Feed the Coos!** by Jonathan Stutzman

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 3767 KB  
Print length : 48 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



In the bustling urban tapestry of New York City, photographer Jonathan Stutzman's poignant series "Don't Feed the Coos" captures the intricate interplay between humans and animals. This thought-provoking body of work challenges societal norms, sparks dialogue on animal welfare, and invites viewers to confront their own perceptions of urban wildlife.

## **The Artist and His Inspiration**

Jonathan Stutzman, a Brooklyn-based photographer, has long been fascinated by the coexistence of humans and animals in urban environments. He believes that animals hold a mirror to human nature, revealing our capacity for compassion, empathy, and cruelty.

Stutzman's "Don't Feed the Coos" series emerged from his observations of New Yorkers interacting with pigeons, a species often dismissed as pests. By placing these interactions under the lens of his camera, Stutzman aimed to unravel the complex dynamics between these two seemingly disparate beings.

## **Deconstructing Societal Norms**

"Don't Feed the Coos" challenges the prevailing notion that pigeons are simply nuisance animals. Stutzman's photographs reveal the surprisingly diverse and nuanced ways in which people engage with these birds. From

the compassionate feeding of injured pigeons to the cruel harassment of others, Stutzman's images expose the full spectrum of human attitudes towards animals.

Many of Stutzman's photographs depict people ignoring or mistreating pigeons, reflecting a widespread societal disregard for urban wildlife. However, his series also includes moments of tenderness and empathy, suggesting that not all humans are indifferent to the plight of animals.

### **Exploring Human-Animal Relationships**

Through "Don't Feed the Coos," Stutzman invites viewers to examine the multifaceted roles that animals play in our lives. Pets bring us joy and companionship, while animals used for food or entertainment raise ethical concerns. Urban wildlife, like pigeons, can be both admired and vilified, depending on our individual perspectives and experiences.

Stutzman's photographs provoke questions about our responsibilities towards animals and the extent to which we are willing to coexist peacefully with them. They challenge us to reconsider our assumptions about the value of different species and to strive for a more harmonious relationship between humans and the natural world.

### **Animal Welfare and Urban Wildlife**

One of the central themes explored in "Don't Feed the Coos" is the issue of animal welfare in urban environments. Pigeons, like many other urban animals, face numerous challenges, including disease, starvation, and habitat loss.

Stutzman's photographs raise awareness about the plight of these animals and the importance of responsible stewardship. By highlighting the vulnerability of urban wildlife, he encourages viewers to adopt a compassionate and pro-active approach towards these creatures.

## **Artistic Style and Impact**

Stutzman's "Don't Feed the Coos" series is characterized by its minimalist aesthetic and observational style. His photographs often feature pigeons in stark urban settings, emphasizing the contrast between their natural instincts and the artificial environment they inhabit.

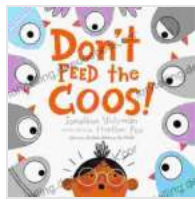
Stutzman's use of black-and-white photography enhances the sense of drama and introspection, inviting viewers to focus on the emotional content of the interactions between humans and animals. The absence of color also abstracts the images, allowing them to resonate on a universal level.

The impact of "Don't Feed the Coos" has extended beyond the art world. Stutzman's photographs have been featured in numerous exhibitions and publications, sparking public dialogue about animal welfare issues and the human-animal bond in urban environments. The series has also inspired grassroots organizations and educational campaigns aimed at promoting compassionate treatment of all living creatures.

Jonathan Stutzman's "Don't Feed the Coos" series is a powerful and illuminating exploration of the complex relationships between humans and animals in the urban context. By challenging societal norms, raising awareness about animal welfare, and provoking critical thinking, Stutzman's work encourages us to reconsider our attitudes towards urban

wildlife and to strive for a more compassionate and harmonious coexistence with all beings.

Stutzman's photographs serve as a reminder that animals are not merely objects to be tolerated or dismissed. They are sentient creatures with their own needs and vulnerabilities, deserving of our respect and empathy. As we navigate the ever-changing urban landscape, let us be mindful of the animals we share it with and strive to create a world where both humans and animals can flourish.



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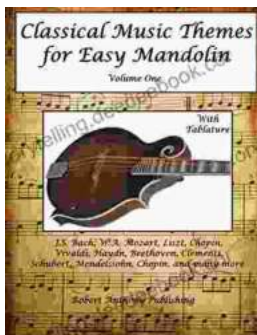
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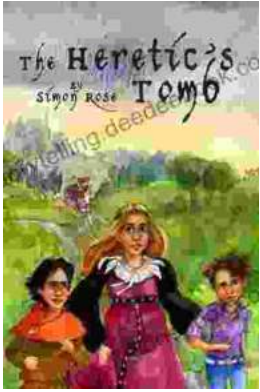
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