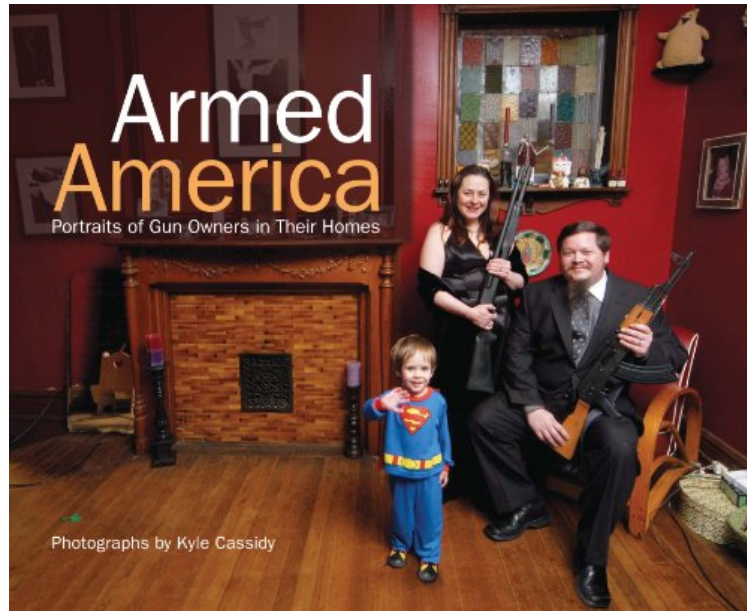


## Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes

*Kyle Cassidy*

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**Kyle Cassidy : Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Wierd, wonderful AmericaBy tikkieIn a sporting goods store I watched as a man and his schoolage daughter examined all sorts of little black knives, before he reluctantly put the last knife down and told her, "Come on, we're gonna go look at guns." "Guns! Guns!" she sang happily as she skipped off with her Dad. The salesman and I stared bemusedly after them, and laughed when I said, "God bless America." I keep this book in my waiting room and get feedback that is almost all good, except for a disturbed look from one non-gun-owner. Just big pictures of people posing in their own homes with their gun, one or many. On each facing page appears a quote about why they feel they should have a gun. The combination of the candid photo and the equally revealing comments displays the whole diversity of our culture. There are scary looking people I'd not like to run into, especially now that I know they're armed. On the other extreme there's the gentleman who said, "As a Jewish American I am cognizant of the fact that 6 million of my people went into air pollution in the 30's and 40's...It's hypocritical to deny someone the most basic of human rights, which is the right to defend yourself." Interesting book. 55 of 57 people found the following review helpful. This book surprised meBy HRI am embarrassed that I started out with such a small-minded view of gun ownership. I thought I was against guns and seeing pictures of them was viscerally disturbing them to me. However, reading what people actually had to say about their gun ownership did make me open my mind on the issue. I appreciate that the book portrays first and foremost the people and does not slant or objectify them (there is no political agenda) which leaves me able to digest the contents for myself. The author's intro paragraph is very succinct and imaginative; he is not only a gifted photographer but a unique writer as well. The photos are also really interesting because there's usually something going on in the background - you can see pets in motion captured at a moment in time or interesting expressions on the people's faces. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, shows who the gun owners of America are. By Matthew William CohenI picked up this book hearing high praises about it. Guns tend to be a taboo to those who are unfamiliar with them. The people that are afraid of

them generally don't want to know anything about them and the mere sight of such a thing would be treated as if someone stumbled across someone in the nude on tv. I liked the book because it showed who the gun owners are that people keep talking about. The general feel is that gun owners are shady folks or involved in militias dressed in camo planning to overthrow the government, neo nazi skinheads or criminals roaming the street. I like the idea that the book defeats that stereotype. It shows a diverse selection of gun owners of every race and background, poor, middleclass and rich, straight, bisexual, or gay. Gun owners come in all form, some support restrictions some don't. The pictures of the book were very detailed and even if you are not a fan of guns or don't know anything about them, the detail of the pictures and the objects around the house are interesting, also lots of pets. There are details to the left of the pictures generally that have a little dialogue on why the person owns guns along with their name and state and listing the model of firearms. I enjoyed the book and some of my friends who don't own firearms also enjoyed it not realizing that so many gun owners were just everyday people that lived in their neighborhood.

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 over 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.