

Ansel Adams: An Autobiography



Synopsis

In this bestselling autobiography, completed shortly before his death in 1984, Ansel Adams looks back at his legendary six-decade career as a conservationist, teacher, musician, and, above all, photographer. Written with characteristic warmth, vigor, and wit, this fascinating account brings to life the infectious enthusiasms, fervent battles, and bountiful friendships of a truly American original.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An accomplished musician, ardent conservationist, master photographer and teacher, Ansel Adams (1902-1984) made a major cultural contribution to the American nation, which awarded him the Medal of Freedom. This life story describes his boyhood discovery of California's Yosemite and High Sierra, a land he loved and photographed the remainder of his life. He traces the development of his esthetic beliefs and technical style, including the widely emulated Adams "zone system" of scenic composition and exposure. A chapter on his early efforts offers one of the best definitions yet articulated about photography as art. There are lively accounts of his acquaintance in conservation work with several U.S. presidents, and of relationships he had with photographer colleagues Stieglitz, Steichen, Weston, Georgia O'Keeffe, Nancy and Beaumont Newhall, Paul Strand, Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham, Edwin Land and others. The 270 illustrations here include personal shots of family, friends and wilderness high jinks, as well as many Adams masterworks like "Yosemite Half-Dome" and "Moonrise, Hernandez." BOMC featured alternate. October Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Adams's commitment to the serious study of photography lasted from 1930 until his death in 1984. He influenced hundreds of photographers through exhibitions, books, and workshops. His work for the Sierra Club (photographic and otherwise) brought national recognition. His autobiography moves from family reminiscences to his experiences with Edward Weston, Paul Strand, Dorothea Lange, the Newhalls, Georgia O'Keefe, Steiglitz, and Steichen, giving Adams's perspective on developments in the visual arts. It portrays a deeply felt concern with both craft and aesthetics, and a lifelong dedication to preserving the glory of the Western environment. No library with any sort of collection in photography should be without this book. Illustrations not seen. J.R. Mosler, Hackettstown P.L., N.J. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

If you love his photography, you will enjoy this book because it's more than just a biography as it includes insights into his creative process. Ansel Adams poured his soul into writing this book and after reading it I better appreciate his beautiful and awe inspiring photography. Adams was a masterful photographer and a lifelong conservationist. Born in 1902, he grew up in San Francisco as an only child. By age 12 he loved playing piano and developed an interest in photography while also enjoying exploring the outdoors and taking long walks. He left formal schooling after grade eight. Although he spent a large part of his career in commercial photography, he is popular for his landscape photography. In the 1920s Adams was spending a lot of time in the Sierra Nevada, hiking, exploring, and taking photographs, where he befriended leaders of the Sierra Club and became involved with the conservation movement. During his time at Yosemite, he met his future wife Virginia and they were married in 1928 and had two children. In the early years of marriage he juggled two professions, music and photography and talks at length about his decision to pursue his photography career. Besides his chapters describing Yosemite, and other National Parks, I especially enjoyed the chapters he dedicated to describing his relationships with a diverse group of friends and artists such as Alfred Steiglitz, Georgia O'Keefe, David McAlpin, Beaumont Newhall, Edward Weston, Edwin Land, etc. Besides spending a majority of his time out West, he also includes stories of time spent in New York City and the east coast. He led an interesting life. This 385 page oversize book (9"x10"), is an easy read filled with glossy black and white photos with every turn of the page. If you love his photography, you'll want to have a copy of this book in your library.

I got this for my Wife for her Birthday and she loves!!

Great compilation of his life

An interesting read

This was a gift to our son. He loved it. Adams is an individual that he admires. This book allowed my son to learn about Adams.

I love this book!! Ansel Adams is a great photographer and definitely has left his mark. I purchased the book so I could learn more about his process and study how he made decision when taking his pictures. It was great learning about the man behind the camera.

Gave as gift

I was so struck by Ansel Adams when I visited Yosemite in July of this past year that I purchased his autobiography to read. It was amazing and I enjoyed reading his perspective on his life. This is a must-read for anyone who is impressed with his genius and his life in Yosemite and San Francisco.

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