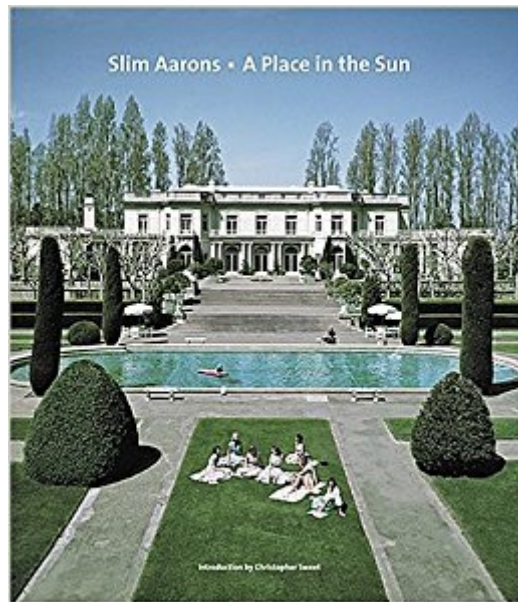




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Slim Aarons: A Place In The Sun



Synopsis

Since 1940 Slim Aarons has been hard at work, first as a war photographer, then with unprecedented access as a photographer to the rich and famous. In this gorgeous sequel to Slim Aarons-Once Upon a Time, he develops the environmental portrait to the level of art, always showing his subjects in their natural setting, in a circumstance synonymous with their station in life. He documented a particular world that is vanished. A Place in the Sun is that special glimpse of privilege under a bright and beaming sky, whether on sandy shore, snowy slope, or elegant home where cares are few. Through 250 stunning color pictures, Aarons provides a veritable who's who of high society: Aristotle Onassis with his first wife, Tina, and their children, Christina and Alexander; C.Z. Guest at her villa in Palm Beach; the Aga Khan at his Sardinian resort; and Truman Capote in Palm Springs. From Mustique to Monaco, from Aspen to Gstaad, only Slim Aarons can take us on a journey to the most exclusive playgrounds of the rich, inspiring even the most jaded armchair traveler.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Flipping through the azure, emerald and sun-kissed pages of "golden age" celebrity photographer Aarons's third collection of images, it's hard not to feel a certain nostalgia, even if a backyard wading pool is as close as one ever got to the Cap d'Antibes. For as devotedly as Aarons documented the glamorous lives of the now all-but-vanished jet set—*for* magazines like Life, Holiday and Town and Country in the '50s, '60s and '70s—he was also witness to a time

when the relationship between the "Beautiful People" and the rest of us was mostly one of uncomplicated envy and admiration. Oh, sure, some bitter Trotskyist might have objected to the godlike image of a nonchalant Kirk Douglas water-skiing with his hands on his hips, but many people were happy to gaze upon these photos of dewy poolside heiresses and arcadian Rolls-Royce desert picnics. Aarons himself had been through WWII; is it any wonder, then, that when asked to cover Korea, he replied that "the only beach [he] was interested in landing on was one decorated with beautiful seminude girls tanning in a tranquil sun"? In an age when celebrities have increasingly become the objects of ridicule and disgust, of "inside" gossip and intrusive speculation, Aarons's lushly appointed and tenderly chronicled world looks more attractive than ever. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ah, the beautiful people! Their faces and circumstances change, individually and historically, but they seem always to be with us. Aarons was West Point's official lenser and a World War II combat shutterbug before becoming "court photographer to the Jet Set," as editor Sweet calls him, for most of the twentieth century's latter half. He also did fashion photography, though "my models were wearing their own clothes," he said. Aarons' images constitute the ultimate glamour photography. Presented by location, from Monaco through southern Europe and a bit of central Africa, then west to Bermuda, the Caribbean, Mexico, and the U.S., they show the rich and famous (more of the former than the latter, who are mostly movie stars) at play. Aarons never used a stylist, a makeup artist, or anything but natural light (if you were rich, famous, and ugly, you stayed away from the places Aarons photographed), and since the settings encouraged swimwear, it is astonishing how beautiful these people were. Astonishing, too, is the electric intensity of the colors, even when visual details are smudged by distance and softened focus. They don't take pictures like this anymore.

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It's a wonderful book, very nostalgic, incredible imagery of a rare glimpse into the 60s jet set. I do think it's odd... and I've paged through the book 4 or 5 times.. the amazing photograph on the book's cover, isn't in the book? Maybe not in my version, but I thought that was a bit odd. Typically it'd be included in the book. Many of the photos span 2 pages leaving the page break / binding in the middle of the image. I love the images and wish the book was large for every image to remain on a single page. But this is a minor complaint, very subjective. The photography and subjects are worth every second.

Slim Aarons creates the perfect gift for that special hostess in the Hamptons, Palm Beach, Naples or Nantucket. Aarons displays the beautiful lives of the beautiful people in an era when the privileged were unapologetic for their good fortune. His books are unique and unavailable in stores. You really must make an effort to purchase them, which makes them a very special gift for the uninitiated. Aarons wrote several - if possible order all. They are beautifully bound, large cocktail table books, irresistible for the browser. I order them in multiples.

A must have coffee table book. A wee bit of overlap with Aarons "Once Upon a Time" - photograph wise... but who cares. A chronicle of the lives/lifestyle of the rich and famous of a past era. Very very entertaining and just plain beautiful.

I wish I hadn't lost my original copy of his first book. His photographs are an endless source of inspiration.

Like a mini-vacation

The one and only Slim Aarons shines in this wonderful portfolio. The images are sharp, intriguing, relevant, aspirational, and important. For a period of time, I was looking at this book daily, I liked it that much.

Love all the beautiful pictures

I thought it was dull and uninteresting. What can I say. The pictures didn't make me wish I was there.

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