



Slim Aarons: Once Upon A Time

By Slim Aarons

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From the end of World War II through the 1980s, Aarons photographed the rich and famous, the beautiful and the celebrated: Hollywood royalty, European aristocracy, the grande dames of high society, captains of industry, media moguls, statesmen and stars of every sort. Though upholding the glamorous image of wealth, power, talent and beauty, he saw himself as a journalist whose duty it was to inform, and this led him to develop the environmental portrait - photographs of his subjects at home, at work, at play and mingling with each other. This type of portrait has influenced a generation of photojournalists whose work can be seen in today's lifestyle magazines. This volume shows Aarons photographs of the international elite in their exclusive playgrounds during the jet-set decades of the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Aarons, erstwhile photographer to the rich and famous, has combed his archives to compile a collection of slick, upscale snapshots that vividly capture the lives of the "polo set." After the violence he witnessed as a combat photographer in WWII, Aarons decided that the only beaches he wanted to invade in the future were "decorated with beautiful girls tanning in a tranquil sun"-which are amply presented here. Aarons imparts a nearly tactile quality to these razor-sharp images, and every photograph, from the 1950s through the 1980s, is richly evocative of its era. One 1955 photo captures longtime fashion icon C.Z. Guest poolside in typically modest mid-century swimming attire with her son and dogs. A 1964 spread for Town & Country pictures the deeply tanned "young matrons of Palm Beach" in day-glow floral Lilly Pulitzer dresses. In a 1968 picture, fellow photographer Lord Lichfield is shown on the Italian Riviera wearing groovy yellow pants and flanked by Pucci-clad Italian princesses. Aaron's caption notes that "a photographer's life without a wife" seems to agree with the young cousin to Queen Elizabeth. While much of Aarons' work is focused on "horsey" types, he also turns his lens on creative folks. A dashing Gore Vidal is pictured at his Italian villa, the late Gianni Versace is shown at work in his home on Lake Como and Wanda Horowitz, daughter of Arturo Toscanini, is photographed at her father's podium at La Scala opera house in Milan. Aarons' gossipy captions, which accompany each photograph, help make this striking volume a voyeur's dream. 250 color photographs

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About the Author

Slim Aarons is now acknowledged to be one of the most influential photographers of his generation. Before World War II, he was the official photographer at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, and during the war he served as a combat photographer for Yank magazine in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. After the war he became a freelance photographer for many magazines including Holiday, Town & Country, Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, Travel & Leisure, and Look, and Life. He lives in Bedford, New York. Legendary magazine editor Frank Zachary commissioned many of the photographs in our book for Holiday and Town & Country.

Users Review

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