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Life: The Classic Collection



Synopsis

The most famous, wonderful and inspiring pictures ever to appear in the pages of 'Life' are here. All the great action shots are featured - from the sailor kissing the nurse to the first astronaut walking in space.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love this book! The photographs are stunning as one can expect from Life Magazine photographers. Some of the photos are famous, some less well-known. The book is large and the pictures are BIG, too, filling up the entire page. I especially liked this feature. Often, books have several smaller photos on one page, in this book the pictures are a very good size. Included in this collection (which is VERY reasonably priced) are 25 full-sized prints ready for framing. The prints cover a variety of subjects making it almost certain that everyone will find one or more prints that they would like to frame and put up in their homes. I'd definitely recommend this book. It's a great book at a great price.

In the later 1950s and early 1960s, I remember my family subscribing to a number of magazines--TV Guide, Newsweek, McCall's, Ladies' Home Journal, Popular Science, some farm journal (we lived on and worked on a farm), and Newsweek, Look--and Life. The latter two were always eagerly awaited, because of the photography coupled with the stories. This book, Life: The Classic Collection captures the spirit of those photographically oriented publications. The book begins by quoting its founder, Henry Luce, speaking of his vision (Page 4): "To see and to be shown

is now the will and new expectancy of half mankind. To see and to show is the mission now. . . ."

The inaugural issue debuted in 1936. This volume has some interesting features. Some of the classic photos can be removed to be framed and displayed (and a second copy remains within the volume itself); there is little text, although the photos are identified. Those of us who grew up back in the 1950s (and before) will instantly remember many of these photos. I vaguely recall having seen--and appreciated--the photo of Jack and Bobby Kennedy facing one another in the shadows; the NFL Championship game in 1966; the Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics; the seven original astronauts in 1969. . . Others are classics that I remember after they were published--Harry Truman displaying the headline that says "Dewey Defeats Truman" (I was born in 1947, so--obviously--I have no memory of this!); Margaret Bourke-White taking a photo from atop the Chrysler Building; The D-Day at Omaha Beach photo. . . . So, for those who lived with Life magazine, this is a nice way of recalling memories. For those not familiar with this classic magazine, this represents a terrific introduction to the art of the photograph.

This fabulous collection of famous, timeless photos, took me back to the time of Life Magazine, growing up, in the fifties. These were history making moments, captured for the world to enjoy. What a great coffee table book!

I purchased this book for my father's 89th birthday. We all looked through the book, and everyone could remember seeing different pictures over the years. For anyone who grew up with Life magazine this is nostalgia at it's best. There are lots of memories in this book, both happy and the sobering.

I think it is safe to say that there was an error with the 1 rating and that this book is a simple 4 Star Plus, and I feel a 5 is easy to award. As a general citizen interested in images there are a lot of classic works presented here. As a photographer, and instructor of photography, I like this book as it has a lot of wonderful images to share and discuss with the wonderful bonus of the inserted images. There are 25 prints included, in the version I have, and you can take these out and do as you please. For the general citizen they would make wonderful wall hangings and/or decorations. For the photography teacher they are easily laminated (for protection) to hand out and generate discussion. A little blue-tac and voila also decorations for the classroom. We can have students venture out and collect information on either the photographer or the photographs theme. For \$20 - you could not buy the prints at some arts shop, I think the prints in a specialty shop could run you from \$3-\$10 a piece.

The books a bargain if you are looking for a collection of classic mainstream images.

This is a beautiful book. Has duplicate photos for framing on top of original photos(on some) in book with tissue paper between those pages. Bought two for gifts.

This Life book has many of their most famous shots in it. And many of them are removable from the book. The print quality of the removable work is rather poor however. They are not good enough to be framed and displayed in my opinion. But still, this book is well worth having at this price. If you are a photographer it will certainly give you lots of ideas that can be applied to your own work. And if you are not a photographer you will get a fascinating slice of American history. My ten year old was very interested in this book.

I am completely satisfied with my purchase of Life's Classic Collection. I remember seeing many of these photographs when my parents subscribed to the weekly copies of Life in the 1950s and I have already framed and mounted several photos on the wall of my study. They make a great addition to my collection. Steve Wasserman

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