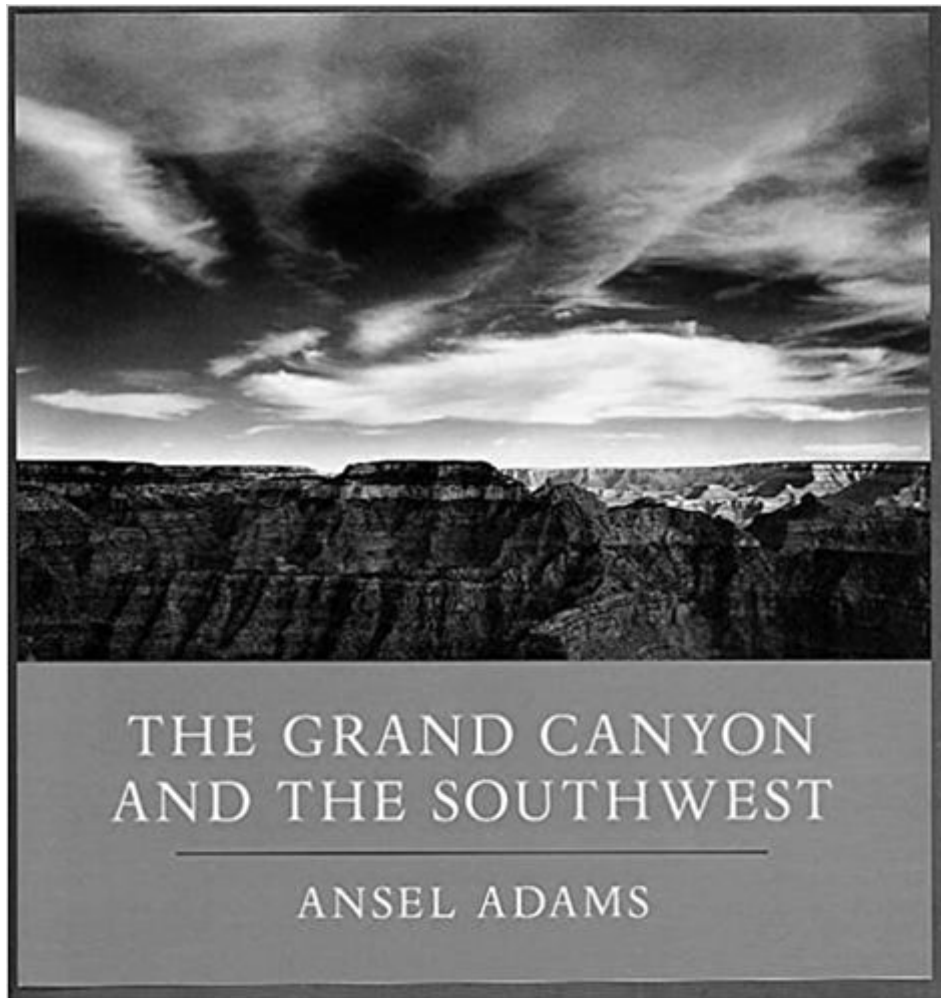




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# The Grand Canyon And The Southwest



## Synopsis

Next to Yosemite and the High Sierra, the Southwest was closest to Ansel Adams' heart. It was there, in the early 1930s, that he met photographer Paul Strand and decided to make photography his life's work. In his words, "wherever one goes in the Southwest one encounters magic, strength, and beauty." In *The Grand Canyon and the Southwest*, Adam's little known images of the Grand Canyon make up roughly one quarter of the photographs selected and edited by his longtime editor, Andrea Stillman. The varied images portray the balance of desolation and stark beauty in the Southwestern landscape, from Texas to California. The pictures are complemented by an introduction by Andrea Stillman and a selection of Adams' vivid letters about the region. In a letter to Alfred Stieglitz he writes, "It is all very beautiful and magical here - a quality which cannot be described. You have to live it and breathe it, let the sun bake it into you. The skies and land are so enormous, and the detail so precise and exquisite . . ."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In a career that spanned over five decades, Ansel Adams was at once America's foremost landscape photographer and one of its most respected environmental leaders. Andrea G. Stillman, who worked with Ansel Adams in the 1970s, edited many of the Adams books published since his death, most recently *Ansel Adams California*.

. . . or so I've realized after the past three years of looking at [\\_The Grand Canyon and the](#)

Southwest\_, a collection of black & white photographs by Ansel Adams (Little, Brown and Company, 2000). Photographs such as these--from surreal canyon-scapes to a single cactus in Arizona or a little Navajo/Dineh girl--show a mastery of craft and equipment. But, it's the eye and mind of a visionary artist (Ansel) that makes these photos possible. It makes sense that someone would take a photo of a girl in Canyon de Chelly in her traditional clothing, and it was intelligent to photograph Julian Martinez at San Ildefonso Pueblo, but it takes someone like Adams to have the photo turn out with a life beyond the day it was taken seventy or eighty years ago. Each photo here is an act of meditation, a gift of stillness and quiet being. It's always a spiritual pleasure to see "Tree and Clouds" near Tucson (1944), or "White House Ruin" in Canyon de Chelly, and "Moonrise, Hernandez" (1941). Perhaps, what puts this collect beyond the ordinary are the selected letters Ansel Adams wrote to family and friends while he was on his photography expeditions; a pleasure to read are notes and letters to his wife Virginia, to his parents, to Albert Bender, and Beaumont and Nancy Newhall. In 1936, he wrote to Patsy English, "In many ways the Carlsbad Caverns are symbolic of my life; beautiful and exquisite things that exist only in the light of the moment--the light that comes from the mind and the heart. . . . These things must be caught when they can--worked to perfection when they can" (105). There are also facsimiles of postcards and stationery, and a list of people he visited in Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico. This volume is edited by Andrea G. Stillman, and the Introduction is written by William A. Turnage, and makes an outstanding companion to the 90-minute American Experience PBS broadcast on Ansel Adams in 2002 (for which both Stillman and Turnage were interviewed).

What a treasure of incredibly beautiful photograp<sup>s</sup>. Ansel Adams was a true artist and his books should be a must read for anyone hoping or wishing to take great pictures of Nature. I went to Grand Canyon and the Southwest visiting most of the places he photographed and they look a 100 times more beautiful in these photographs than in reality, and I came back from that trip intoxica<sup>te</sup>d with so much beauty and sure that that trip was only the first of many. For the next one, this book will be a sure and indispensable companion.

He Loved it! My Dad is an amateur nature photographer and loves ansel adams work. He really enjoyed this book and I would highly recommend it to any ansel fan.

After seeing this myself, these pics are just phenomenal. He was such a gifted artist with a camera. I truly loved this book. Its a good collection.

I bought this book seeking pictures of the Grand Canyon by Ansel Adams, although I did not find as many as I wanted, I did find some great pictures!!! He was an amazing photographer. I thoroughly enjoyed reviewing the book and the pictures. Anyone who is interested in more than the Sierra Nevada range and the outdoors, as well as Ansel Adams, will find something here to enjoy!

The 86 black and white images in this book reflect dozens of visits by Ansel Adams to the Southwest over more than 50 years. Adams liked what he saw, and felt that "this land is offering me a tremendous opportunity; no one has really photographed it." This volume has two weaknesses. The images are often too small to accurately reproduce the detail that Adams intended us to see in the foregrounds and backgrounds, and many are over inked. Second, the introduction by William A. Turnage is not up to his usual standards. He makes a number of strange assertions such as that Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941 (poorly reproduced in this volume) is "beyond doubt, his most famous photograph." Hmmm. What do you think? In other places though, Turnage adds interesting details about Adams' introduction to the Southwest and the influence on his photography of Paul Strand. The book contains many letters from Adams about his experiences in taking the photographs, including many near disasters with his station wagon breaking down. One of the really interesting ones is to Patsy England in 1936 in which he says that in many ways the "Carlsbad Caverns are symbolic of my life; beautiful and exquisite things that exist only in the light of the moment." That may be the finest characterization of Adams' work that I have read. Here are my favorite images (as reproduced here) in this book: Saint Francis Church, Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico, c. 1929 Monument Valley, Arizona, 1937 Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona, 1942 Georgia O'Keeffe and Orville Cox, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona, 1937 White House Ruin, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona, 1941 Big Room, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, 1942 Burro Mesa and the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Texas, 1942 Farm, Autumn, near Glendale, Utah, c. 1940 Tree Against Cliff, Zion National Park, Utah, 1947 In Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah, 1947 Manly Beacon, Death Valley National Park, California, c. 1952 Grand Canyon from Yavapai Point, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, 1942 Grand Canyon from Yavapai Point (Bright Angel Canyon), Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, 1942 After you have finished reading about Ansel Adams' adventures and learning in the Southwest, I urge you to take your own driving trip through this beautiful country. Be sure to visit the spots that Adams did. I also suggest that you be sure to add Sedona in Arizona, Mesa Verde, the Meteorite Crater in Arizona, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale, and the Navajo

reservation to the areas depicted here. See the most beautiful places you can as often as possible!  
The beauty will seep into your soul.

First book I have looked at by Ansel Adams. There are a few Grand Canyon pictures in here and other southwest pictures. Also included are some letters he wrote.

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