Hungarian photographer André Kertész eventually became famous for his wryly poetic images of everyday life. But achieving that distinction was a long slog, and Kertész—who emigrated to Paris in 1925 and New York in 1936—struggled for decades in near-obscurity and despair. André Kertész traces the artists career with an engaging text and 250 exquisitely reproduced black-and-white photographs that span his long career. Throughout, he used his camera to create a visual diary of his life—haunting images suffused with a loners sensibility. As a young man imbued with the romantic ideals of Hungarian nationalism, he photographed his handsome brother Jeno as Icarus, his exultant body silhouetted against the sky. Unable to find work after returning from the battlefields of World War I, Kertész tried his luck in Paris. It was the best move of his life. The City of Light was hungry for photographers to fill the new illustrated magazines. Avant-garde painters and sculptors opened up a new world of experimentation that prompted Kertész to photograph a series of female nudes seen in a funhouse mirror. And the new, lightweight Leica camera enabled him to snap scenes on the sly—a bum inspecting his toes on the banks of the Seine or a legless flower seller trying to tempt a passerby.

After marrying his Hungarian girlfriend, he sailed to New York, lured by the promise of steady work as a fashion photographer and a climate more hospitable to a Jewish artist. But the agency job didnt suit him, and his emotional style had little appeal for American magazines. In photographs like Lost Cloud—a tiny white puff suspended next to the impersonal face of a skyscraper—he mirrored his own sense of dislocation. In succeeding years, he would make classic photographs of the city, including Washington Square, an elegant aerial view of a lone pedestrian in a snowy landscape of bare branches and benches. Major recognition finally came in the early 1960s, when Kertész was in his late sixties. Fortunately, he lived and worked for twenty more years, basking in the newly exalted status of art photography. Andre Kertész serves as the catalog for an exhibition at
the National Gallery of Art (through May 15, 2005) that travels to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (June 12-Sept. 5, 2005). —Cathy Curtis

My Personal Review:
Upon opening the book and gazing at the many extraordinary images contained within the pages, it is simply stunning. The book is one of the most expensive I own and well worth the price.

Each time I look at the images that Andre Kertesz captured (as seen in this book) I simply have a difficult time understanding how so long ago, Mr. Kertesz had the instinct to see and capture the visions he saw. I’m not aware of any specific training people may have had in photography nearly 100 years ago, and I suspect there was no training, classes available, but Kertesz obviously was gifted and very talented, if not formerly educated in this field.

The quality of the book is grand. The pages are thick and luxurious and the reproduction quality of Kertesz’s images is wonderful. The editors are to be commended on this superb publication.

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Andre Kertesz by Sarah Kennel - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!