The fascinating history of a twentieth-century icon—the first handheld camera—and the people who use it. The Leica is both a product of the twentieth century's inventive spirit and the means by which that spirit could be documented for posterity. As the first handheld camera, the Leica made possible a new kind of documentary photography, and included among its devoted fans are many of the century's greatest photographers. Its combined qualities of precision and compactness made it an essential tool for photographers everywhere, and today more than ever the Leica is prized by collectors. Leica is a social history of the people behind the camera—its ingenious inventor, Oskar Barnack, and the great photographers who found it indispensable, including Rodchenko, Kertész, Cartier-Bresson, Capa, and many others. This completely new volume is richly illustrated with details that will satisfy even the most avid collector: diagrams, patent drawings, advertising posters, and biographies of some of its famous users. It belongs on the bookshelf of everyone who loves photography. 120 color illustrations and photographs.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
What it is: Its a great coffee table book overviewing Leica cameras and history. The book is a mix of Leica history, famous Leica cameras, famous photographer who used Leicas, and famous pictures taken with a Leica. There are lots of large picture of both the cameras and pictures taken with a Leica. Its nicely laid out and makes a pleasant, comfortable read.

What it is not: A detailed guide about every make and variation Leicas. It doesn't discuss lenses beyond the earlier lenses. It won't have every Leica photographer or famous photo either.
If you are buying this expecting an easy reading, coffeetable type book, you will be happy. If you are expecting a reference guide, you will not.

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