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Ecuador: Island of the Andes

Kevin Kling

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Kevin Kling : Ecuador: Island of the Andes before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ecuador: Island of the Andes:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Book! By McLean Mami This is a fantastic book, highly recommend for any photograph

Perched high in the Cordillera Real of the Andes, between the vast green sea of the Amazonian jungle and the Pacific Ocean, Ecuador is one of the smallest countries of South America. Yet, in an area hardly half the size of France, it contains an astonishing variety of physical extremes: towering mountains, immense tracts of forest, small patches of cultivation, ice, water, even fire. The peaks of the "Avenue of the Volcanoes" feed the torrents which transform the Marañon into the mighty Amazon. Here is to be found the highest point on the equator (from which the country takes its name; and here it was that Pizarro treacherously murdered Atahualpa, and with him the greatest empire of the Americas. But the descendants of the Incas remain. Almost half the population is Indian and speaks Quechua; some still dress in mourning for their last king. They scratch a harsh existence from the mountains, their life ruled by the rhythm of the sun and the moon, the markets and the fiestas. Kevin Kling has captured for us the nuances and riches of this small world that is the very embodiment of the Andes in miniature: the broad curves of volcanic hills with their subtle hues of ochre and green; the texture of the Indians' hair; the intensity of their gaze; the dazzling colors of their clothing. As visions of immutable space or as conspiratorial exchanges, her photographs throw a penetrating and

sympathetic light on the bonds which time has woven between the people and an all-embracing nature of contrasts and contradictions that is both beautiful and harsh, sorrowful and sweet: they revere her and carve her image; she enslaves them, fashions their features, and regulates their every movement. Includes 100 color photographs and a map. Kevin Kling's photographs have been exhibited in Paris, London, and New York, and have been published by Time, Life and in international magazines such as GEO and Double Page.

From Publishers Weekly The beauty of the Andes, the landscape and its inhabitants is revealed with arresting clarity in this accomplished photo-essay by the author/photographer of Tibet. Sweeping patchworks of tilled land, confronting a limitless horizon of the earth's gentle curves or climbing the sheer face of a mountain, are seen in strongly composed images with a brilliant complexity of blues, greens and golds that show Kling's painterly eye for color and exemplary graphic sensitivity. Rare among nature photographers, her images of people villagers in fuchsia ponchos and brimmed hats sorting vegetables at a market, danzantes draped with multicolored damask strips assembling for the Corpus Christi Fiestashow equal skill. Kling's single-figure portraits are succinct in their design yet spontaneously expressive. Especially compelling are the faces of young Indian women, their fined-boned features caught in subdued reflection. The accompanying text offers informative, albeit superficial information about Aztec history, the region's unique geography and climate, and the merging of Indian and Spanish cultural traditions. The book's descriptive passages, however, pall in comparison to the richly evocative visual images. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Through the experienced eye of photographer Kling's camera comes a penetrating and touching portrait of the world of Ecuador's Indians. Lush color photographs of the landscapes depict the boundary of the Indians' lives: the tall mountains with their immense patchwork of tilled fields clinging to the steep slopes. What is conveyed is the immutable bond that exists between the people and their land, blending them into the overall scheme of nature as surely as plants and animals. Their proud faces exude the strength of a culture that will survive, while their colorful fiestas give us a glimpse into lives at once harsh, hopeful, and happy. Included in this tender essay are verses in Indian and English that would mellow even the hardest heart. Highly recommended. Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Lib., Gainesville Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. Language Notes Text: English, French (translation)