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*Matao Sanuki, Keiichi Yamada*

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**Matao Sanuki, Keiichi Yamada : The Alps (This beautiful world, v. 11)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Alps (This beautiful world, v. 11):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awesome Alpine photography, though in a small-format book By Orange Newt THE ALPS is one of an extensive series of photo books from Kodansha under the umbrella title of "This Beautiful World". It's a smallish book, about 5" x 7", though reasonably thick at 146 pages. It opens with a brief history of exploration and climbing in the Alps, and has four maps and 100 color photos including the covers. Many of the pictures are aerial photos, some were taken from tramways, and the rest from the ground--though here the "ground" is often apparently high up one sheer, cloud-scraping, snow-draped mountain looking towards another. Many of the illustrations are printed as page-and-a-half or double-page spreads, and there's one three-page foldout. The majority are middle-distance to far views of high peaks, needles, ridges, faces, and complexes of those features, and understandably the color throughout much of the book is limited to shades of blue, white and gray. If a person is not especially thrilled by harsh, bleakly spectacular mountain scenery, they could find it rather monotonous. Also the size of reproduction, and printing technique used, probably don't do full justice to some, perhaps many, of the photos--well, it's not a high-end coffee-table book. Shortcomings in the color and sharpness are most noticeable not in the mountain photos, but in the (relatively few) valley and village scenes, which tend to be more snapshot-like and also to be printed two to a page and considerably smaller than the high mountain views. The book's illustrations are not 'art photos' or highly composed and processed like, say, some of David Muench's photos of Colorado mountains--just some good

documentary pictures of some awesome and hard-to-access terrain. All photos have informative captions (example: "29. East Wall of Monte Rosa, as seen from the air, showing the Marinelli Couloir, which falls directly onto the glacier below (lower left). Couloir was named after an Italian mountaineer who was lost during an avalanche in 1881 while climbing the Wall.") A number of peaks and features are shown in several different views, both (relatively) close up, and in relation to surrounding mountains, giving you a better feel for the scope and scale of this vast and inhospitable landscape.