



Women

By Annie Leibovitz, Susan Sontag

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The photographs by Annie Leibovitz in *Women*, taken especially for the book, encompass a broad spectrum of subjects: a rap artist, an astronaut, two Supreme Court justices, farmers, coal miners, movie stars, showgirls, rodeo riders, socialites, reporters, dancers, a maid, a general, a surgeon, the First Lady of the United States, the secretary of state, a senator, rock stars, prostitutes, teachers, singers, athletes, poets, writers, painters, musicians, theater directors, political activists, performance artists, and businesswomen. "Each of these pictures must stand on its own," Susan Sontag writes in the essay that accompanies the portraits. "But the ensemble says, So this what women are now -- as different, as varied, as heroic, as forlorn, as conventional, as unconventional as this."

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Women By Annie Leibovitz, Susan Sontag Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Each of the extraordinary portraits made by photographer Annie Leibovitz for her book *Women* stands on its own. Looked at together, these "photographs of people with nothing more in common than that they are women (and living in America at the end of the twentieth century), all--well almost all--fully clothed," writes Susan Sontag in the book's preface, form "an anthology of destinies and disabilities and new possibilities." Leibovitz, who in her years working for *Rolling Stone*, *Vogue*, and *Vanity Fair* magazines has photographed hundreds of celebrities, turns her lens on a wide range of ordinary and extraordinary female subjects: coal miners, socialites, first ladies, artists, domestic-violence victims, an astronaut, a surgeon, a maid. What she creates is a reflection of contemporary American womanhood that mirrors both women's accomplishments and the challenges they still face individually and as a group.

Leibovitz demonstrates her own range as a photographer in this body of work, shooting in the studio and natural settings and working in both black-and-white and color film. She depicts model Jerry Hall wearing a little black dress, a fur coat, and high heels, staring frankly at the viewer from a velvet chair in a plush red parlor while her naked infant son nurses from her exposed right breast. Schoolteacher Lamis Srouf's eyes--the only part of her face visible behind her heavy black veil--illuminate a dark black-and-white portrait. Leibovitz frames actress Elizabeth Taylor and her dog Sugar by their shocks of snow-white hair. She captures four Kilgore College Rangerettes, a drill team, at the apex of their kicks--white-booted legs pointing up, obscuring their faces and revealing the red underpants beneath their blue miniskirts. There are many more wonderful and unexpected images here, over 200 in all. The delight in discovering them awaits readers.

--Jordana Moskowitz

From School Library Journal

-To look upon the faces of the women photographed in this collection of more than 200 portraits is to marvel at and admire the intensity and dignity of the personalities represented. The subjects depicted encompass every imaginable field of endeavor. There are aerialists, writers, coal miners, battered women, and socialites, to name a few. They range from anonymous to well known. Leibovitz has become a celebrity in her own right since starting her career at *Rolling Stone* and then moving on to work at *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. She is well known for her photographs of some of the icons of 20th-century culture-rock stars, movie stars, politicians, athletes, and novelists, as well as many other famous figures, often posing her subjects in unconventional and surprising ways. Sontag's thought-provoking essay gives further insight and explanation. Young adults will be inspired, challenged, and moved both by the accomplishments and situations of the women photographed, as well as by the skill and eye of the artist who captured their images.

Turid Teague, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

By now, Liebovitz is famous for her many portraits of celebrities and public figures in magazines such as *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*. Time and again she cleanly captures the "story" of people who are perhaps too much in the camera's eye. Her work, however, is not limited to those seemingly commanding presences. Here many portraits of famous women (such as a heroic Toni Morrison, a perfectly authentic Martha Stewart, and a sexy Jerry Hall suckling her son Gabriel Jagger) are combined with Liebovitz's less well known but entirely interesting portraits of obscure women. She elicits a sort of surprising honesty from these less-practiced models. The most striking include a direct glance from Morgan W. Kelly, a young, well-chalked teacher in South Bronx; a series of paired portraits of Las Vegas showgirls in costume (color) and in daily

life (black-and-white); and the cleverly juxtaposed dual portrait of two gently shy, and obese, women in front of a pick-up truck followed by one of two young girls in the back of that truck displaying their Barbie dolls. Sontag's essay on beauty and the role of photography comments on the changing status of women in America while challenging the viewer really to see this amazing array of photographs and individuals. Recommended for all photography collections. A Rebecca Miller, "Library Journal" Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Passmore:

The book Women will bring that you the new experience of reading the book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book Women is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Dale Eich:

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