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Mother



Synopsis

Acclaimed photographer Elinor Carucci takes on her most challenging and rewarding subject yet: motherhood. When Elinor Carucci gave birth to her twins, she discovered the highs and lows that are part of every new mother's experience. A noted photographer accustomed to documenting intimate moments, Carucci used her camera to deal with the maelstrom of emotions. She followed her babies as they grew into toddlers, then children, with their own complex relationships.

Carucci's dramatic use of light and shadow and her uncanny ability to capture the freedom with which children express themselves imbue her images with a marvelous clarity. By turns touching, surprising, sensual, joyful, and unflinching, these striking pictures convey moments that are at once personal and universal—a child's runny nose, a fight between brother and sister, a fast-food meal, a warm embrace, a sleepless night, an ice cream cone. The result, as Francine Prose remarks in her foreword, are images that "seem new, no matter how well we may think we know . . . the experiences and feelings they depict. . . . Nothing, we feel, is left out."

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Customer Reviews

"Intimate and compelling." —New York Public Library "This is a book of photographs that will inspire you." —Iford Blog "Mother" is similar in its dedication to reality, expressing not only the happiness and anger of parenting, but the deeply sensual and melancholic aspects of raising children. . . The series manages to reflect Carucci's own unique experience while encapsulating the emotions that ring true for all mothers." —The Huffington Post

Acclaimed photographer Elinor Carucci takes on her most challenging and rewarding subject yet: motherhood. By turns touching, surprising, sensual, joyful, and unflinching, these striking pictures convey moments that are at once personal and universal—a child's runny nose, a fight between brother and sister, a fast-food meal, a warm embrace, a sleepless night, an ice cream cone. The result, as Francine Prose remarks in her foreword, are images that seem new, no matter how well we may think we know . . . the experiences and feelings they depict. . . . Nothing, we feel, is left out.

Often we encounter images which are difficult to put into words, and the phrase about the picture that is worth 1000 words comes to mind... yet, with the images in MOTHER, this amazing visual story opens a floodgate of words in my mind and heart... Indeed, for me, this is a stirring emotional trip, as each of the photos raise a bubbling slew of feelings up to the surface, and as if magically, I can find, at last, the words, the language to wrap my mind around them, think them, and have a discussion with myself about all those very very subtle nuances which until now felt too fleeting to get a hold on... to consider and enjoy in a timeless, suspended and crystal clear perception... I felt, sort of, like seeing a very loved movie which I used to watch again and again on an antiquated VCR and a 14" monitor, for the first time in the dazzling resolution of blueray disc on a huge monitor... seeing so much more than I ever saw, only better. If you are a parent like me, willing and able to open your heart and mind, this book is a very special treat that can make you feel connected to yourself, to accept the otherwise hidden beauty of wispy moments of daily reality, and admire being a human. If you are not a parent, there is still tons of exquisite play of color, composition, light and delightful depictions of otherwise seemingly mundane moments... This book makes me able to see things in slow-motion. I love it.

I find myself very fortunate to be familiar with Elinor Carucci's work for the past few years. Having the ability to see this very intimate portrait of a mother in her most honest and raw moments with her children is a gift. What might seem provocative or even shocking to some, manages to make me smile. The images show in my opinion, the most intimate fraction of a second where a true dynamic comes to light. I would like to applaud Elinor and all of the members of her family who made this work come together. To me it all seems like a beautiful family collaboration.

Uncommonly close, a shared intimacy unlike others in the genre- Mother , is one step closer into

Elinor's life, it's not a display of intimacy but proximity that is pulling the viewer in. It is common to say that photography has a distancing effect, and that people are often being portrayed as the Other through photographs, but not in this unique book (and other works by Elinor). The photograph becomes a shared space for an intimate encounter with motherhood, it's not an invitation for a display but rather an invitation to participate in the excitement of those moments portrayed in the book

The content in this book is incredibly disturbing. More than half of the picture are of nudity, a mother naked with her children even as they grow older. Images of a naked woman with stitches after her c-section, a naked pregnant woman on a toilet, a close up of a kid's nose with snots, a boy peaking in his mother's underwear, with clear images of what he sees, an image of a woman's nipple's sticking out of a nursing bra. These images are "raw" in a disturbing way, without any beauty. It portrays motherhood as a painful, unsatisfying journey. Images of children are of them fighting, or crying. I received this book as a gift, was so disturbed when I saw the images and immediately returned it. If anyone came over and saw this book they would think we had some weird issues.

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