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# Mother (Penguin Studio Books)



## Synopsis

In the spirit of William Wegman and Cindy Sherman, Mother offers a very funny, wickedly satiric collection of portraits of that most sacred institution: Mom. Photographing her own mother using 1950s-inspired props, Olausen presents tongue-in-cheek images of "Mother as Coffee Table," "Mother as Door Mat", and "Mother in Camouflage". 60 color photos.

## Book Information

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Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits #8358 in Books > Humor & Entertainment >

Humor

## Customer Reviews

If Diane Arbus and her mother had shared a similarly warped vision and sense of humor, they might have turned out *Mother*, a lush, splashy, totally twisted photo album. Photographer Judy Olausen and her 74-year-old mother Vivian--a model with tightly permed blond hair, soft, wrinkled grandmotherly skin, and an extraordinarily expressive face--skewer the clichés of 1950s motherhood and martyrdom. In one shot, Vivian appears as a slightly deranged Betty Crocker, frosting a heart-shaped cake with Valium icing. In another, she's in chains hunched over an ironing board. As the archetypal "Mother Under Pressure," she sports cat glasses, white gloves, and a prim purse while dragging a huge bolder upstairs on her back. In "Shocked by Spock," reading that venerable pediatric bible causes alarm and a near-faint. The collection delivers a wallop of edgy humor and social commentary about women being silenced or squelched in their daily lives and dreams.

Judy Olausen, named one of the top ten photographers in the world by Hasselblad, is a commercial

photographer and photojournalist. She and her mother live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sometimes I just get lucky, and I was certainly lucky to stumble across this remarkable photographic essay depicting Judy Olausen's humorous take on a mother's role in the 1950s. Using her own mother as a model, and adding tons of authentic-looking 1950s era props, Ms. Olausen has perfectly captured the spirit of the times while honoring the hard work and sacrifices of mothers everywhere. To borrow a phrase from TV network TBS, it's "very funny." But that hardly does the book justice. It's actually VERY funny, as in laugh-out-loud-till- you-almost-pass-out funny. And very imaginative to create all those scenarios. And I also groaned a lot, knowing that the images in the book captured a lot of truth about mothers in the 1950s and how we treated them. I know - I came of age in the 1950s, and the book is spot-on. Of the sixty photos, it's hard for me to choose one favorite out of so many funny ones, but if I had to choose, it comes down to three that epitomize the book: \* "Mother as Doormat" - It's true, we walked all over them. \* "Mother Goes to Market" - Carrying the cross that mothers had to bear. \* And a pair of photos: "Laundry Promise" and "Laundry Reality" - Showing both the hope and the reality of modern time-saving appliances. And when was the last time you saw an ancient Lady Kenmore washing machine? Kudos to Ms. Olausen for some amazing photography, and to her mother Vivian Olausen, for being such a good sport and a great model.

This book is a hilarious commentary on being a Good Mother in the pre-feminist 50s. Women were expected to juggle kids, laundry, clean everything that wasn't nailed down, make a beautiful dinner, meet the hubby at the door with a cocktail, and dress in heels and pearls for dinner-- all the while with a smile on her face and keeping her mouth shut. My mother was a 50s housewife and mother, and her college's motto was "gracious living". She did it all beautifully but was glad when she didn't have to do it anymore. She absolutely adores this book, and passes it around to all her friends. Please re-publish this book, so I can find more copies to give to my friends!

What a fantastic look at mothers of the fifties and sixties. Hopefully we don't return to those times.

It was as stated. Good condition. The book had some extra illustration than I'd seen in an older version.

The photo set-ups are a delight. Hilarious, wild at heart, fun. What a great mom to allow herself to

be photographed in all those crazy settings. Kept the book and gave another as a gift. Delightful!

What a hoot of a book! Photos are fabulous right down to the tiniest detail. The fact that the author's mother posed for these pictures is icing on the cake!

Fabulous book. Great service.

I have given this book to several friends and even given a copy to my own mother. On a visceral level this book is right on about how we see our mothers, and how they see themselves. And the book is just d---d fun!

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