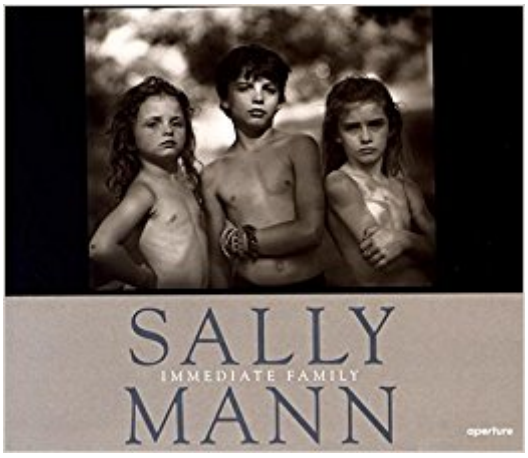
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Sally Mann: Immediate Family



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Synopsis

First published in 1992, Immediate Family has been lauded by critics as one of the great photography books of our time, and among the most influential. Taken against the Arcadian backdrop of her woodland summer home in Virginia, Sally Mann’s extraordinary, intimate photographs of her children reveal truths that embody the individuality of her own family yet ultimately take on a universal quality. With sublime dignity, acute wit and feral grace, Sally Mann’s pictures explore the eternal struggle between the child’s simultaneous dependence and quest for autonomyÃ¢â ¬â •the holding on and the breaking away. This is the stuff of which Greek dramas are made: impatience, terror, self-discovery, self-doubt, pain, vulnerability, role-playing and a sense of immortality, all of which converge in these astonishing photographs. This reissue of Immediate Family has been printed using new scans and separations from Mann’s original prints, which were taken with an 8 x 10-inch view camera, rendering them with a freshness and sumptuousness true to the original edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

the book that catapulted her career into the realm of critically lauded and publicly debated celebrity Ã¢â ¬â œRebecca Bengal, vogue.com[Mann’s photographs] suggest that the camera is adept at depicting the desires of the subconscious as it is in rendering the shapes of everyday life. Ã¢â ¬â œAndy Grundberg, The New York TimesProbably no photographer in history has enjoyed such a burst of success in the art world. Ã¢â ¬â œThe New York Times, 1992The fears and

sheltering tenderness that any parent has felt for his or her child were realized with an eidetic clarity Ã¢â ¬â œThe New York Times, 1992Photographs seem to represent, for Mann, a counter-reality, an opposition to what is and what was. Ã¢â ¬â œThe AtlanticThey were simply among the most beautiful photographs I had ever seen. Ã¢â ¬â œSebastian Smee, The Boston GlobeSally Mann continues to probe the intimate life of her family and come up with startling, disquieting revelations. Mann's extraordinary picture of her nude daughter suspended like a shimmering white fish on a porch with unconcerned adults resonates in your mind like a dream. Ã¢â ¬â œVince Aletti, Village Voice

Sally Mann is one of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most renowned photographers. Her work has been exhibited around the world and is held by such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art, all in New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. She has received numerous honors, including a doctorate from the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Washington, D.C., and a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship.Reynolds Price was the author of numerous books, including A Long and Happy Life (1962), volumes of short stories, poems, plays, essays, and memoirs. He was the James B. Duke Professor of English at Duke University.

This is a well-produced book of lovely family photographs. Some are unposed, but those that are posed are not elf-conscious, "studio-like" pictures, and the children do not seem to be inhibited, even when nude. My only criticism,if you could call it that, would be that the children all look so serious. A smile here or there would not go amiss.

A time capsule of growing up in the south, carefree and innocent, without prejudiced beliefs of the beauty of being young and human. Those who've found controversy in the images are only imposing their own fears and belief systems, rather than approaching the work for what it was in the eyes of the artist who created it; a celebration of the family and private time together, watching the young ones grow up. Very highly recommended.

Wonderful autobiography about a courageous, talented, free-spirited, and kind-hearted woman. It was absolutely absorbing to come to understand how her life experience was embodied in the subjects that she focused on. As a southerner, I was lead by Mann to recall once again what it was to grow up white in Louisiana in the fifties, and to understand in a deeper way how out of touch we

whites actually were with blacks in general, but more specifically with our loving black maids, who raised us like their own children. Many of us sensed that something was fundamentally wrong with our lives, our churches, and our families, but we also knew that trying to talk about these things with our parents and pastors would not be well received. What cowards must of us were; I have always felt guilty about this, as Mann so bravely described in her own life. A stunning book, one of the best that I have read in years. Sally Mann is a national treasure.

This book is so much more than just an appealing array of three often unclothed young siblings. Each photo repays many times over open-minded attentive scanning for components relevant to the observer. For example, I love the photo of Emmett ("Popsicle Drips") for its shotgun blast of simultaneous images and references which contrasts the physical vulnerability of this pre-pubescent lad with the in-your-face early genital maturation, his sturdy thighs vrs the twist of his still undeveloped trunk culminating in an extended arm in a "Christ on the cross" position: an impossibly rich photograph, not to mention its titled highlight, the popsicle drips (intrinsically early childhood) framing his budding genitals. While we know from Sally that many of the photos were "Hold still!" posed, none of her children's reactions were posed and in fact their reactions to being posed (boredom, annoyance) are so authentic their scowls are intrinsic and integral to the impact of each such photo. If your interest in this book is prurient, don't bother: on the other hand, the children's natural reactions to being posed and photographed could be an antidote, a form of therapy for the voyeur who might fantasize that the photographed nude child invited the attention.

Sally Mann's "Immediate Family" is one of the best, and most significant, of late 20th C photography books. It's fresh and iconoclastic, makes direct human contact, and is of high technical quality. Shouldn't be missed.

An interesting insight into the life of writer and photographer Sally Mann.

Excellent photos that touch on so much that we feel about family and the added plus of it being a somewhat boho family, less hung up on silly fears, makes it all the better.

Mann is erudite artistic and forthright. This explores her work and is a memoir about her family. Insightful. I was enthralled.

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