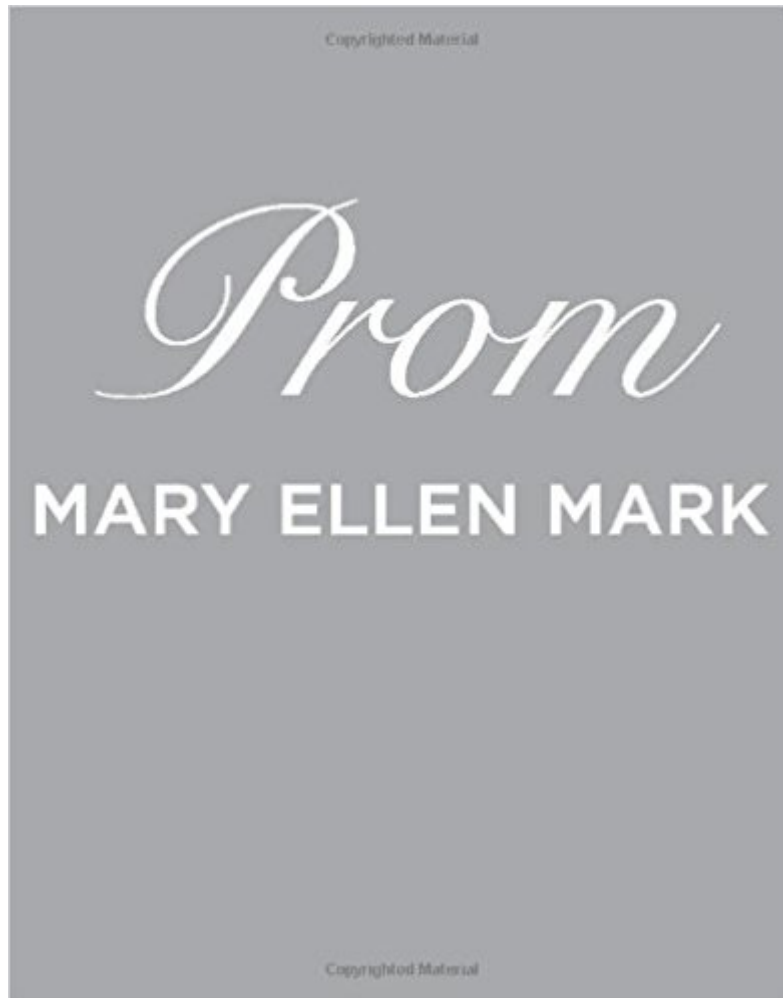




The book was found

# Prom



## Synopsis

The high school prom is an American tradition, a rite of passage, and one of the most important rituals of youth in this country. The internationally recognized documentary photographer Mary Ellen Mark took on the extraordinary challenge of working with the Polaroid 20x24 Land camera to produce this fascinating look at dozens of young people from a diverse range of backgrounds on this memorable night in their lives. Traveling across the United States to complete the project from 2006 to 2009, Mark photographed prom-goers at thirteen schools from New York City to Charlottesville, Virginia, to Houston to Los Angeles. Mark's husband, the filmmaker Martin Bell, collaborated with her on the project to produce and direct a film, also called *Prom*, featuring interviews with the students about their lives, dreams, and hopes for the future. A DVD of the film is packaged with the book. The 127 large-format photographs are reproduced in rich detail, and quotations from the student interviews punctuate the book. Some of the students' statements are comical, while others are deeply touching. The result is a captivating and revealing document of American youth at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A remarkable record of young people on the brink of change." — Publishers

Weekly "Mark's vivid black-and-white prints celebrate the great variety and individuality of high school students through a study of prom-goers and their dates." — The Huffington Post "Prom, by real-life photojournalist Mary Ellen Mark, captures this quintessential rite of passage in its infinite

variety." **W** "Prom makes the high school ritual a unifying experience: the excitement of prom night--and the impending march into adulthood--transcends cultural, socioeconomic and social barriers." **The New York Times** **cs Lens Blog** "A breathtaking look at an American rite of passage." **People** "Award-winning photographer Mary Ellen Mark traveled the country to find an eclectic mix of subjects for her latest work, *Prom*. . . . Mark captured the hope, fear, sadness, joy (and yes, awkwardness) that prom brings in black-and-white photos." **Washington Post** "Awkward. Hilarious. Heartbreaking. Magical. The high-school prom is a very American rite of passage. Renowned photographer Mary Ellen Mark invites herself to the dance, capturing the poignant moment teenagers teeter on the edge of adulthood." **Smithsonian** "Known for her portraiture and for her unflinching eye in uncomfortable zones, this time Mark has set herself the challenge of looking at the quintessential American coming-of-age-ritual--the senior prom. . . . If the exhibition fascinates, the book is a must-have." **Weekly Press (Philadelphia)**

Mary Ellen Mark (1940-2015) achieved worldwide visibility through her numerous books, exhibitions, and editorial magazine work. She was a contributing photographer to the *New Yorker* and published photo-essays and portraits in *Life*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vanity Fair*. Her books include *Seen Behind the Scene: Forty Years of Photographing on the Set* (Phaidon, 2008), *Exposure* (Phaidon, 2006), and *Twins* (Aperture, 2005). Martin Bell is a filmmaker whose film *Streetwise* was nominated for an Academy Award. He has collaborated with Mary Ellen Mark on several projects, including his films *Twins*, *Circus of Dreams*, *Alexander*, and *Streetwise*.

So many good memories associated with this book!

In *Prom*, Mary Ellen Mark has proved definitively why she is one of the best photographers of her generation. The Getty has the wherewithal to reproduce these images perfectly, and they have done so here. The photographs treat the subjects humanely. Mary Ellen has found the ideal vehicle for her work in these very large Polaroid images. Want to get a glimpse of America? Go to the *Prom*. Bevan Davies Kennebunk, ME

I was very pleased with the book! The photos are fun, and I really enjoyed Mary Ellen Mark's commentary and story about the project in the beginning of the book, as well as the quotes from participants in the back of the book. Reading the quotations and matching with the photo was

touching and gives a real perspective into why the project was completed in the first place. If you are an art fan, a photography fan, or a prom fan, you will enjoy and appreciate this book.

Beautiful book (and obviously love the work) but the thin parchment paper book jacket is miserable.

A coffee table book but one that everyone from the 60s-now can relate to as in "Remember the night of the prom"! What we wore, etc....wonderful pictures.

Gorgeous! Makes you wish for a sequel!

Fabulous and unique woman with an amazing body of excellent photographs.

We received our copy of Prom, and could not be happier with the book and DVD documentary film. Once again, Mary Ellen Mark and Martin Bell have rocked our worlds, selecting a subject matter that is quite commonly seen but never quite in the way that only they can reveal these subjects. How many images have we all imprinted in our minds about the Prom experience? This book challenges our traditional considerations of this ritual. The way they handle this subject matter is revealing from the inside out, and they focus on how Prom participants feel rather than how they are seen. Beautifully printed, the book is a masterpiece work of art that will delight people even more so as time goes by. The film will make you laugh, cry, wonder, and feel empathy for the tender moments that are so sensitively captured. Like all of their subjects in previous works, it is apparent that Bell and Mark feel a huge amount of love for their subjects. This book will make you love them all as well. Each and every sweet-tough-silly-kindhearted-spirited-yearning one of them.

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