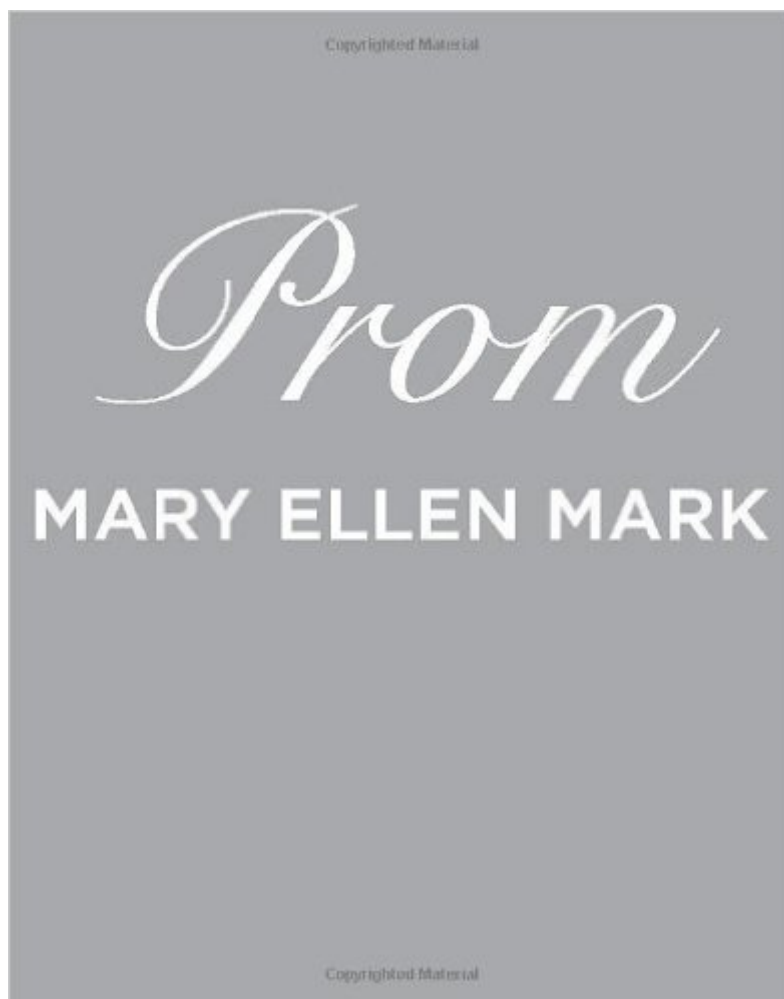


The book was found

# 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

Hardcover: 164 pages

Publisher: J. Paul Getty Museum; 1 edition (April 3, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1606061089

ISBN-13: 978-1606061084

Product Dimensions: 10 x 1 x 12.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

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Photography > Photography & Video > Children #35 in Books > Arts & Photography >

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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

Read this now: "Prom" by Mary Ellen Mark. A few weeks before the dawn of time the very first interview I ever did back at ARTINFO was with Mary Ellen Mark. The occasion was Steidl's republication of her 1981 "Falkland Road" book of photographs of Bombay prostitutes. Now the Getty Museum has just published Ms Mark's "Prom", the result of a four-year project photographing high school prom-goers the length and breadth of the country. See more [...]

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.

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