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Red-Blooded American Male: Photographs



Synopsis

A collection of 100 inspired and surprising portraits of celebrities and everymen alike from the award-winning photographer Robert Trachtenberg. Paul Rudd checking out the merchandise; Jimmy Kimmel playing dress up; Jack Black getting a one-of-a-kind pedicure; Elon Musk unveiling his newest Tesla; Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David taking a coffee break. From leading men to comedians, ballet dancers to quarterbacks, war veterans to Broadway veterans, *Red-Blooded American Male* features more than 100 imaginative, striking, and sexy portraits from award-winning photographer Robert Trachtenberg. Pithy captions about each shoot accompany the photographs, giving readers a peek behind the curtain of a famed portrait photographer's creative process and his world-renowned photographs. Uncovering a unique (and often self-deprecating) side to such talents as Jimmy Fallon, Seth Rogen, Channing Tatum, Waris Ahluwalia, Will Ferrell, and Kevin Hart, this collection goes beyond mere portraiture to challenge conventional notions of masculinity and traditional male imagery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As seen in People Magazine, on Entertainment Weekly's "Must List," on Elle Magazine's "Must-Read September Book Club," and in The Advocate, Out Magazine, Paste, PDN: Photo District News, and more! "This comedic look inside the male psyche features more than 100 creative, gripping and sexy portraits of actors, professional athletes, comedians, dancers and

war veterans. Any man or woman in your life who appreciates humor will appreciate this book. *Los Angeles Times* "The images are great, often clever, managing the trick of appearing to convey some greater truth about the subject...Not once when you look at these photos, does the thought ever enter one's mind that 'I could have taken that.'" *Forbes* "Striking, delightful images." *Vanity Fair* "An ingenious and entertaining riff on (mostly) youthful American machismo...Trachtenberg's excellent monograph will inspire you to tap into this freewheeling vibe and to noticeably enliven your portraits." *RangeFinder* "Trachtenberg's taste in subject matter is impeccable. If I'm in it, you know it's good." *Mel Brooks* "Entertaining? Yes. Enlightening? Yes...and most of all a rare book of the genre." *New York Journal of Books* "Put some amazing men in front of this guy and the results speak for themselves." *Mrs. Sizzle* "Striking, surprising, sexy portraits of actors, comedians, athletes and other famous folks (including Jimmy Kimmel, Jack Black Paul Rudd, Seth Rogen, Channing Tatum, Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart), all playfully coming out of their shells...and challenging the conventional notions of masculinity...for one of Hollywood's top celebrity photographers." *Parade* "These gorgeous photos are a call to all men to embrace their fun and sensitive side!" *Bust*

ROBERT TRACHTENBERG's photographs have appeared in *Entertainment Weekly*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *People*, and *Vanity Fair*, among other publications. Advertising clients include NBC, CBS, ABC, Netflix, and HBO. Trachtenberg has written, produced, and directed several documentaries on such legendary entertainers as Gene Kelly, Cary Grant, and Bing Crosby. He is the winner of the Emmy Award for Outstanding Direction for his film *Mel Brooks: Make a Noise*. Trachtenberg is also the author of the book *When I Knew* (Harper Collins). He lives in Los Angeles, California. Visit www.roberttrachtenberg.com and Instagram @roberttrachtenberg.

If I could give this book ten stars, I'd still complain that ten isn't enough, that the rating scale is rigged and/or incapable of handling a title of this magnitude. RED-BLOODED AMERICAN MALE: PHOTOGRAPHS IS THAT GOOD. I mean, just take a gander at that cover. Will Arnett! In fishnets! And black combat boots! Squeezed into a slinky dress and splayed on a swanky couch, looking all emo! Like some random dude just mansplained how the backlash against Paul Feig's *GHOSTBUSTERS* reboot is really about authenticity

and faithfulness to the source material, not sexism and misogyny, you silly girl you! Or maybe it was some diatribe about Gamergate and journalistic integrity. It doesn't really matter, because he stopped listening several drinks ago. Mind: blown, but in the worst way possible.

RED-BLOODED AMERICAN MALE is a collection of photographer/filmmaker Robert Trachtenberg's (mostly) celebrity photography, from 1994 to the present day. There are actors, singers, athletes, entrepreneurs, chefs, models and even a few children, paired with the occasional woman and/or dog. (Meryl Streep arm wrestling Tommy Lee Jones is a definite keeper.) I was only familiar with, like, half of them; many I'd never heard of. Some none of us will have; for example, little Caleb Iverson, whose mom traded some editing work for Trachtenberg for a photo shoot of her kids. Anyway, consider my interest sufficiently piqued. (This only applies to the 18-and-over crowd, obv.) Spoiler alert: not all of Trachtenberg's subjects are American. (I'm down with bending the rules for some of the guys, but Justin Bieber? Really? Throw in a Ryan Reynolds doing his DEADPOOL shtick and maybe we'll call it even.) The photos are uniformly stunning, with a mix of black-and-white and full-color images. At

10x13, the book is nice and big, and so are the photos; each one occupies at least a full page, with some spanning two. Each image deftly captures the personality of its subject, with a fun and eclectic mix of tongue-in-cheek sexy/cheesecake; goofy and playful; sophisticated and classy; dark and moody (Jimmy Fallon legit looks ready to jump; someone make sure he's okay, yes?); and straight-up bananarama bonkers. Many of the photos are accompanied by a brief description of how the shoot went down; these tend to be super-funny and greatly enhanced my appreciation of the artwork. See, e.g., Janes Van Der

Beek's "Tush," "More Tush," and "Even More Tush"; or how Bryan Fuller's nighttime routine is meant to "restor[e] sensations first felt in the womb." I found myself nursing an intense sense of disappointment when a photo was especially a favorite, or of an actor or celebrity I fancy went un-commented upon. But I guess the way to look at it is, maybe these stories were meh and would have turned us off, so better to omit them altogether? My favorites include Judd Apatow, with his cheeseburger baby bump; a fierce Jimmy Kimmel cosplaying as Daenerys Targaryen; Bryan Fuller, with his moisturizing gloves and dog pile; Bryan Cranston being moody AF; the recreation of Herb Ritts's iconic 1989 naked supermodel huddle, done with the cast of JACKA*; Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart, from way back when they were on Comedy Central, naturally; the

morning after Bob Saget's drug-fueled romp with a furry; Kevin Hart being pulled along the beach by a Great Dane/small pony; the acid trip-like John Leguizamo montage; and Denis Leary feeding a barnyard full of Chihuahuas? I don't know what's going on there, but I want in. (I'm a crazy dog lady, can you tell?) Oh, and Jeff Garlin on the treadmill in the middle of the forest? Strangely endearing, if only because I could imagine Murray Goldberg doing something stubbornly nonsensical like that. (Dear ABC, please publish his attempt at scrapbooking on the internet. TIA!) Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner sharing an embrace is hecka sweet, though I found myself wishing it was Sir Patrick Stewart and Sir Ian McKellen. Those two are my OTP of elderly white guys. Okay, so they're all kind of awesome. YOU NEED THIS BOOK. Get it, now! Then go buy a copy for your elderly grandmother / recently divorced mom / college aged, still-figuring-himself-out younger brother / amateur photographer aunt. Basically anyone and everyone, male or female, gay or straight, genderqueer or pansexual. It's silly, it's sexy, and it's even a little subversive. David Bowie would be right at home here. ** Full disclosure: I received a free copy of this book for review through Blogging for Books. **

I love coffee table books and this one did not disappoint. The photography was brilliant and the captions telling the background of the photographs and subjects were interesting. Everyone who picked it up at my house thoroughly enjoyed it.

This is a gorgeous book of photos of American, males. The forward is hilarious and the tongue-in-cheek photos are far from the stuffy, formal celebrity shots we're used to. I look forward to more photo books by Robert Trachtenberg!

I gave it as a gift to a talented photographer, who said it was great!

This book is filled with beautiful pictures. It's definitely worth getting.

Beautiful and comical photos. I love this book.

This is a cool gift to give for any occasion.

Great photography and nice coffee table book

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