



A photographer's love letter to her late mother,
whose five year struggle with Alzheimer's and devout passion
for couture clothing inspired this poignant photo essay

My Mother's Clothes

Written and photographed by Jeannette Montgomery Barron
A book that is part fashion diary, part personal memoir,
part loving memorial and part life celebration.

Exhibition at Savannah College of Art and Design opening April 9th
Author book tour to New York April 22nd to 25th

"In Jeannette Montgomery Barron's photographs still life is transformed into new life, into portraits where image, memory and a daughter's love collide."

—Patrick Kinmonth, from the Introduction

"She was queen of memory, and cloaked herself no less in her clothes than her memories."

—James Barron, from the Preface

In **MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES** (May; \$24.95, Welcome Books, ISBN 978-1-59962-077-0), photographer Jeannette Montgomery Barron creates a poignant portrait of her late mother through still life images of her cherished clothing, shoes, and personal possessions. As her mother's struggle with Alzheimer's progressed, robbing her of any remembered past, Montgomery Barron began this unique visual album as a way of both sparking her mother's memories, and coping with her own sense of loss.

Beautiful and eccentric, stubborn with lovely manners, Eleanor Morgan Montgomery Atuk was possessed of the kind of life story that novelists create. Born in a Georgia town too small for a spotlight, she married the heir to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and became a glamorous force in Atlanta society, amassing an astonishing collection of couture clothes, befriending Bill Blass, and always proceeding with grace. At the end of her life, she was gripped with Alzheimer's, a devastating situation and ironic, as she had always been the memory-keeper of the family.

As Alzheimer's robbed Eleanor of the ability to recognize loved ones or recall much of her life, Jeannette discovered that her mother could remember where and when she had worn a particular piece of clothing, and much more: the people she'd seen, the flowers she'd picked, the music playing in the background. Her lovingly collected wardrobe - the Bill Blass suits, the Yves Saint Laurent coats - became the connection between mother and daughter. The photographs in **MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES** began as a personal project by a daughter searching for contact and the desire to keep her mother's memories alive.

The publication of **MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES** is an opportunity to focus attention on the family and friends who cope with loved ones affected by Alzheimer's. "This book has been for me a journey of self discovery," observes Jeannette Montgomery Barron. "I really didn't know as much about my mother until I embarked on this project"

Alzheimer's now affects 5.3 million people in the United States. At a time when Baby Boomers are seeking to cope with increasing numbers of affected parents, **MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES** highlights the "caretakers" who seek to creatively cope with their loved ones and preserve the sparkling memories that enrich patient and caretaker alike.

MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES

Written and Photographed
by Jeannette Montgomery Barron
Introduction by Patrick Kinmonth
Preface by James D. Barron

100 color photographs
112 pages, 6 1/2 x 8 inches
\$24.95 hardcover (\$29.95 CAN)
ISBN 978-1-59962-077-0

May 2010

Published by Welcome Books

www.welcomebooks.com/mymothersclothes

JEANNETTE MONTGOMERY BARRON studied at the International Center of Photography in New York City. She became known for her portraits of the New York art world in the 1980s, which were later published in *Jeannette Montgomery Barron* (1989). She is also the author of *Photographs and Poems* (1998), a collaboration with poet Jorie Graham, and *Mirrors* (2004), featuring a text by author Edmund White. Montgomery Barron's photographs have appeared in *Vogue*, *The New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*, and her works are in numerous public and corporate collections, including The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh. Montgomery Barron lives in Rome, Italy, and Connecticut.

PATRICK KINMONTH is the former Arts Editor at British *Vogue*, and has written texts for many photography and art books, including *Mario Testino: Portraits* (2002), and *Photographs by Snowdon* (2000). In addition, he has worked as a curator, set designer and opera director.

JAMES D. BARRON is a private art dealer and the author of three books, including *She's Having a Baby - And I'm Having a Breakdown* (1998) and *She's Had a Baby - And I'm Having a Meltdown* (1999), a New York Times bestseller. He is married to Jeannette.

For more information, including press, photographs and a full preview of the book, please visit www.welcomebooks.com/mymothersclothes