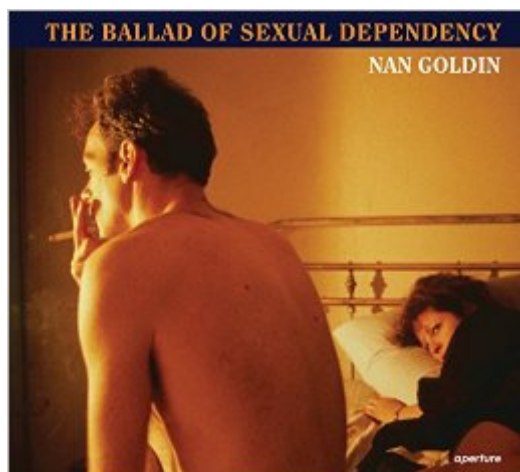


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# Nan Goldin: The Ballad Of Sexual Dependency



## Synopsis

First published in 1986, Nan Goldin's *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* is a visual diary chronicling the struggles for intimacy and understanding among the friends and lovers whom Goldin describes as her tribe. These photographs described a lifestyle that was visceral, charged and seething with a raw appetite for living, and the book soon became the swan song for an era that reached its peak in the early 1980s. Twenty-five years later, Goldin's lush color photography and candid style still demand that the viewer encounter their profound intensity head-on. As she writes: Real memory, which these pictures trigger, is an invocation of the color, smell, sound and physical presence, the density and flavor of life. Through an accurate and detailed record of Goldin's life, *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* records a personal odyssey as well as a more universal understanding of the different languages men and women speak. The book's influence on photography and other aesthetic realms has continued to grow, making it a classic of contemporary photography. This anniversary edition features all-new image separations produced using state-of-the-art technologies and specially prepared reproduction files, which offer a lush, immersive experience of this touchstone monograph.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nan Goldin captures what it's like to be human in a way that no one else can. Her friends---her family----feel pain and introspection and I felt lonely looking through the book but the rare moments of connection in a world where so many people are alone with their drug addiction, disease,

unhappiness, are all the more moving.

This book is truly exquisite as well as exquisitely produced. The photographs span a rather long period - from the mid-70s to the mid-80s - and document Nan Goldin's group of friends and lovers. The photographs are divided topically: one section containing, for example, all portraits of women, another, scenes of strife. The photographs are subtle and gorgeous and repay repeated viewing to catch the many wonderful details. The forward and afterword are both movingly and wonderfully written. Thanks to those who revived this project and put it into such wonderful book form. Anyone interested in photography of the last thirty years will certainly want to own a copy.

A classic. Not to be missed if you are interested in the art last 30 years. The Whitney owns an original edition of the slideshow, set to music. They bring it out and play it from time to time --trust me wait in line -- Nan Goldin: The Ballad of Sexual Dependency see it

Gorgeous, moody photographs from an interesting artist. I read about this book in the New Yorker magazine - some of the photos are currently being exhibited in a retrospective in New York City (at MoMA??). The book takes me back to the '70s and '80s when, like Goldin, I lived in the Boston area, London, and New York City. Authentic bohemian life is depicted. Some of the photos are sexually graphic but a lot of them just show settings and clothing and moods of the period.

Famous classic, in some ways with a printed publication of this work I feel cheated on the sound and wish, since these images were originally to be presented in slide-form with various accompanying music pieces it would be nice if any future publisher could create a matching CD and add it to the images. As always with Nan Goldin I wonder why there seems to be no English-language publication including images of her Italy junkie culture images, possibly in French areas these might be included?

The collection of memories that Ms. Goldin has are heartbreaking but yet at the same time sweet. Goldin finds a positive in every negative. She dedicated the book to her deceased sister who committed suicide many decades ago. Join Nan Goldin by buying this book. I recommend The Ballad of Sexual Dependency for all photography major and even the general public because it's very persuasive.

I've been a fan of Nan Goldin's work for years and had the pleasure of hearing her speak at the Look3 photo fest in Charlottesville, VA, in 2011. If I had to pick only one Nan Goldin book for the photo fan's library it would be this one. Her work is amazing. It's intimate, touching, and at times heartbreaking. You can see she put her heart in this and the subjects are her friends and lovers. Pick this up and see why she truly is one of the best photographers of our time.

Nan Golden achieves in this book a thing that is very difficult for most photographers to do well. She makes pictures of great power because they are connected to deep personal experiences, good moments and bad. The bridge of the gap between subject and photographer in herself helps bridge the gap between photograph and viewer. Good Shtuff.

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